

**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS REPORT LANGUAGE – FY 2010**

Excerpted from 111-220 Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 Report of the Committee on Appropriations together with Minority Views to Accompany H.R. 3293

Payments to States for Child Support Enforcement and Family Support Programs

The Committee provides \$3,571,509,000 for the Child Support Enforcement and Family Support programs, which is \$254,810,000 above the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the same as the budget request. The Committee also provides \$1,100,000,000 in advance funding, as requested, for the first quarter of fiscal year 2011 to ensure timely payments for Child Support Enforcement programs. These programs support State-administered programs of financial assistance and services for low-income families to promote their economic security and self-sufficiency. The Committee recommendation includes an estimated \$33,000,000 for payments to territories, which is the same as the comparable fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance

The Committee provides \$5,100,000,000 for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program (LIHEAP), the same as the comparable fiscal year 2009 funding level and \$1,900,000,000 above the discretionary budget request. The Administration's fiscal year 2010 discretionary budget proposes \$3,200,000,000 for LIHEAP and, in addition, includes a legislative proposal to create a trigger mechanism that would make additional mandatory funding available if energy prices reach certain levels. Under the budget request, States would be forced to eliminate assistance payments to approximately 1.7 million households and reduce the average benefit by approximately \$100. Absent enactment of such legislation, the Committee recommendation ensures that approximately 7.5 million low-income households continue to receive the home energy assistance they need in a volatile energy market.

Within the amount provided, the Committee recommends \$4,509,672,000 for the State formula grants, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and \$2,099,672,000 above the budget request. The Committee bill maintains the distribution of formula grant funds as allocated in fiscal year 2009. The Committee recommends \$590,328,000 for the contingent emergency reserve, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and \$199,672,000 below the budget request. The Committee does not include language making the contingency reserve funding available until expended, as included in the budget request. The Committee intends that not more than \$27,000,000 be used for the Leveraging Incentive Program, which rewards States that leverage private or non-Federal resources for home energy assistance.

LIHEAP provides assistance to low-income households to help pay the costs of home energy. While energy prices have declined recently in conjunction with the global economic downturn, home energy prices remain high, unpredictable, and unaffordable for many households. LIHEAP serves the most vulnerable households in the country, including some of those hardest hit by the economic downturn for which rapidly rising home-energy costs or severe weather conditions can have dire consequences. Currently 93 percent of households receiving LIHEAP assistance have at least one family member who is elderly, disabled, a child under 18, or have a single adult living

with one or more children. Approximately 80 percent of households receiving LIHEAP assistance have annual incomes below \$20,000 and almost 40 percent have incomes below \$10,000.

The Committee maintains bill language included in the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, allowing States to provide assistance to households making up to 75 percent of the State median income. In fiscal year 2009, approximately 17 percent of eligible households under these new eligibility criteria received assistance.

Refugee and Entrant Assistance

The Committee provides \$714,968,000 for Refugee and Entrant Assistance programs. This amount is \$81,526,000 more than the fiscal year 2009 funding level and \$25,689,000 less than the budget request. The Committee includes bill language making most of these funds available through September 30, 2012, as requested. This funding would provide assistance to over 160,000 arriving refugees, asylees, entrants, trafficking victims, and unaccompanied alien children, including 29,000 special immigrants from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) programs are designed to help refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, and trafficking victims become employed and self-sufficient. These programs also assist unaccompanied immigrant children in Federal custody and victims of torture.

The Committee notes the inherent uncertainties in estimating the necessary funding level for ORR programs. A significant amount of ORR's expenses are determined by the number of refugees arriving in the United States and the number of unaccompanied alien children transferred to ORR's care. In particular, in recent years the number of refugees arriving in the United States, while increasing, has been lower than expected, resulting in significant carryover of unobligated balances. While ORR does not plan on carrying over any unobligated balances into fiscal year 2010, the Committee urges the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to allocate any unexpected carryover in fiscal year 2010 for social services activities.

The Committee recommends that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct an evaluation of ORR's administration of the refugee assistance programs, including an assessment of the effectiveness of ORR programs at helping refugees achieve self-sufficiency. Preliminary data indicates that the economic downturn has made it increasingly difficult for arriving refugees to achieve self-sufficiency. As the number of refugees entering the United States continues to rise, with some of the largest increases in those from Iraq and Afghanistan, this growing caseload will continue to put stress on ORR programs. It is critical that the United States follow through in this humanitarian mission and provide adequate services to this very vulnerable population. The Committee is particularly interested in GAO identifying any inequities in the system, evaluating the Voluntary Agency Matching Grant program compared to State-administered and Wilson-Fish programs, and recommending possible improvements to ensure all refugees receive the assistance they need to achieve self-sufficiency within a reasonable period of time.

Transitional and Medical Services

The Committee provides \$337,102,000 for Transitional and Medical Services, which is \$54,754,000 more than the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the same as the budget request. The Transitional and Medical Services program provides, through State governments and non-profit organizations, cash, medical, and other assistance to eligible refugees, asylees, entrants, and

victims of trafficking who are not categorically eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, or SSI. State refugee programs are reimbursed for their costs of providing assistance, while non-profit organizations are awarded grants to provide assistance in States not participating in the program, or participating in only parts of the program. Transitional and Medical Services also provides funding for the Voluntary Agency Matching Grant program.

