

# Stronger Families = Stronger Tribes



**MARCH 2004 VOLUME 1; ISSUE 1**

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Region VI HHS Tribal Consultation**  
April 7 –8, 2004  
The Reid Center  
Midwest City, Oklahoma  
For additional information contact:  
Inter-Tribal Health Board  
(405) 951-6003

**10th National American Indian and  
Alaska Native Child Care Conference**  
*"Incorporating Language, Culture, and  
Tradition into Early Learning  
Environments."*  
April 4 -7, 2004  
Hyatt Regency Phoenix  
Phoenix, Arizona  
For additional information contact:  
Tribal Child Care Technical  
Assistance Center (TriTAC)  
(800) 388-7670

**22nd Annual "Protecting Our  
Children" Conference**  
**National American Indian Conference  
on Child Abuse and Neglect**  
**"Putting Our Minds Together to Leave  
No Indian Child Behind"**  
April 4-7, 2004  
Marriott Tech Center  
Denver, CO  
For additional information contact:  
Marlene Norcross  
(503) 222-4044 or marlene@nicwa.org

## MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Greetings!

The Administration for Children & Families, Region VI is continuing to take action as a leader for improved communication and policies with respect to Native American issues. In beginning a successful new year, as we strategize to achieve positive outcomes to ensure the well-being of children and families, we will continue to focus on the social and economic development of Native American families and communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Region VI Tribal programs for your strong participation and support of our Mid-Winter Leadership Training Conference held in January. We had more than 1,000 total attendees.

This year's conference included 50 different sessions all designed to share best practices, the latest research and information, and to provide guidance in carrying out White House, Departmental and ACF initiatives. The Tribal meetings were specifically geared toward your unique challenges and focused on a variety of relevant topics from child care services to ANA funding opportunities and technical assistance. It is my sincere hope that you, our Tribal stakeholders, left Dallas with a renewed conviction for the indispensable work that you do.

I applaud your unwavering dedication and commitment as we make a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve.

Sincerely,

Leon R. McCowan  
Regional Administrator



Additional information including conferences, trainings and funding announcements are listed throughout the newsletter. Please contact the ACF Regional Office if you have any questions or need further details.

## HHS SYNTHESIS REPORT CONFIRMS THAT INCREASES IN PARENTAL EMPLOYMENT ARE NOT HARMFUL TO CHILDREN

The Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families announced a report synthesizing studies in five states that found that adult employment gains under welfare reform have had mostly neutral or positive effects on the lives of young school-age children in the families in the sample. The studies were carried out in Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Iowa and Minnesota during a period from 1993 to 2000. Final reports from these studies were released from 2000 to 2003.

"Critics of welfare reform predicted that the program would harm children," said Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., assistant secretary for children and families. "This report proves those critics wrong and shows that welfare reform can help to promote the well-being of children."

"This report highlights that welfare reform programs can contribute to better outcomes for children," HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said. "Increasing a family's self-sufficiency benefits everyone in the family."

At the beginning of the project, all five states already had evaluations underway to study the effects of welfare reform on adults, such as changes in earnings and employment. They added a focus on children and family processes, looking primarily at children between the ages of five and 12. Follow up studies were conducted from two-and-a half years to six-and-a half years into the project. Outcomes for children were measured by educational performance; social and emotional adjustment and health and safety.

While the studies focused on young school-aged children, a more limited number of measures on outcomes for adolescents were collected. All four of the programs that collected data on adolescents' school performance found negative impacts, although the magnitude of these effects was generally small. Other measures, such as delinquency, showed no overall impacts.



The synthesis finds that overall welfare reform had a relatively small impact on the young school-age children in the sample. However, in Connecticut and Minnesota, where family income increased the most, there were concomitant benefits for children. In Connecticut, the study found a decrease in behavior problems, an increase in positive behaviors, and an increase in the percentage reported to be in very good or excellent health. In Minnesota, children did better in school and on measures of behavior.

In two of the states, Florida and Minnesota, welfare reform had the most favorable effects on the school performance of those children who came from more disadvantaged families, such as those with a longer history of welfare receipt or less work experience. In the three other states, the level of family disadvantage had little impact on how well the children did.

