

ACF

Administration
for Children
and Families

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Office of Family Assistance

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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: All Promoting Responsible Fatherhood grantees

SUBJECT: Equal Program Access in Promoting Responsible Fatherhood programs

REFERENCES: Program Access Statement contained in the Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Program Announcements

PURPOSE: To remind Responsible Fatherhood grantees of their obligation to provide equal access in program implementation and to reiterate that eligible women may not be denied services on the basis of gender.

INFORMATION: The Office of Family Assistance (OFA) is excited about the promise of a winning partnership with your organization as you implement the Promoting Responsible Fatherhood activities. We know that the success of this important initiative will be due in large part to the efforts of our grantees. Clear communication between your organization and our agency is a key factor in building a strong partnership. To accomplish that goal, we want to keep you apprised of any issues or developments that may impact your programs.

We are writing this information memorandum to remind each grantee of its agreement to comply with all of the terms and conditions of the grant, including allowing equal access by both eligible women and men who want to participate in your program.

You will recall that all Promoting Responsible Fatherhood program announcements contained the following requirement:

Program Access

Applicants must provide services to all eligible persons, regardless of a potential participant's race, gender, age, disability or religion. Applicants cannot, on the basis of race, gender, age, disability or religion, treat one person differently from another in determining eligibility, benefits or services provided, or applicable rules. The

projects and activities assisted under these awards must be available to fathers and expectant fathers who are able to benefit from the activities on the same basis as mothers and expectant mothers.

This requirement, and its importance, was also included in the intensive three-day program implementation training received by your organization's key staff at the grantee entrance conference in December 2006. Our goal in providing this information memorandum is two-fold: (1) to remind you to make certain that all program and organization personnel are aware of this equal access obligation; and (2) to reiterate that eligible women who seek to participate in your programs may not be denied services on the basis of gender. Violation of this, or any other award term or condition, raises serious implications for any grantee and may jeopardize continued funding for programs that fail to comply.

We take these measures to help ensure that all grantees are consistently implementing the equal access mandate in their program activities and we will continue to expect all grantees to comply with these requirements. Grant recipients are responsible for managing and monitoring their projects to ensure compliance with all Federal laws, regulations, and other terms and conditions that are applicable to their award. Your Federal Project Officers (FPO) will continue to oversee all projects through various means, including site visits.

INQUIRIES TO:

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the FPO identified in your award package.


Sidonie Squier
Director