While still falling below the ceiling established by the State Department, the number of refugees arriving in the United States has been increasing in recent years. From fiscal year 2003 to fiscal year 2008 the number of arriving refugees more than doubled, from less than 30,000 to over 60,000. In fiscal years 2009 and 2010 ACF expects these numbers to approach the 80,000 ceiling established by the State Department. ACF expects an additional 29,000 special immigrants arriving from Iraq and Afghanistan, up from only 100 in fiscal year 2007. At the same time, the economic downturn has resulted in refugees receiving assistance for a longer period of time, often for the full eight months for which they are eligible. The Committee recommendation will ensure that eligible refugees continue to receive transitional and medical assistance in their first vulnerable months in the United States.

Voluntary Agency Matching Grant Program- Under the Voluntary Agency Matching Grant program, national voluntary refugee resettlement agencies match Federal funds and provide job placement, job development, and interim cash assistance with the goal of refugees attaining self-sufficiency in their first four to six months in the United States. Refugees participating in this program are not eligible for other cash assistance. While the economic downturn has created new challenges, the Committee continues to recognize the positive outcomes of this program, which has experienced success in facilitating economic self-sufficiency for newly arriving refugees within a short period of time. The Committee requests that ORR include in their fiscal year 2011 Congressional budget justification, additional information on the Voluntary Agency Matching Grant program, including actual and projected information on funding levels; the number of refugees participating in the program; demographics of refugees participating in the program including country of origin and level of education attainment; and the number of refugees achieving self-sufficiency within four and six months in the United States.

Family Preservation for Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM)- The Committee commends the initial steps taken by ORR to address the problem of separated children and refugee family breakdown by piloting a family preservation specialist initiative in the URM Program. The Committee urges ORR to consider expanding this initiative. In addition, the Committee requests that ORR provide adequate funding to URM programs for capacity development so that they have the necessary infrastructure to accommodate increasing numbers of unaccompanied and separated refugee children. The Committee requests ORR to provide estimates in its fiscal year 2011 Congressional budget justification on the number of family preservation specialists funded, along with actual and projected data on the number of refugee children in the URM program.

Victims of Trafficking

The Committee provides \$9,814,000 for Victims of Trafficking, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. The Committee strongly supports the continued administration of a national network for identification, tracking, and certification of trafficking victims. The Committee is encouraged that the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA) grants the Secretary of Health and Human Services new authority to provide interim assistance to child victims of trafficking. The Committee also supports efforts to ensure that child trafficking victims do not remain trapped in life-threatening situations out of fear of being interrogated by law enforcement authorities.

Social Services

The Committee provides \$154,005,000 for Social Services, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. Funding is distributed by a combination of formula and discretionary grants to states and non-profit organizations and supports a variety of services for refugees including employment preparation, job placement, social adjustment services, interpretation and translation services, English language training, and childcare.

Within the funds provided, the Committee includes \$19,000,000 for continued support to communities with large concentrations of Cuban and Haitian entrants of varying ages whose cultural differences make assimilation especially difficult, justifying a more intense level and longer duration of Federal assistance.

In addition, the Committee urges ACF to use any unobligated balances under this account carried over into fiscal year 2010 to expand social services to refugees, particularly for emerging housing assistance to refugees. The Committee is concerned that the current economic downturn has left many refugees unable to find or maintain employment and, as a result, facing eviction and homelessness. The economic climate has intensified an already difficult transition and the Committee urges ACF to use any unanticipated carryover to help refugees as they contend with new and unforeseen challenges.

The Committee continues to request that ACF adequately fund the Refugee School Impact program. This program provides grants to support impacted school districts to fund activities that will lead to the effective integration and education of refugee children.

Preventive Health

The Committee provides \$4,748,000 for Preventive Health, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. These funds are awarded through discretionary grants to States to support the coordination and promotion of health screening, treatment, and medical follow-up services to refugees.

Targeted Assistance

The Committee provides \$48,590,000 for the Targeted Assistance program, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. These grants provide assistance to areas with high concentrations of refugees.

Unaccompanied Alien Children

The Committee provides \$149,351,000 for the Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) program, which is \$26,231,000 more than the fiscal year 2009 funding level and \$26,230,000 less than the budget request. Subsequent to the fiscal year 2010 request, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 included an additional \$82,000,000 for the UAC program for costs associated with the TVPRA. These additional funds will remain available through September 30, 2011.

The UAC program provides for the care and placement of unaccompanied children who are apprehended in the U.S. by law enforcement and taken into care pending resolution of their immigration cases. ACF provides grants and contracts to State-licensed facilities to provide

temporary shelter, medical care, pro bono legal services, family reunification services, and other support services for children in ACF's care.

