

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Conference Report

Excerpts from the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2004

(House Report 108-401)

DIVISION E--LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS, 2004

Title II--Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

For making payments to States or other non-Federal entities under titles I, IV-D, X, XI, XIV, and XVI of the Social Security Act and the Act of July 5, 1960 (24 U.S.C. ch. 9), \$3,292,970,000, to remain available until expended; and for such purposes for the first quarter of fiscal year 2005, \$1,200,000,000, to remain available until expended.

For making payments to each State for carrying out the program of Aid to Families with Dependent Children under title IV-A of the Social Security Act before the effective date of the program of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) with respect to such State, such sums as may be necessary: *Provided*, That the sum of the amounts available to a State with respect to expenditures under such title IV-A in fiscal year 1997 under this appropriation and under such title IV-A as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 shall not exceed the limitations under section 116(b) of such Act.

For making, after May 31 of the current fiscal year, payments to States or other non-Federal entities under titles I, IV-D, X, XI, XIV, and XVI of the Social Security Act and the Act of July 5, 1960 (24 U.S.C. ch. 9), for the last 3 months of the current fiscal year for unanticipated costs, incurred for the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

For making payments under title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, \$1,800,000,000.

For making payments under title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, \$100,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That these funds are for the unanticipated home energy assistance needs of one or more States, as authorized by section 2604(e) of the Act, and notwithstanding the designation requirement of section 2602(e).

REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

For necessary expenses for refugee and entrant assistance activities authorized by title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-422), for carrying out section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296), and for carrying out section 5 of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-320), \$450,276,000, of which up to \$9,968,000 shall be available to carry out the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-386; division A): *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading pursuant to section 414(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for fiscal year 2004 shall be available for the costs of assistance provided and other activities, to remain available through September 30, 2006.

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

For carrying out sections 658A through 658R of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990), \$2,099,729,000 shall be used to supplement, not supplant state general revenue funds for child care assistance for low-income families: *Provided*, That \$19,120,000 shall be available for child care resource and referral and school-aged child care activities, of which \$1,000,000 shall be for the Child Care Aware toll free hotline: *Provided further*, That, in addition to the amounts required to be reserved by the States under section 658G, \$272,672,000 shall be reserved by the States for activities authorized under section 658G, of which \$100,000,000 shall be for activities that improve the quality of infant and toddler care: *Provided further*, That \$9,864,000 shall be for use by the Secretary for child care research, demonstration, and evaluation activities.

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

For making grants to States pursuant to section 2002 of the Social Security Act, \$1,700,000,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding subparagraph (B) of section 404(d)(2) of such Act, the applicable percent specified under such subparagraph for a State to carry out State programs pursuant to title XX of such Act shall be 10 percent.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS

For carrying out, except as otherwise provided, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the Head Start Act, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, sections 310 and 316 of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, as amended, the Native American Programs Act of 1974, title II of Public Law 95-266 (adoption opportunities), the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-89), sections 1201 and 1211 of the Children's Health Act of 2000, the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act of 1988, sections 261 and 291 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, the Early Learning Opportunities Act, part B(1) of title IV and sections 413, 429A, 1110, and 1115 of the Social Security Act, and sections 40155, 40211, and 40241 of Public Law 103-322; for making payments under the Community Services Block Grant Act, sections 439(h), 473A, and 477(i) of the Social Security Act, and title IV of Public Law 105-285, and for necessary administrative expenses to carry out said Acts and titles I, IV, X, XI, XIV, XVI, and XX of the Social Security Act, the Act of July 5, 1960 (24 U.S.C. ch. 9), the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act, section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, section 5 of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-320), sections 40155, 40211, and 40241 of Public Law 103-322, and section 126 and titles IV and V of Public Law 100-485, \$8,816,097,000, of which \$7,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2005, shall be for grants to States for adoption incentive payments, as authorized by section 473A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670-679) and may be made for adoptions completed before September 30, 2004:

