



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

October 29, 2018

Dear Child Welfare Agency Director,

I am writing to bring to your attention a potential opportunity for the utilization of under-capacity congregate care facilities in your state. Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) are minors who enter the United States without legal immigration status and without parents or guardians. The Administration for Children and Families' Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is responsible for the care and placement with sponsors of UAC.

ORR operates a network of just over 100 shelters in 17 states and has a well-established track record of providing high-quality child welfare services, ensuring accountability and transparency of program operations, as well as being a good neighbor in the communities where shelters are located. The overwhelming majority of UAC are released to family members within the United States after an average stay in care of fewer than 60 days. With the substantial increase in UAC referrals, ORR is in need of your assistance to identify additional shelter providers, and we thought of congregate care facilities in your state that would be interested in applying for a grant from HHS to care for UAC while suitable sponsors are being identified.

Please share the information below with any providers in your state who may be interested in providing services to UAC. ORR has posted two Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) on Grants.Gov to solicit applications for shelter and secure residential providers. The FOAs will be posted through Monday, November 26th, 2018. Please see the links, below, to access the FOAs. In addition, please forward these links to any organizations or agencies which you think may be interested in providing residential services to the UAC population. If you have any questions regarding the FOAs, please contact Shannon McGhee at 202-205-9513 or DCS_ProjectOfficers@acf.hhs.gov.

- <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=284278>
- <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=284254>

The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement and the Children's Bureau encourage you to support the necessary efforts to find prompt, suitable placements for UAC, and would also like to thank you in advance for your attention to this serious and important issue.

Sincerely,

Jerry Milner
Acting Commissioner
Administration on Children, Youth
and Families