The TVPRA includes new requirements regarding the treatment and care of unaccompanied alien children. The TVPRA requires that unaccompanied alien children interdicted from Mexico and Canada whom the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) determines to be victims of trafficking, at risk of trafficking upon return, or who have a credible fear of persecution upon return, must be transferred to ACF's care. Previously all children from contiguous countries apprehended at the border were immediately returned and not transferred to ACF. The TVPRA also provides for increased monitoring, screening, and assessments for children, increased home studies before children are placed with a sponsor, mandatory follow-up for children for whom a study is conducted, and specialized training for Federal, State and local personnel. The Committee supports these new provisions aimed at ensuring the proper care and treatment of unaccompanied alien children. However, these new requirements have only become effective as of March 2009 and limited data are available on the actual costs of carrying out the provisions of the TVPRA. The Committee requests ACF to provide a report within 60 days of enactment of this Act to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on how ACF has implemented the provisions of the TVPRA and the costs associated with carrying out these new provisions, including information on the number of children transferred to ACF's care, the length of stay while under ACF's care, and other costs associated with implementing the TVPRA.

Transportation of Unaccompanied Alien Children- The Committee does not include funding for the transportation of unaccompanied alien children from the point of apprehension to placement in an ORR facility. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), in consultation with HHS and DHS, released a memo in June 2009 specifying that DHS will continue to be responsible for this transportation in fiscal year 2010. In addition, a more extensive report will be completed by September 30, 2009 detailing specific recommendations concerning improvements to the program. In preparing this report, the Committee urges OMB, HHS, and DHS to consider the best interest of the unaccompanied alien children. The Committee urges HHS and DHS to work to ensure the placement of children in areas with access to important medical, mental health, and legal services. Many facilities are currently located in rural areas close to the border to facilitate an easier transfer of children between DHS and HHS. However, many of these areas lack access to key services.

Pro Bono Pilot Program- Unaccompanied alien children are not guaranteed legal representation and many children appear before a judge to determine their immigration status without an attorney. Pro bono legal representation is absolutely critical to ensure that children understand their rights as they navigate the legal process to determine their status in the United States. The Committee commends ORR for implementing a pro bono pilot program for unaccompanied alien children and includes no less than \$6,000,000 within the UAC program to continue and expand this initiative. The Committee urges ORR to continue to work towards ensuring that all unaccompanied alien children understand their legal rights and have access to pro bono representation. The Committee requests a report be included in the fiscal year 2011 budget justification on the effectiveness of this initiative, including the number and proportion of unaccompanied alien children provided pro bono legal representation.

Independent Evaluation- The Homeland Security Act of 2002 transferred responsibility for the care and treatment of unaccompanied alien children to HHS to ensure that the child welfare needs of children are protected. Since that time there has not been a comprehensive evaluation of the UAC program. The Committee recommends up to \$250,000 for an independent evaluation of the

UAC program to determine if the UAC program is operating consistent with child welfare best practices.

Field Coordinator Program- The Committee recognizes the importance of the field coordinator program to properly evaluate children, make recommendations based on their independent evaluation of the child, and advocate in the best interests of the child. Given the expected increase in the number of unaccompanied alien children resulting from the TVPRA, the Committee urges ORR to expand the field coordinator program to ensure that children are properly evaluated and their best welfare protected.

Victims of Torture

The Committee provides \$11,358,000 to provide a comprehensive program of support for domestic centers and programs for victims of torture. This amount is \$541,000 above the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. Funding supports services and rehabilitation for victims of torture, including social and legal services and training for healthcare providers on treating the physical and psychological effects of torture.

Payments to States for the Child Care and Development Block Grant

The Committee provides \$2,127,081,000 for the discretionary portion of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. The Recovery Act provided an additional \$2,000,000,000 for the CCDBG in fiscal years 2009 and 2010. The CCDBG provides child care services for low-income families.

One out of every three families with young children earn less than \$25,000 and child care costs can make up a sizable piece of any family's budget. For many families, single-parent households in particular, child care can be prohibitively expensive. A recent study found that in the vast majority of States, the average annual cost of child care for two young children is more than half the median income for single parent households.

The Committee continues to believe that providing affordable high quality child care is a critical investment that can have lasting benefits for families. Single mothers who receive child care assistance are 40 percent more likely to remain employed after two years than those who do not receive assistance. Children receiving high quality child care demonstrate greater mathematical ability, greater thinking and attention skills, and fewer behavioral problems than children who receive lower quality care. Including mandatory funds, the Committee recommendation will help provide child care services to an estimated 1.7 million children in fiscal year 2010. Together with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the Social Services Block Grant, 34 percent of children in families with income under 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level receive child care subsidies.

Within the total for CCDBG, the Committee includes \$271,401,000 for activities to improve the quality of child care, including \$99,534,000 for infant and toddler care; \$18,960,000 for child care resource and referral activities; \$1,000,000 for the Child Care Aware toll-free hotline; and \$9,910,000 for child care research, demonstration, and evaluation activities.

Social Services Block Grant

The Committee provides \$1,700,000,000 for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. The Committee provides the entire authorized amount for this flexible source of funding to help local communities provide a variety

of social services to needy individuals and their families. Funds are distributed to States by formula grants and States have the flexibility to determine what services and activities are supported, provided they are targeted at a broad set of goals, including reducing or eliminating poverty, achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, and preventing neglect and abuse.

SSBG supports services in critical areas such as nutrition, employment, housing, public health, and other social services that experience increased demand in an economic downturn. The funds in this bill will allow States to reach approximately 19 million vulnerable individuals.