Provided, That funds appropriated in Public Law 108-7 for grants to States as authorized by section 473A of title IV of the Social Security Act shall also be available for adoption incentive payments for adoptions completed before September 30, 2004: *Provided further*, That \$6,815,570,000 shall be for making payments under the Head Start Act, of which \$1,400,000,000 shall become available October 1, 2004 and remain available through September 30, 2005: *Provided further*, That \$735,686,000 shall be for making payments under the Community Services Block Grant Act: *Provided further*, That not less than \$7,227,000 shall be for section 680(3)(B) of the Community Services Block Grant Act, as amended: *Provided further*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, \$6,000,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the Public Health Service Act to carry out the provisions of section 1110 of the Social Security Act: *Provided further*, That to the extent Community Services Block Grant funds are distributed as grant funds by a State to an eligible entity as provided under the Act, and have not been expended by such entity, they shall remain with such entity for carryover into the next fiscal year for expenditure by such entity consistent with program purposes: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall establish procedures regarding the disposition of intangible property which permits grant funds, or intangible assets acquired with funds authorized under section 680 of the Community Services Block Grant Act, as amended, to become the sole property of such grantees after a period of not more than 12 years after the end of the grant for purposes and uses consistent with the original grant: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated for section 680(a)(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act, as amended, shall be available for financing construction and rehabilitation and loans or investments in private business enterprises owned by community development corporations: *Provided further*, That \$89,978,000 shall be for activities authorized by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, notwithstanding the

allocation requirements of section 388(a) of such Act, of which \$40,505,000 is for the transitional living program: *Provided further*, That \$48,000,000 is for a compassion capital fund to provide grants to charitable organizations to emulate model social service programs and to encourage research on the best practices of social service organizations: *Provided further*, That \$15,000,000 shall be for activities authorized by the Help America Vote Act of 2002, of which \$10,000,000 shall be for payments to States to promote disabled voter access, and of which \$5,000,000 shall be for payments to States for disabled voters protection and advocacy systems.

PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES

For carrying out section 436 of the Social Security Act, \$305,000,000 and for section 437, \$100,000,000.

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE

For making payments to States or other non-Federal entities under title IV-E of the Social Security Act, \$5,068,300,000.

For making payments to States or other non-Federal entities under title IV-E of the Act, for the first quarter of fiscal year 2005, \$1,767,700,000.

For making, after May 31 of the current fiscal year, payments to States or other non-Federal entities under section 474 of title IV-E, for the last 3 months of the current fiscal year for unanticipated costs, incurred for the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

DIVISION G--LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS 2003

In implementing this agreement, the Departments and agencies should follow the language and instructions set forth in the explanatory statement of the Managers in the Senate accompanying H.J. Res. 2 that appears in the Congressional Record of January 15, 2003. With respect to the provisions in the Senate explanatory statement that specifically address the allocation of funds, each has been reviewed by the conferees and those that are jointly concurred have been endorsed in this joint statement.

In the cases where the Senate explanatory statement requests a report, the conferees are agreed that departments and agencies have up to 90 days beyond the due date specified in the Senate explanatory statement to submit the report.

The conferees are aware of several instances during the past year where the Departments funded in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act have failed to consult with, or timely notify, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees about significant budgetary actions and the reorganization of

departmental offices, programs, and activities. Moreover, some Departments have become too lax in responding to the requests for information or reports from the Committees. The conferees believe that timely, accurate and complete information is critical in order for the Appropriations Committees to meet their oversight responsibilities. The conferees fully expect that the Departments funded in this bill will be more responsive to the Committees in this regard.

Therefore, the conferees concur with language included in the explanatory statement of the Senate regarding reprogramming and the initiation of new programs. The conferees direct that the Departments and agencies funded through this Division make a written request to the chairmen of the Committees prior to the reprogramming of funds in excess of 10 percent, or \$500,000, whichever is less, between programs, activities, or elements unless an alternate amount for the agency in question is specified elsewhere in this Division of this statement. The conferees further agree that a reprogramming request is required for actions involving less than the above-mentioned amounts if such actions would have the effect of changing an agency's funding requirements in future years or if the action can be construed to be the initiation of a new program.