The full report may be found at :  
[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/welfare\\_reform\\_children/welfare\\_reform\\_title.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/welfare_reform_children/welfare_reform_title.html)

**Source:** HHS Press Release, March 5, 2004



## NEW GRANTS.GOV WEB SITE OFFERS ONE-STOP SHOPPING FOR INFORMATION ON APPLYING FOR ALL FEDERAL GRANTS

The Web site, Grants.gov, makes it easier for organizations to learn about and apply for federal grants. Its launch marks an important milestone in President Bush's Electronic Government (E-Gov) Initiative.

Grants.gov is a key element of President Bush's E-Gov initiative, which aims at harnessing Internet-based technology to make it easy for citizens and businesses to interact with the government, save taxpayer dollars and streamline citizen-to-government communications.

The White House Office for Management and Budget named HHS as the lead agency for this Grants.gov initiative. HHS awards more than half of all the competitive grants across the federal government.

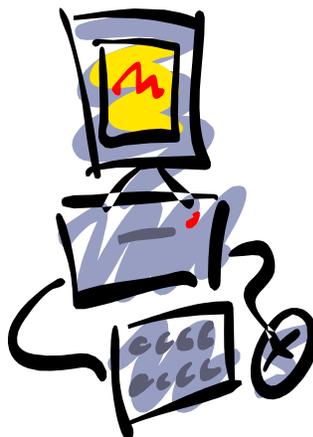
HHS led the development of the cross-agency Web site, which now has information about more than 800 available grant programs involving all 26 federal grant-making agencies. These agencies together award more than \$360 billion in grant funds. The site provides information in a standardized format across agencies and includes a "Find Grant Opportunities" feature to help applicants find potential funding opportunities.

The site also contains an "Apply for Grants" feature that greatly simplifies the application process by allowing applicants to download, complete and submit applications for specific grant opportunities from any federal grant-making agency.

To date, application packages have been posted to the Grants.gov Web site by five agencies -- the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Education, Energy, Justice and HHS. This section will be expanded in the coming months as federal agencies continue to post application information about additional grant opportunities.

More information about Grants.gov is available at <http://www.grants.gov>. More information about the President's E-Gov Initiative is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov>.

**Source:** HHS Press Release, December 9, 2003



### FRIENDLY REMINDERS

#### TITLE IV-B.1 & IV-B.2

Financial Status Reports for the period ended **September 30, 2003** are due to the ACF Regional Office immediately.

#### TRIBAL CHILD CARE

ACF-700 & ACF-696T reports for the period ended on **September 30, 2003** are due to the ACF Regional Office immediately.

If you would like additional information regarding any announcements or information contained in this newsletter, please contact the ACF Regional Office.

Full copies of the HHS Press Releases used in this newsletter are available at :

<http://www.dhhs.gov/news/press/2004.html>



## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DEMONSTRATION GRANTS FOR INDIAN CHILDREN

For specific information about eligibility, please see the official application notice. The official version of this document is the document published in the Federal Register. Free Internet access to the official edition of the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

**Purpose of Program:** The purpose of the Demonstration Grants for Indian Children program is to provide financial assistance to projects to develop, test, and demonstrate the effectiveness of services and programs to improve the educational opportunities and achievement of preschool, elementary, and secondary Indian students. To meet the purposes of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, this program will focus project services on increasing school readiness skills of three- and four-year-old American Indian and Alaska Native children; and enabling American Indian and Alaska Native high school graduates to transition successfully to postsecondary education by increasing their competency and skills in challenging subject matter, including mathematics and science.



**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.299A.**

### Agency Contact Person for Electronic Access

**Julius Cotton, ED FedGrants Administrator**

**Phone (202) 708-8562, Fax (202) 205-0667**

**8th Annual Smart Marriages  
Conference  
Dallas, Texas  
July 8 - 11, 2004**

For additional information and on-line registration visit:

**<http://www.smartmarriages.com/>**



## HHS REGION VI TRIBAL CONSULTATION SESSION

The Department of Health and Human Services will conduct a consultation with Tribes in Region VI on **April 7 –8, 2004**. The consultation will be held in Midwest City, Oklahoma at the Reid Center. Letters of invitation will be sent to Tribal Leaders in Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and New Mexico. Federal agencies within DHHS will be present to provide information and answer questions.