Children and Family Services Programs (Including Transfer of Funds)

The Committee provides a total program level of \$9,447,168,000 for Children and Families Services Programs, which is \$135,840,000 above the fiscal year 2009 funding level and \$22,608,000 below the budget request. Within the total provided, \$10,217,000 is provided through the section 241 Public Health Service Act evaluation set-aside. This account finances a number of programs aimed at enhancing the well-being of the nation's children and families, particularly those who are disadvantaged or troubled.

Head Start

The Committee provides \$7,234,783,000 for Head Start, which is \$121,997,000 more than the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the same as the budget request. The Recovery Act provided \$2,100,000,000 for Head Start, with a directive that HHS work with grantees to manage resources to sustain fiscal year 2009 awards through fiscal year 2010. The Committee recommendation will allow Head Start to serve approximately 978,000 children in fiscal year 2010, maintaining the 69,000 increase in children served due to the Recovery Act.

Head Start provides grants to local public and private non-profit agencies to provide comprehensive early childhood development services, including educational, health, nutritional, and social services, to economically disadvantaged children before they enter school. Head Start was reauthorized in December 2007, with several significant changes to the program, including expanding eligibility, establishing a funding priority for American Indian and Alaska Native and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs, enhancing qualification requirements for Head Start teachers and other staff, and imposing new competition requirements for poorly performing grantees.

The Committee requests that the Office of Head Start include the waiting lists for the Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Indian and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs as part of the annual Program Information Reporting System.

Homeless Children- The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 includes provisions intended to enhance services for homeless children and increase their participation in Head Start. The Committee encourages ACF, in developing and implementing Head Start training and technical assistance, to work with organizations specializing in improving services to homeless children in early education programs.

Vision Screening- The Committee recognizes that vision disorders are the leading cause of impaired health in childhood and is concerned that while Head Start currently requires children to be screened for vision problems, there are no procedures for training, tracking, or conducting the screening. This lack of national uniform standards continues to cause many Head Start enrollees

to fall through the cracks without diagnosis or treatment. The Committee encourages the continuation and expansion of collaborative efforts between the Office of Head Start and stakeholders to ensure that all Head Start enrollees receive vision screening services and other resources available to them in their community.

Consolidated Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

The Committee provides \$98,234,000 for Consolidated Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, which is \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. Funding supports the establishment and operation of runaway and homeless youth shelters and transitional living programs. Funding also supports the national toll free runaway and homeless youth crisis hotline, which receives over 100,000 calls annually.

Grants are used to develop or strengthen community-based shelters, which are outside the law enforcement, juvenile justice, child welfare, and mental health systems. Basic Centers provide outreach, crisis intervention, temporary shelter, counseling and family unification services. Transitional Living Programs provide longer-term services for older children who cannot safely live with their families, providing skills designed to help youth transition to self-sufficiency. The Transitional Living Program also funds programs for pregnant and parenting teens.

Prevention Grants to Reduce Abuse of Runaway Youth

The Committee provides \$18,721,000 for Prevention Grants to Reduce Abuse of Runaway Youth, which is \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. This program provides grants to support street-based outreach and education to runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been sexually abused or who are at-risk of sexual abuse. The street outreach program ensures rapid engagement with young people in an effort to prevent the most terrible situations that take place when they are subjected to life on the streets, including physical and sexual abuse, assault, commercial sexual exploitation, disease, long-term homelessness, and even death.

Child Abuse State Grants

The Committee provides \$26,535,000 for Child Abuse State Grants, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. These funds support grants to States to improve child protective service systems. State grants are based on an initial \$50,000 allocation per State, with additional funds distributed based on the State's relative share of the number of children under age 18.

Child Abuse Discretionary Activities

The Committee provides \$40,595,000 for Child Abuse Discretionary Activities, which is \$1,162,000 below the fiscal year 2009 funding level and \$1,250,000 above the budget request. Funding supports a variety of research and demonstration projects.

Home Visitation Initiative- Within the total provided for Child Abuse Discretionary Activities, the Committee provides \$15,000,000 for the Home Visitation initiative. These funds support competitive grants to States to encourage investment of existing funding streams into proven-effective home visitation models. As in fiscal year 2009, the Committee directs ACF to ensure that these funds support models that have been shown in well-designed, randomized controlled trials to produce sizeable, sustained effects on important child and family outcomes, such as

abuse and neglect. The budget includes a legislative proposal to establish a capped entitlement program to provide a dedicated funding stream to States to establish and expand evidenced-based home visitation programs. The Committee strongly supports home visitation programs and, pending enactment of this legislation, continues to fund the establishment and expansion of programs within this account.