Second, the conferees reiterate that the Committees be notified regarding reorganization of offices, programs, or activities prior to the planned implementation of such reorganizations. Third, the conferees request that each Department institute a tracking system for reports requested by the Committees in order to ensure their timely submission.

Finally, the conferees concur with language in the explanatory statement of the Senate that statements on the effect of this division of this appropriation Act be submitted to the Committees within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003, put in place by this resolution, incorporates the following agreements of the managers:

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The conference agreement provides \$3,292,970,000 for payments to States for child support enforcement and family support programs. The House bill had proposed \$3,292,970,000 and the Senate bill had proposed \$3,292,270,000.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

The conference agreement provides \$1,900,000,000 for low-income home energy assistance rather than \$1,800,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$2,000,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of the amount provided \$1,800,000,000 is provided for formula grants to States. The House bill had proposed \$1,700,000,000 for State formula grants and the Senate bill proposed \$2,000,000,000. Within the funds available, \$27,500,000 is included for the leveraging incentive fund as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement includes \$100,000,000 as proposed by the House for the contingency fund to meet the additional home energy assistance needs arising from a natural disaster or other emergency. The Senate bill did not include funds for the contingency fund. The conferees expect the Secretary to consider the factors identified in the statute when making decisions about the release of funds. The conferees are aware that the Secretary formally notifies the authorizing committees in advance of issuing grants from LIHEAP contingency funds, pursuant to Section 2604(e) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8623(e)). The conferees request that the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations receive copies of such notifications in advance of issuing grants. The conferees urge the Department to provide regular information on significant, unanticipated changes in home heating and cooling costs and to receive quarterly reports on significant variances in regional weather data and fuel prices to the Committees on Appropriations and the appropriate authorizing committees. Such reports should be provided within 30 days of the end of any fiscal quarter in which LIHEAP contingency funds remain available for obligation. In addition, the conferees request for any quarter in which there is a release of funds to receive a detailed explanation of the factors used to determine the distribution of funds among States.

The conferees are aware that one of the criteria for release of emergency funds is a significant increase in disconnections. The precursor to disconnection is a household in arrearage. The conferees believe that helping families prior to disconnection would prevent safety and health concerns surrounding a household without energy services. For that reason, the conferees urge the Secretary to monitor arrearage trends nationwide and consider a significant increase in arrearage rates as part of the disconnection criteria.

REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

The conference agreement includes \$450,276,000 for the refugee and entrant assistance programs rather than \$461,853,000 as proposed by the House and \$428,056,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement includes \$170,000,000 for the transitional and medical services programs rather than \$200,193,000 as proposed by the House and \$180,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees recognize the positive outcomes achieved for individuals served through the matching grant fund program. Therefore, the conferees encourage the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to ensure that the matching grant program is not disproportionately affected by the funding reductions proposed due to lower admissions

to the United States. The conferees request, as part of the fiscal year 2005 Congressional budget justification, that the ORR provide a detailed breakdown on the plan for allocating funding under the transitional and medical services program.

The conference agreement provides \$9,968,000 for both the victims of trafficking program and the victims of torture program. The House bill had included \$10,000,000 for each program and the Senate bill had proposed \$9,935,000 for each program.

The conference agreement provides \$153,121,000 for social services, the same level as proposed in the House bill. The Senate had proposed \$140,000,000 for this program. Within funds provided, the conference agreement includes \$19,000,000 for increased support to communities with large concentrations of Cuban and Haitian refugees of varying ages whose cultural differences make assimilation especially difficult justifying a more intense level and longer duration of Federal assistance for healthcare and education.

The conference agreement includes \$4,820,000 for preventive health rather than \$4,835,000 as proposed by the House and \$4,804,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement includes \$49,316,000 for targeted assistance. The House bill had proposed \$49,477,000 and the Senate had proposed \$49,155,000 for this program.