Agencies expected to participate are Indian Health Service, Agency on Aging, Office of Minority Health, Office of Women's Health, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of Civil Rights, HRSA and the Administration for Children and Families.

The first day of the consultation will focus on issues raised by Tribal Leadership. The second day will provide opportunity for smaller breakout sessions with CMS and ACF and any other Federal agency requested.

The consultation is being coordinated by the Oklahoma City Area Inter-Tribal Health Board. Please encourage your Tribal Leadership to participate with any issues they may have.

The contact with the Inter-Tribal Health Board is Allan Harder, Executive Director, (405) 951-6003.



## HHS RELEASES \$191.5 MILLION TO HELP LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WITH HOME HEATING COSTS

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced the release of an additional \$191.5 million in Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) funds for states, territories and tribes. This release brings the total amount made available so far this winter to almost \$1.65 billion.

LIHEAP is a block grant program that helps eligible families pay the costs of heating their homes in the winter and cooling their homes in the summer. About 4.6 million low-income households receive assistance each year.

“January was a particularly cold and difficult month in many states,” Secretary Thompson said. “These funds will help provide heat to low-income Americans keeping their homes and families safe and warm.”

HHS will provide \$99.4 million of this amount from LIHEAP contingency funds. These contingency funds are being released to states due to increases in many home heating fuel prices and the colder than normal January weather in a number of states.

“The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program prevents people from suffering unduly from the cold weather,” said Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., assistant secretary for children and families. “It is a good example of how the government can intervene with compassion to improve people’s lives.”

All states will receive a portion of these funds, with \$40 million allocated according to the same formula as the base block grant. The remaining funds will be provided to the 18 states (Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia) that experienced January temperatures that were much colder than normal. The District of Columbia will also receive part of this allocation.

The remaining \$92.1 million going to states reflects the enactment of a full-year appropriation that provides a higher funding level than could be made available under the continuing resolution that funded LIHEAP through most of January.

HHS provides LIHEAP funds to states, territories and tribes, which run the programs that provide heating assistance to low-income residents. Individuals can apply for heating assistance through their state LIHEAP offices.



**Source:** HHS Press Release, February 5, 2004



**Spirits  
of  
Hope**

**1491 South Sunnyslane, Suite 3  
Del City, Oklahoma 73115  
405-619-9707  
405-619-9715 (fax)  
onadv@sbcglobal.net**

**A coalition addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, & stalking in Oklahoma Indian Country (formerly the Oklahoma Native American Domestic Violence Coalition: ONADVC).**

Tenth National

AMERICAN INDIAN &  
ALASKA NATIVE  
Child Care Conference

Incorporating Language,  
Culture and Tradition  
into Early Learning  
Environments

Sunday, April 4 – Wednesday, April 7, 2004 • Hyatt Regency Phoenix at Civic Plaza • Phoenix, Arizona

The Tenth National American Indian and Alaska Native Child Care Conference will be held Sunday, April 4 – Wednesday, April 7, 2004 at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix at Civic Plaza in Phoenix, Arizona. The theme for this year's conference is "Incorporating Language, Culture, and Tradition into Early Learning Environments."

The Tribal Child Care Technical Assistance Center (TriTAC), through the Native American Management Services, Inc. (NAMS) contract with the Child Care Bureau (CCB), will be serving as the coordinator for all your logistics needs. To ensure that your registration and logistics requests are processed in a timely and efficient manner, please read and follow the instructions that are posted on the website <http://www.namsinc.org/acfchildcare> and in the printed registration packet. If you have any questions, contact the appropriate person on the Conference Staff.

**Tribal Child Care Technical Assistance Center**

**(800) 388-7670**

**tritac2@aol.com**

**<http://nccic.org/tribal>**



The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) promotes the goal of social and economic self-sufficiency of American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Native American Pacific Islanders, including Native Samoans.

**FY 04 Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS)**

Cost Share: 20% match of the approved projects costs.



**Who May Apply:** Tribes, Urban Indian Centers, non-profit Native American organizations, consortia of Indian Tribes, etc.