Within the \$14,819,000 included in the bill, \$1,250,000 shall be used for the following projects in the following amounts:

Project	Committee Recommendation
County of Contra Costa, Martinez, CA for an initiative for children and adolescents exposed to domestic violence	\$350,000
Douglas County C.A.R.E.S., Roseburg, OR for the Kids in Common program to provide services to abused and neglected children	\$300,000
Marcus Autism Center, Atlanta, GA for an autism initiative	\$300,000
University of California, Merced/The Great Valley Center, Merced, CA for child abuse prevention education services	\$300,000

Community-based Child Abuse Prevention

The Committee provides \$41,689,000 for Community-based Child Abuse Prevention, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. Funds are provided to State agencies and are used to develop, operate, expand, and enhance community-based efforts to strengthen and support families in an effort to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Abandoned Infants Assistance

The Committee provides \$11,628,000 for the Abandoned Infants Assistance program, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. The purpose of this program is to provide financial support to public and private community and faith-based entities to develop, implement, and operate demonstration projects that will prevent the abandonment of infants and young children exposed to HIV/AIDS and drugs; identify and address their needs; assist such children to reside with their natural families or in foster care; recruit, train, and retain foster parents, as well as health and social services personnel; provide respite care for families and foster families; and prevent the abandonment of infants and young children.

Child Welfare Services and Training

The Committee provides \$281,744,000 for Child Welfare Services, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. This program provides grants to States to assist public welfare agencies to improve child welfare services. State services include preventive intervention so that children may stay in their homes, alternative placement such as foster care or adoption if it is not possible for children to remain at home, and reunification programs so that, if appropriate, children can return home.

In addition to the amount for Child Welfare Services, the Committee provides \$27,207,000 for Child Welfare Training, Research and Demonstration, which is \$20,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. The increased funding is for a new Innovative Approaches to Foster Care program, as proposed by the Administration. This program would

provide funding to States, localities, and tribes to improve the outcome of children and families in foster care, particularly those with long-term involvement. Almost one-quarter of children in foster care have been in foster care for three years or longer and these remain some of the most challenging cases. Grantees demonstrating improvement in outcomes for children in long-term foster care would be eligible for bonus funding.

Adoption Opportunities

The Committee provides \$26,379,000 for Adoption Opportunities, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. This program provides funding specifically targeted at improving the adoption of children, particularly those with special needs, removing barriers to adoption, and providing innovative services that support families involved in adoption.

Adoption Incentives

The Committee provides \$39,500,000 for Adoption Incentives, which is \$3,000,000 above the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the same as the budget request. This program targets incentives at placement of older children and children with special needs. Funds are awarded to States using three baselines: one for the total number of children adopted, one for children with special needs under the age of nine, and one for children aged nine and older. The goal of this program is to increase the number of adoptions nationwide. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 doubled the authorized incentive payments for the hardest-to-place children.

Adoption Awareness

The Committee provides \$12,953,000 for the Adoption Awareness Program, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. This program provides funding to train staff to provide health services to pregnant women to inform them about adoption, develop best practice guidelines on adoption counseling, and publicize information about the adoption of children with special needs.

Strengthening Communities Fund

The Committee does not recommend funding for the Strengthening Communities Fund because the Recovery Act included \$50,000,000 for this activity, including funding for a national evaluation of the program. The budget proposed \$50,000,000 for this activity, to provide capacity-building grants for organizations and State, local, and Tribal governments responsible for providing training and technical assistance to small non-profit organizations, with the ultimate goal of improving the effectiveness of non-profit organizations. The Committee notes that this is a new initiative and has not yet been evaluated. The Committee will consider future funding recommendations pending an evaluation of the program.

Social Services and Income Maintenance Research

The Committee provides a total program level of \$19,331,000 for Social Services and Income Maintenance Research, which is \$929,000 less than the fiscal year 2009 funding level and \$13,569,000 more than the budget request. Within this amount \$5,762,000 is provided through the section 241 Public Health Service Act evaluation set-aside. These funds support research, demonstration, evaluation, and dissemination activities. Recent topics funded through this

program include welfare-to-work strategies and programs to strengthen family relationships and promote healthy marriages.

Within the \$14,819,000 included in the bill, \$13,569,000 shall be used for the following projects in the following amounts:

Project	Committee Recommendation
Asian Pacific Women, Los Angeles, CA for a domestic violence prevention and education initiative	\$50,000
Barry University, Miami Shores, FL for the Center for Community Services Initiatives	300,000
Beth El House, Alexandria, VA for housing and social services to formerly homeless single mothers and their families	200,000
Bethany House, Laredo, TX for equipment and job training resources to help the unemployed find gainful employment	230,000
Bethel's Place, Houston, TX for the Heavenly Hands community project	100,000
Beyond Shelter, Los Angeles, CA for a crisis intervention demonstration project	400,000
Chabad of South Bay, Lomita, CA for a project to improve services for youth and families in crisis	370,000
Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters Health System, Norfolk, VA for a comprehensive program to treat abused children	500,000
City of Bellevue, WA for the Wrap-Around Services program	375,000
City of Emeryville, CA for early childhood development, counseling, and related service	250,000
City of Ft. Worth, TX for the Early Childhood Matters Initiative	425,000
City of Norwich, CT for services to pregnant and parenting adolescents and their families	85,000
City of San Jose, CA for a pilot program to evaluate and assess the Smart Start childcare model	284,000
Council of Peoples Organization, Brooklyn, NY for the Community Youth Program	150,000
Easter Seals of Southern Georgia, Albany, GA for respite services for children who are developmentally disabled, have autism, or are medically fragile	100,000
Eva's Place, Sandusky, MI for domestic violence service programs	200,000
First 5 Alameda County, San Leandro, CA for its children's screening, assessment, referral, and treatment initiative	500,000
Glenwood School for Boys and Girls, Glenwood, IL for housing support and educational and social skills development programs	350,000
Greater New Britain Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Inc., New Britain, CT for teen pregnancy prevention services	100,000
Gregory House Programs, Honolulu, HI for a comprehensive homelessness prevention program for people living with HIV/AIDS	100,000
Homeless Prenatal Program, San Francisco CA for case management and supportive services	400,000
Hope Institute for Children and Families, Springfield, IL for facilities and equipment	100,000
Horizons for Homeless Children, Roxbury, MA for programs for homeless	630,000