The conference agreement provides \$53,083,000 for the unaccompanied alien children program rather than \$34,227,000 as proposed by both the House and Senate. These additional funds will enable the Office of Refugee Resettlement to meet its obligations under the Homeland Security Act, which transferred the administration of this program from the former Immigration and Naturalization Service. The conferees intend that funding provided above the budget request be used to continue making progress toward providing appropriate facilities for the care of children; improving medical services that address the needs of such children; and enhancing the legal representation for those involved in this program.

The conferees recognize the importance of continued educational support to schools with a significant proportion of refugee children, consistent with previous support to schools heavily impacted by large concentrations of refugees, and urge the Office of Refugee Resettlement to support these efforts should funding become available in the social services or other programs.

Payments to States for the Child Care and Development Block Grant

The conference agreement includes \$2,099,729,000 for the child care and development block grant, the same level as both the House and Senate bills. Included in the bill is \$9,864,000 within the total funds provided, for child care research, demonstration, and evaluation activities as proposed by the House. The Senate bill had included \$10,000,000 for these activities.

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

The conference agreement provides \$1,700,000,000 for the social services block grant, the same level as proposed in both the House and Senate bills. The conference agreement provides 10 percent transfer authority between the social services block grant and the temporary assistance for needy families program (TANF). The House bill had proposed 5.5 percent transferability. The Senate did not include a similar provision.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS

The conference agreement includes \$8,822,097,000 for children and families services programs, of which \$6,000,000 is provided through the evaluation set-aside. The House proposed \$8,614,670,000 for these programs and the Senate proposed \$8,788,457,000, of which \$6,000,000 was from the evaluation set-aside.

Head Start

The conference agreement includes \$6,815,570,000 for Head Start, the same as both the House and Senate bills. The agreement includes \$1,400,000,000 in advance funding, the same level as proposed by both the House and Senate.

The conferees are aware that approximately one-third of Head Start programs are affiliated with public school systems and often combine or coordinate the transportation of Head Start, preschool, and K-12 students. In addition, many center-based Head Start programs coordinate with local transit authorities to provide supervised transportation to Head Start children whose parents work non-traditional hours or whose geographical distance from the parent's place of employment creates a barrier to Head Start participation. Differences between Head Start transportation regulations, promulgated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and those promulgated by State and local authorities, may have the unintended consequence of reducing transportation services for Head Start students, and in turn, decrease transportation options for children. These differences may leave Head Start children without transportation or relying on parents to provide transportation in their vehicles.

The conferees recognize that children's safety is the most important consideration and that many students participating in Head Start programs need access to safe and reliable transportation provided by public schools or local transit systems. For this reason, the conferees direct the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to offer a waiver option to local educational agency-contracted Head Start programs that provide integrated transportation to Head Start students. In cases where public schools or local transit authorities provide Head Start services, local educational agencies should have the option to comply with transportation standards for preschool students mandated by the State or local educational agencies, transit agencies, State Departments of Transportation or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Consolidated Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

The conference agreement includes \$89,978,000 for the consolidated runaway and homeless youth program, the same level as proposed by the Senate, rather than \$88,043,000 as proposed by the House. Within the funds provided, \$40,505,000 is available for the transitional living program (TLP) and \$49,473,000 is for basic centers as proposed by the Senate.

Prevention Grants To Reduce Abuse of Runaway Youth

The conference agreement includes \$15,399,000 for prevention grants to reduce abuse of runaway youth as proposed by the Senate. The House bill had proposed \$14,999,000 for these grants.