The SEDS announcement includes a priority for programs that promote healthy relationships to strengthen families. Applicants may create projects that strengthen marriages through premarital counseling, mentoring activities, role model activities, relationships building skills, and conflict resolution activities.

The SEDS program announcement was published in the Federal Register on February 23, 2004. The closing date is **April 23, 2004**. Please see the following link to read the announcement: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a040223c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a040223c.html) and then scroll down to "Children and Families Administration or <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/> and then click on the link under "Open Funding Opportunities."

## REGION VI YOUNG INDIAN WOMEN'S HEALTH SUMMIT

Region VI Office of Women's Health is planning a Young Indian Women's Health Summit to be held in Oklahoma City in June, 2005.

Two young women from each Federally Recognized Tribe in Region VI will be invited to participate, along with an older female mentor. At the summit, the young women will learn about health issues, disease prevention and positive health practices. The participants will plan a health project to present in their communities after the Health Summit, with the assistance of their mentor.

Lisa Blackmon-Hansard and Judy Baggett represent ACF on the planning committee.



## 2004 5th ANNUAL ACF/TRIBAL ROUNDTABLES

The fifth annual ACF/Tribal Roundtables will be held during the third quarter of FY2004 in New Mexico and Oklahoma.

All ACF Tribal grantees will be invited to participate. Information on Best Practices, local resources and program technical assistance will be provided and all grantees are encouraged to attend.

If you have ideas for specific topics, please alert your ACF Regional contact. We want the Roundtables to be beneficial to you and worth your time to attend.

## STATEMENT BY TOMMY G. THOMPSON SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ON NATIONAL DONOR DAY

February 14, 2004 is National Donor Day, an opportunity for all Americans to seriously consider the potential to help others by giving the gift of life. I've long been passionate about the need for more Americans to register as organ donors and to let their families know about their wishes.

Just months after I become Secretary here at the Department of Health and Human Services, we launched the Gift of Life Donation Initiative, a five-pronged national effort to increase awareness and promote donation of organs, tissue, bone marrow and blood. Now, we're starting to see some positive results in terms of increased donations.

While final statistics won't be ready for a little while, the early signs suggest that 2003 will bring us the biggest rise in donation since hospitals began reporting such statistics in 1998. From January to November 2003, organ donation national has been up about 4.8 percent from the same period in 2002.

Among Hispanic and African-American donors, the early signs are even better -- with donations up 14 percent and 12 percent respectively in the first 11 months of 2003. That's great news, because, on average, minorities have waited nearly twice as long as Caucasians for organ transplants. There simply have not been enough minorities donating their organs. Finding a matching donor is much easier when people share a similar heritage or ethnicity.

But we still have a long way to go and I'm asking for your help. More than 83,000 Americans are still waiting for an organ to give them another chance at life. We can all do our part by making the decision to register as organ donors and sharing our decision with our family members so they can respect our wishes when the time comes.

Please help us give our fellow Americans more hope. Become an organ and tissue donor, and you may one day give the gift of life to someone desperately in need.

**Source:** HHS Press Release, February 13, 2004

## HHS LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT YOUTH BULLYING

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced a new campaign to educate more Americans about how to prevent bullying and youth violence -- behaviors that can have tremendous negative impact on children's success in school and overall well-being.

"Bullying is something that we cannot ignore," Secretary Thompson said. "From the schoolrooms to the schoolyards we must nurture a healthy environment for our children. By engaging the entire community in preventing bullying we can promote a more peaceful and safe place for children to grow."

The campaign -- "Take A Stand. Lend A Hand. Stop Bullying Now!" -- is designed to stop bullying, including verbal or physical harassment that occurs repeatedly over time, that is intended to cause harm, and that involves an imbalance of power between the child who bullies and the child who is bullied. Among boys, bullying typically involves pushing, shoving, and other forms of physical intimidation. Girls tend to bully through gossiping, social exclusion, and verbal teasing, but boys frequently engage in these forms of bullying as well.

The campaign was developed by HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in partnership with more than 70 health, safety, education and faith-based organizations. In addition, a Youth Expert Panel comprised of 18 9- through 13-year-olds provided creative direction during the development of the campaign.