children	
Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County, Inc., Ithaca NY for 2-1-1 Tompkins to provide access to social services	50,000
Huron County Safe Place, Bad Axe, MI for domestic violence service programs	150,000
Jewish Community Council of Canarsie, Brooklyn, NY for services for at-risk Holocaust survivors	300,000
Lapeer Area Citizens Against Domestic Assault, Lapeer, MI for domestic violence service programs	200,000
Larkin Street Youth Services, San Francisco, CA for homeless and runaway youth services	300,000
LifeStyles of Maryland, Inc., La Plata, MD for its Safe Nights Program for homeless and disadvantaged populations	60,000
Little Friends, Inc., Naperville, IL for an autism initiative	200,000
Make the Road New York, Jackson Heights, NY for support services for low-income and working families	300,000
Minot State University, Minot, ND for its Great Plains Autism Treatment Program	300,000
Monterey County Probation Department, Salinas, CA for the Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention Program	750,000
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Rockville, MD for community based service delivery and outreach	200,000
National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, Washington, DC for research and information dissemination related to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program	200,000
North Ward Center, Newark, NJ for comprehensive services for people with autism spectrum disorders	400,000
Pathways PA, Holmes, PA for services for pregnant and parenting teens	150,000
Pierce County Alliance, Tacoma, WA for a program to expedite the permanent placement of child victims of parental abuse or neglect	150,000
Polaris Project, Washington, DC for the New Jersey Trafficking Intervention Program	250,000
Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, MD for a program for transition aged youth	165,000
Safe Horizons, Port Huron, MI for domestic violence service programs	200,000
Salvation Army San Bernardino Center for Worship and Service, San Bernardino, CA for the Support Family Services Program	160,000
Santa Clara Family Health Plan, Campbell, CA for a program to transfer medically fragile and severely developmentally disabled individuals from an institutional setting	300,000
SingleStop USA, San Francisco, CA for a program to increase low-income households' access to social services	100,000
Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children, Bridgewater, NJ for a transitional/permanent housing program for youth who have aged out of foster care	400,000
Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center, East Prairie, MO to assist at-risk youth and their families	250,000
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL for the West Alabama Autism Outreach Center	355,000
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO for services for people	280,000

with Autism Spectrum Disorder	
University of Toledo, Toledo, OH for services for persons with autism and research on autism spectrum disorders	500,000
Wayne County Department of Children and Family Services, Detroit, MI for the Kids-TALK forensic interviewing project	150,000
Wynona's House, Newark, NJ for multicultural psychotherapeutic interventions for child victims of sexual abuse	300,000
YWCA of Monterey County, Monterey, CA for expansion of direct services and prevention programs to combat domestic and gang violence	250,000

Developmental Disabilities Assistance

The Committee provides \$186,355,000 for programs authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act and the Help America Vote Act, which is \$2,500,000 more than the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request.

State Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Within the total for developmental disabilities assistance, \$74,316,000 is for allotments to States to fund State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. These State Councils develop, improve, and expand the system of services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. Through their activities, Councils on Developmental Disabilities provide for the inclusion and integration of individuals with developmental disabilities in the economic, political, social, cultural, religious and educational mainstream of the nation.

Protection and Advocacy

Within the total for developmental disabilities assistance, \$41,024,000 is available to States for the Developmental Disabilities Protection and Advocacy Program, which is aimed at protecting the legal and human rights of the developmentally disabled. This amount is \$1,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request.

Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities

Within the total for developmental disabilities assistance, the Committee recommends \$17,410,000 for Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. Within the funds provided, \$12,154,000 is for payments to States to promote access for voters with disabilities and \$5,256,000 is for State protection and advocacy systems. These programs are intended to make polling places accessible and provide equal access and participation for individuals with disabilities. The protection and advocacy program will ensure that individuals can fully participate in the electoral process, including registering to vote, accessing polling places, and casting a vote.

The Committee encourages ACF to continue to work with States to ensure that these funds are properly used within a reasonable amount of time.

Developmental Disabilities Projects of National Significance

Within the total for developmental disabilities assistance, the Committee recommends \$14,662,000 for Developmental Disabilities Projects of National Significance, which is \$500,000 above the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. Within this amount, the Committee recommends \$3,000,000 for the establishment of a national autism resource and information center, to help families and other caregivers of individuals with autism spectrum disorders access information about evidence-based interventions, services, and protocols. This award shall be made on a competitive basis.