Child abuse

The conference agreement includes \$34,623,000 for child abuse discretionary programs instead of \$26,301,000 as proposed by the House and \$28,401,000 as proposed by the Senate. Within the funds provided for child abuse prevention programs, the agreement includes the following items:

AGAPE of Central Alabama, Inc., Montgomery, Alabama, for their work with the children in need	\$70,000
Alaska Native Health Board and the State of Alaska to develop and implement statewide child abuse prevention and treatment plan for Alaska children and parents	500,000
Blair County Children and Youth Services, Blair County, Pennsylvania, to develop a Family Intervention Program to keep families together	150,000
Blount County Health Care Authority, Oneonta, AL, for services through a service mall	250,000
Boys and Girls Home of Nebraska, Inc., Lincoln, NE for child abuse prevention services and counseling services	250,000
Catholic Community Services, Juneau, AK to operate Family Resource Center for child abuse prevention and treatment	400,000
Child Advocacy Center, Inc., Springfield, Missouri, for equipment upgrades and other operational expenses	100,000
Childhelp USA, Fairfax, Virginia, to reduce the incidence and severity of child abuse and enhance the ability to investigate reports and meet the needs of victims of child abuse	250,000
Children's Center of Southwest Missouri, Inc., Joplin, Missouri, for equipment upgrades and other operational expenses	100,000
Children's Center of the Ozarks, Inc., Monett, Missouri, for equipment upgrades and other operational expenses	50,000
Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois, Chicago, IL for the Child Abuse	163,000

Prevention Project in Carpentersville, IL	
Children's Rights Council, Hyattsville, MD for Safe Haven programs in Stark County, Ohio	64,000
Cook Inlet Tribal Council to provide child welfare services for Alaska Native Children who are abused or neglected and their parents in the Anchorage area, including supervised visitation center and a father involvement program	900,000
Cornerstones for Care, Kansas City, MO to expand services and programming that benefit victims of child abuse	500,000
Geauga Family First Council, Chardon, OH for the Family Stability Program	145,000
Healthy Families/Better Beginnings for a home visitation program for State of Alaska and regional Native non-profit organizations	2,000,000
Jackson County Children's Services Coalition, Gautier, MS, to prevent child abuse and neglect in at-risk homes	25,000
Lutheran Settlement House, Philadelphia, PA for the expansion of LSH's Bilingual Domestic Violence Project (BDVP) expansion to include children who have witnessed or have been victims of abuse	75,000
Municipality of Anchorage, in consultation with Cook Inlet Tribal Council and Anchorage Women's Commission, to develop comprehensive domestic violence initiative for Municipality of Anchorage	1,000,000
Northern Virginia Family Service, Oakton, VA, for the Healthy Families Fairfax Program	200,000
Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries, Eugene, OR, to expand services to children who are at risk for child abuse or neglect	80,000
Stop It Now, Philadelphia, PA for outreach to the community to prevent child abuse	100,000
Synergy Services, Inc., Parksville, Missouri, Children's Therapeutic Center and Domestic Violence Services	150,000
The Futures Institute for Sustainable Development for a child abuse prevention and treatment program	300,000
West River Foundation, Sturgis, SD, to establish early childhood development programs in small communities	500,000

Abandoned Infants Assistance

The conference agreement provides \$12,126,000 for the abandoned infants assistance program, the same level as proposed by the Senate. The House bill had proposed \$12,086,000 for this program.

Child Welfare Services

The conference agreement provides \$291,037,000 for child welfare services rather than \$291,986,000 as proposed by the House and \$290,088,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Child Welfare Training

The conference agreement includes \$7,460,000 for child welfare training rather than \$7,470,000 as proposed by the House and \$7,449,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Adoption Opportunities

The conference agreement includes \$27,285,000 for the adoption opportunities program rather than \$27,343,000 as proposed by the House and \$27,227,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Adoption Incentives

The conference agreement provides \$35,000,000 for the adoption incentive program for bonuses for adoptions completed prior to the end of fiscal year 2004, \$27,500,000 of which is unused fiscal year 2003 funds, instead of \$43,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$42,720,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement includes bill language, which allows funds appropriated for bonus payments in Public Law 108-7 and available for obligation through September 30, 2004 to be used to make bonus payments for adoptions completed before September 30, 2004. The conferees note that the number of adoptions from the public foster care system has increased significantly over the past several years, rising from 27,761 in fiscal year 1997 to 50,179 in fiscal year 2002. As a result of this increase and based on the most recent estimates, fewer resources will be needed in fiscal year 2004 to make bonus payments to States for the full amount for which they are eligible under this program.