The impact of bullying on children's educational success and personal well-being is tremendous. According to the U.S. Department of Education, one in four children who act as bullies will have a criminal record by the age of 30. Studies have shown people who bully others often behave badly in school and are more likely to smoke, drink alcohol, and tend to receive lower grades.

The "Stop Bullying Now!" campaign includes a Web-based, animated story featuring a cast of young people who deal with bullies in the classrooms, hallways, and grounds of a middle school. With help from teachers, parents, and other adults, the bullied characters get support from fellow students who step up to make it clear that bullying is "not cool."

"We know we need to change the culture that allows bullying to occur, particularly in school settings," Dr. Duke said. "This campaign tells educators and parents that bullying is a serious issue and provides resources that will help them put a stop to it."

In addition to the animated "webisodes," which will be updated every two weeks at [www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov), the campaign will feature television and radio public service announcements distributed through the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) member stations. The campaign Web site also offers camera-ready print PSAs and a Resource Kit about bullying prevention programs and activities that can be implemented at the school or community level. The Web site and Resource Kit also provide tools to help in handling individual bullying problems and for creating bullying prevention programs.

For more information on "Take A Stand. Lend A Hand. Stop Bullying Now!" go to [www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov), or call 1-888-ASK-HRSA.



**Source:** HHS Press Release, March 1, 2004

## SCHIP PROVIDED HEALTH COVERAGE TO 5.8 MILLION CHILDREN IN 2003



About 5.8 million children who otherwise would not have health coverage were enrolled in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) at some point during fiscal year 2003 -- a 9 percent increase from the previous year, HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced. .

During fiscal year 2003, a total of 5.8 million children were enrolled in SCHIP at some point, according to the latest figures from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. That compares with 5.3 million children in fiscal year 2002.

Created in 1997 with bipartisan support in Congress, SCHIP is a state and federal partnership designed to provide health insurance coverage to uninsured children, many of whom come from working families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to afford private health insurance. The SCHIP law authorized \$40 billion in federal funds over 10 years to improve children's access to health coverage.

The 2003 enrollment statistics, prepared by HHS' Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) based on state reported enrollment, is consistent with a recent HHS statistical report showing that a higher percentage of American children had health insurance in the first half of 2003.

SCHIP enrollment numbers by state are available at <http://www.cms.gov/schip/enrollment>.

**Source:** *HHS Press Release February 12, 2004*

## HHS AWARDS \$595 MILLION FOR AIDS CARE IN MAJOR URBAN AREAS

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson today announced 51 grants totaling more than \$595 million to the cities hit hardest by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The grants will help these cities provide primary care and supportive services for low-income residents with HIV/AIDS.

The grants to 51 Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMAs), which include both formula and supplemental grants, are funded under Title I of the Ryan White CARE (Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency) Act. Formula funds are awarded based on the estimated number of people living with AIDS in the city, and supplemental funds are awarded competitively among EMAs based on demonstration of severe need and other criteria. A portion of the grant awards will fund the Minority AIDS Initiative to bolster care and services among minority populations.

"These grants will increase access to quality health care for those Americans living with HIV or AIDS, especially those who need help the most, including minorities, the uninsured and the underinsured," Secretary Thompson said. "This funding will help save lives and improve the quality of life for those affected by this terrible disease."

HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration oversees CARE Act programs. Title I grants provide essential HIV/AIDS health care and a wide range of support services to those who lack or are only partially protected by health insurance. Covered services include physician visits, case management, assistance in obtaining medications, home-based and hospice care, substance abuse and mental health services, and other related services.

**Source:** *HHS Press Release, March 1, 2004*

## MENTORING CHILDREN OF PRISONERS PROGRAM WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

Please note there is a 5% set aside for Tribal applications.

FYSB is currently soliciting for applications to carry out the mentoring activities described in the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program announcement. The applications are due **April 23, 2004**. The Mid-Atlantic Network of Youth and Family Services (MANY) will provide technical assistance to interested parties about the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program and grant opportunity through workshops.