University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Within the total for developmental disabilities assistance, the Committee recommends \$38,943,000 for the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, which is \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. This funding provides discretionary grants to public or not-for-profit entities associated with universities. The grants provide basic operational and administrative core support for these entities. In addition, these funds support interdisciplinary training, community services, research and technical assistance, and information dissemination.

Native American Programs

The Committee provides \$48,523,000 for Native American programs, which is \$1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. The Native American programs assist tribal and village governments, Native American institutions, and organizations to support and develop stable, diversified local economies. In promoting social and economic self-sufficiency, this program provides financial assistance through direct grants for individual projects, training and technical assistance, and research and demonstration programs. Within this amount, the Committee intends that not less than \$11,000,000 be used to fund Native American language programs, as authorized by the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006.

Community Services

The Committee provides \$770,025,000 for community services activities, which is \$5,288,000 below the fiscal year 2009 funding level and \$4,712,000 above the budget request.

Grants to States for Community Services

Within the total for community services activities, the Committee provides \$700,000,000 for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. The Recovery Act provided an additional \$1,000,000,000 for CSBG in fiscal years 2009 and 2010. The Recovery Act also included language allowing States to increase the income eligibility ceiling from 125 percent to 200 percent of the poverty level for appropriated funds in fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

The CSBG provides flexible funding to over 1,000 counties, territories, and Indian tribes for services, such as employment, housing, nutrition, energy, emergency services, child care, job training and placement, parenting education, adult literacy classes, domestic violence prevention, emergency food assistance, and health needs of low-income people. As a result of the funds provided in this bill, localities will assist more than 16 million low-income individuals.

The Committee directs that \$500,000 of training and technical assistance funds under CSBG be allocated for a national community economic development training and capacity development initiative. Successful implementation of community development programs requires significant investment in high-quality board and staff training and proven technical assistance. This funding will enable community action agency leaders to attain the professional skills needed to undertake projects to enhance their communities' future security through financing and implementing innovative housing, economic and community development partnerships.

Community Economic Development

Within the total for community services activities, the Committee provides \$36,000,000 for Community Economic Development, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. The Community Economic Development program provides grants to locally-initiated community economic development corporations (CEDCs) to make loans to or investments in private business enterprises that provide employment, training, and business opportunities for low-income individuals in poor communities. The Committee continues bill language clarifying Congressional intent regarding disposition of intangible assets, including loans and investments, acquired under the community economic development authority of the CSBG Act.

Rural Community Facilities

Within the total for community services activities, the Committee provides \$10,000,000 for Rural Community Facilities, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and \$10,000,000 more than the budget request. This program provides training and technical assistance to communities for planning, developing, and managing, safe drinking water and wastewater facilities. As in the past, these funds should be allocated to regional rural community assistance programs.

Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals

The Committee does not provide funding for Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals because the Committee recommendation includes \$50,000,000 for a new Transitional Jobs initiative in the Department of Labor to provide employment opportunities to the same target population of TANF recipients and low-income individuals as this program. The budget request included \$5,288,000 for this program, the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level. In fiscal year 2009, this program provided grants to non-profit organizations to create new employment and business opportunities for TANF recipients and other low-income individuals. The effectiveness of this narrowly focused program has never been evaluated, and the Committee believes these activities are duplicated by other programs.

Individual Development Accounts

Within the total for community services activities, the Committee provides \$24,025,000 for Individual Development Accounts, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. Individual Development Accounts are dedicated savings accounts that can be used by families with limited means for purchasing a first home, paying for postsecondary education or capitalizing a business. The intent of the program is to encourage participants to develop and reinforce strong habits for saving money. Section 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible to apply for the funds and applicants must match Federal funds with non-Federal funds.

Violent Crime Reduction Programs

The Committee provides \$133,776,000 for Family Violence Prevention and Services and Battered Women's Shelters, which is \$6,000,000 above the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. This program is designed to assist States and tribes in efforts to prevent family violence and to provide immediate shelter and related assistance for victims of family violence and their dependents.

In addition, the Committee provides \$3,209,000 to finance a domestic violence hotline, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request.

Mentoring Children of Prisoners

The Committee provides \$49,314,000 for Mentoring Children of Prisoners, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. This program supports competitively awarded grants to States and local governments, Indian tribes and consortia, and faith- and community-based organizations to mentor children of prisoners and those recently released from prison.

Independent Living Training Vouchers

The Committee provides \$45,351,000 for Independent Living Training Vouchers, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. This program provides vouchers of up to \$5,000 per year for post-secondary assistance such as tuition, books, fees, supplies, and vocational training for foster care youth and former foster care youth. These discretionary funds will provide vouchers to approximately 16,000 such youth to help them transition from foster care.

Teenage Pregnancy Prevention

The Committee provides a total program level of \$114,455,000 for a new teenage pregnancy prevention initiative, as requested by the Administration. This program will provide funds to public and private entities on a competitive basis for proven-effective or otherwise promising teenage pregnancy prevention programs that provide medically accurate, age-appropriate, and complete information to youths. The Committee is deeply concerned that teenage birth rates have begun to rise after 14 years of decline. In 2006, teenage birth increased for the first time since 1991, following a 34-percent decline over that period. Preliminary data indicates this increase may have continued in 2007. Studies have found that the overwhelming majority of teenage pregnancies are unplanned. Reducing the incidence of teenage pregnancy can have untold individual and societal benefits, including reducing poverty, improving education outcomes, improving child well-being, and reducing the need for abortions.