Adoption Awareness

The conference agreement includes \$12,864,000 for the adoption awareness program rather than \$12,906,000 as proposed by the House and \$12,822,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Compassion Capital Fund

The conference agreement includes \$48,000,000 for the compassion capital fund, instead of \$50,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$34,772,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Social Services and Income Maintenance Research

The conference agreement includes \$18,767,000 for social services and income maintenance research, of which \$6,000,000 is provided through the evaluation set-aside. The House had proposed \$5,982,000 for this program and the Senate proposed \$31,812,000, of which \$6,000,000 was from the evaluation set-aside.

The conferees note that efforts undertaken through the State information technology consortium have led to greatly improved systems communications and compliance in both the TANF and child support enforcement (CSE) programs. For TANF, the conferees have provided \$2,000,000 to permit States to utilize uniquely designed web-based technology to improve benefit delivery and fulfill new Federal reporting requirements. For CSE, the conferees have provided \$3,000,000 to continue the consortium's efforts to improve data exchange between CSE and the courts in ways that will significantly reduce the time lag between court orders and enforcement/collections activities.

The conferees are concerned that children continue to be left unaccounted for and underserved within State child welfare systems. Protecting the Nation's most vulnerable populations, especially youth in State protective care, should receive significant attention. The conferees are aware of a project being developed by Rx for Reading that would provide a model for a case management tool housing all of the health and education records of children in the care of the counties of the State of California, including those in foster care and residential facilities, in a web browser-based database. The conferees understand that this database could replace a number of stand alone, antiquated databases and automate manual record keeping, which would enable caregivers, foster families, educators, doctors and case workers to easily access and update information relating to their services and functions through secure portals.

The conferees also provide sufficient funding for the following:

Alaska Children's Services of Anchorage for operations of programs to serve needs of at risk, low income youth in Anchorage	\$300,000
Buckeye Ranch, Grove City, OH, for the Applied Violence and Prevention Research program	350,000
Children's Village in Pine Ridge, South Dakota for foster care services	200,000
ChildServ, Chicago, IL for family services at the Lake County Family Service Center	200,000
City of Gadsden, Family Success Center, AL, to provide equipment for the development of a one-stop area for social services with the focus on helping families help themselves	100,000
Corporate Foundation for Children, Montgomery, AL to assist historically underserved organizations to increase the number and capacity of community-based organizations across the state to serve needy families and individuals in their own communities	350,000
Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Clearwater, Florida, for the Road to Independence--A Continuum of Foster Care Pilot Demonstration	1,500,000
Family and Youth Development Foundation Inc., Louisville, KY	20,000
Fathers' Support Center, St. Louis, MO, to provide non-custodial fathers with personal development, communication and relationship building skills	100,000
First Gethsemane Center for Family Development, Louisville, KY	50,000
Freedom House Inc., Princeton, IL, for technology to create an Adult and a	50,000