### Positive Youth Development Community & Partners

Please visit the following website for time-dated information on technical assistance opportunities in response to the Federal Register RFP announcement for Mentoring Children of Prisoners:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/mentor-wks.htm>



The Mid-Atlantic Network of Youth and Family Services (MANY) will provide technical assistance to interested parties about the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program and grant opportunity through workshops. **The Dallas workshop is the only one in Region VI. The date is March 10, 2004. Additional information will be provided to Tribes interested in receiving this information, but unable to attend the meeting. Please contact the Regional Office to request the additional information.**

For information on the RFP announcement for Mentoring Children of Prisoners, please visit:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/04-3844.htm>



### SAVE THE DATE!

**The National Youth Summit Rocks Cleveland  
"Youth Leadership in America's Communities"  
July 22-24, 2004**

Renaissance Cleveland Hotel

Sponsored by the Family and Youth Services Bureau

Additional details including on-line registration is posted on the following website!

<http://www.ncfy.com>

**Spaces are limited! Register now for the National Youth Summit!**

## HHS AWARDS \$15.7 MILLION TO HELP PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES RETURN TO WORK

"These grants will help states to develop programs for working people with disabilities enabling them to go to work and receive health coverage through Medicaid. Fear of losing access to health coverage is a major obstacle for people with disabilities who want to work, and this program helps reduce that concern. With the help of these grants, states are making great strides in helping people with disabilities who are able to work with the proper supports."

**Tommy Thompson,**  
**HHS Secretary**

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced the award of \$15.7 million in grants to 28 states and the District of Columbia to help people with disabilities find and keep work without losing their health benefits.

Under this program, states use the grants to help people with disabilities retain their Medicaid coverage when they become employed, to help provide appropriate personal assistance services for those who need help bathing, dressing and other necessary activities, and to support other improvements to help people with disabilities to remain successfully employed. To date, more than 59,000 working people with disabilities have received health coverage under such programs.

The states within Region VI receiving the funding in 2004 include: Louisiana, \$500,000; New Mexico, \$499,575 and Oklahoma, \$500,000.

The grants are part of President Bush's New Freedom Initiative, which aims at eliminating barriers that unnecessarily hinder Americans with disabilities as they seek to participate fully in the life of their communities.

More information on this Medicaid Infrastructure Grant program may be found on the CMS Web site: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/twwiia/>. More information about President Bush's New Freedom Initiative is available at <http://www.hhs.gov/newfreedom/>.

**Source:** HHS Press Release, March 2, 2004

## HHS LAUNCHES NEW STRATEGIES AGAINST OVERWEIGHT EPIDEMIC

With poor diet and physical inactivity poised to become the leading preventable cause of death in America, HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson today renewed efforts against obesity and overweight, announcing a new national education campaign and a new research strategy at HHS' National Institutes of Health (NIH).

A new study released by HHS' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that deaths due to poor diet and physical inactivity rose by 33 percent over the past decade and may soon overtake tobacco as the leading preventable cause of death.

HHS has long spearheaded initiatives to motivate Americans of all ages to become more active and learn more about healthy living. The *Healthy Lifestyles & Disease Prevention* campaign will now coalesce health organizations, media, athletic organizations and others to join in promoting healthier lifestyles. Already partnering with HHS in the public education campaign are such varied organizations as Lifetime Television, Sesame Workshop and the United Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Association. Additional partners will be added as the campaign continues.

"Americans need to understand that overweight and obesity are literally killing us."

**Tommy Thompson, HHS Secretary**

**Source:** HHS Press Release, March 9, 2004

**The Region VI "Stronger Families = Stronger Tribes" Newsletter is issued by  
the Region VI Administration for Children & Families.  
Look for the next Newsletter in June 2004**

**U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services  
Administration for Children & Families  
1301 Young Street,  
Room 958/ ACF-3  
Dallas, Texas 75202-5433**

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Regional Administrator

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## **Regional Office VI Who We Are**

### **Service Area**

Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma,  
and Texas.

Up-to-date information about Region VI states  
can be found at <http://www.stateline.org/>

### **Profile**

**5 States**  
**68 Federally Recognized Tribes**  
**176 Head Start Grantees** serving 114,647  
children  
**67 Early Head Start Grantees** serving 6,033  
pregnant women, infants and toddlers  
**30 Runaway and Homeless Grants**

### **Mission**

Region VI will fulfill ACF's mission of meeting  
the needs of children and families in a positive  
and productive environment, through visionary  
leadership, effective program integration, and  
responsible staffing.