Within the total, the Committee provides not less than \$75,000,000 for evidence-based programs that have shown through rigorous evaluation, defined as randomized controlled trials, to reduce teenage pregnancy, delay sexual activity, or increase contraceptive use. Most evidence-based programs that have been proven effective at reducing risk factors associated with teenage pregnancy are those that encourage abstinence as the safest choice and also discuss contraceptive use as a way to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Within the total, the Committee further provides not less than \$25,000,000 to develop, test, replicate, and refine programs that may not yet have rigorous evaluation demonstrating effectiveness, but use promising or innovative approaches to prevent teenage pregnancy. Any remaining amounts not

specified herein should be used for program support, training and technical assistance, demonstration development, and additional research and evaluation activities.

Within the total, \$4,455,000 is provided through the Section 241 Public Health Service Act evaluation set-aside for evaluating promising teenage pregnancy prevention approaches.

Community-based Abstinence Education

The Administration's budget request did not include funding for Community-based Abstinence Education, which received a program level total of \$99,114,000 in fiscal year 2009. The Committee adopts this recommendation. Abstinence education approaches meeting the qualifications laid out in the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention program will be eligible for funding under that program.

Faith-based Center

The Committee provides \$1,376,000 for the Faith-based Center, which is \$14,000 above the fiscal year 2009 funding level and same as the budget request. The center will support implementation of faith-based and community initiatives.

Disaster Human Services Case Management

The Committee provides \$2,000,000 for the Disaster Human Services Case Management initiative, as proposed by the Administration. This new initiative will be a collaboration between ACF and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response within HHS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Its purpose is to assist States in building the capacity to provide effective case management services to victims of major disasters.

Program Direction

The Committee provides \$213,485,000 for Program Direction, which is \$16,555,000 more than the fiscal year 2009 funding level and \$4,139,000 less than the budget request. Program Direction provides funding for salaries and expenses for ACF program management in Washington, D.C. headquarters, ten regional offices, and 13 child support enforcement offices. There have been numerous reauthorizations in the past two years that have included major new responsibilities for ACF relating to the administration of Head Start, Refugee and Entrant Assistance programs, and foster care and adoption assistance programs.

Within the total, the Committee provides \$1,000,000 to be transferred to National Commission on Children and Disasters, as provided for in title VI of division G of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2008, to continue a comprehensive study of the needs of children relating to the preparation for, response to, and recovery from major disasters and emergencies. In total, the National Commission on Children and Disasters will have received \$3,000,000 of this activity, the authorized funding level.

Within the total, the Committee provides up to \$2,000,000 for improving the Public Assistance Reporting Information System.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families

The Committee provides \$345,000,000 in mandatory funds for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. The Committee recommends \$63,311,000 in discretionary funds for this program, which is also the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. A total of \$443,311,000 will be available in fiscal year 2010 for this program, which enables each State to operate a coordinated program of family preservation services, community-based family support services, time-limited reunification services, and adoption promotion and support services. States receive funds based on their share of children in all States receiving food stamp benefits.

Payments for Foster Care and Permanency

The Committee provides \$5,532,000,000 for Payments for Foster Care and Permanency, which is \$123,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the same as the budget request. Including advance appropriations in fiscal year 2009, a total of \$7,332,000,000 will be available for this activity in fiscal year 2010. The Committee also includes an advance appropriation of \$1,850,000,000 for the first quarter of fiscal year 2011 to ensure timely completion of first quarter grant awards.

Within the total, including the advance appropriation from the prior year, the Committee recommends \$4,681,000,000 for the Foster Care program, which is \$21,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the same as the budget request. This program provides funds to States for foster care maintenance payments for children living in foster care. These funds also reimburse States for administrative costs to manage the program and training for staff and parents. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 expanded eligible training expenditures and educational stability and health oversight requirements.

Within the total, the Committee recommends \$2,462,000,000 for Adoption Assistance, which is \$91,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the same as the budget request. This program provides funds to States to subsidize families who adopt children with special needs, e.g., older children, a member of a minority or sibling group, or children with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities. In addition, the program provides training for adoptive parents and State administrative staff. This annually appropriated entitlement provides alternatives to long, inappropriate stays in foster care by developing permanent placements with families.

Within the total, the Committee recommends \$49,000,000 for the Kinship Guardianship Assistance program, which is \$35,000,000 above the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the same as the budget request. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 created the Kinship Guardianship Assistance program to provide subsidies to a relative taking legal guardianship of a child for whom being returned home or adoption are not appropriate permanency options. This increase reflects the first full year of implementation of the program.

Finally, within the total, the Committee recommends \$140,000,000 for the Independent Living program, which is the same as the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. This program assists foster children age 16 or older make successful transitions to independence. Funds support a variety of services, including educational assistance, career exploration, vocational training, job placement, life skills training, home management, health services, substance abuse prevention, preventive health activities, and room and board. Each State receives funds based on the number of children on whose behalf the State receives Federal Foster Care Payments.