Children's Learning Center	
Gomlei Chasodim Inc., Lakewood, NJ	75,000
Hope Home in Kennewick, WA, to develop a curriculum and train foster parents of teen parents and their children	50,000
Horizons Initiative, Boston, MA, for mentoring, educational, and social development programs for homeless youth	150,000
Jewish Community Centers of Northeastern Ohio, Canton, OH for human services programs for children and families	250,000
Kentucky Sheriffs' Boys Range Trust, Gilbertsville, KY	75,000
LINK, Sterling, VA, to help meet the growing demands for service	100,000
Lutheran Community Services in Burien, WA, to equip a child care center for families in need	200,000
Middlecreek Area Community Center, Beaver Springs, PA, for technology equipment and upgrades for community-based programs and implementation of Youth-at-Risk initiatives	300,000
Network for Child Safety, Columbus, OH, to provide leadership training for professionals to improve the child welfare system	200,000
New Alternatives for Children Inc, New York, NY for support of programs serving children and their families focusing on health and social services	350,000
ProJeCt of Easton, Inc., Easton, PA to assist with local food pantry; and to provide intensive case management to individuals and families experiencing emergency situations	50,000
United Way of Anchorage, AK to support shelters for victims of domestic violence	250,000
University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, Center for Children and Families for Parent Education about Marital Conflict and "Adventures in Parenting" projects	700,000
Washington State Department of Health to implement the Bright Futures program to promote early childhood education and good health	500,000
WeatherWise USA, Pittsburgh, PA, for a demonstration program designed to improve the financial security of low income households	200,000
YouthCare's Orion Center in Seattle, WA, to equip a center providing many services at one site to homeless and high-risk youth	200,000

Community-Based Resource Centers

The conference agreement includes \$33,403,000 for the community-based resource centers as proposed by the House rather than \$33,412,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Developmental Disabilities

For developmental disabilities programs, the conference agreement includes \$73,515,000 for State Councils as proposed by the Senate instead of \$71,500,000 as proposed by the House. The conference agreement includes \$38,644,000 for protection and advocacy services as proposed by the Senate instead of \$36,500,000 as proposed by the House. The agreement also includes \$11,642,000 for special projects as proposed by the Senate instead of \$12,500,000 as proposed by the House. Within the funds for special projects, \$4,000,000 is available to expand activities for the Family Support Program. For university-affiliated programs, the agreement includes \$26,962,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$25,000,000 as proposed by the House.

The conference agreement includes \$15,000,000 for the disabled voter services programs. Within the funds provided, \$10,000,000 shall be for payments to States to promote disabled voter access as proposed by the Senate rather than \$13,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$5,000,000 shall be for payments to States for disabled voter protection and advocacy, the same level as proposed by the Senate. The House had proposed \$2,000,000 for protection and advocacy.

The conferees are aware that funding for protection and advocacy services under section 291 of the Help America Vote Act currently is not being made available to protection and advocacy services that specifically address the Native American community. Native Americans with disabilities experience unique challenges in exercising the right to vote. For that reason, the conferees intend that organizations providing protection and advocacy services to Native Americans as defined in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act should also be deemed an eligible entity under the Help America Vote Act.

Native American Programs

The conference agreement includes \$45,457,000 for Native American programs as proposed by the Senate, instead of \$45,119,000 as proposed by the House.

Community Services

The conference agreement includes \$645,762,000 for the community services block grant as proposed by the Senate instead of \$494,964,000 as proposed by the House.

The conference agreement also includes \$32,546,000 for economic development as proposed by the Senate, instead of \$32,436,000 as proposed by the House. Within the total, \$5,464,000 is provided for the job creation demonstration authorized by the Family Support Act.

The conference agreement provides \$24,870,000 for the individual development account initiative rather than \$24,912,000 as proposed by the House and \$24,828,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement includes \$7,227,000 for rural community facilities instead of \$7,250,000 as proposed by the House and \$7,203,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement provides \$18,000,000 for the National youth sports program as proposed by the House. The Senate did not propose funding for this program.

The conference agreement includes \$7,281,000 for community food and nutrition as proposed by the Senate. The House did not propose funding for this program.

Early Learning Fund

For the early learning fund, the conference agreement includes \$33,779,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House did not include funding for this program.

Mentoring Children of Prisoners

The conference agreement includes \$50,000,000 for Mentoring Children of Prisoners instead of \$25,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$9,935,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Independent Living Training Vouchers

The conference agreement includes \$45,000,000 for Independent Living Training Vouchers as proposed by the House instead of \$41,727,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families

The conference agreement includes \$100,000,000 for the discretionary grant program of promoting safe and stable families as proposed by the House rather than \$99,350,000 as proposed by the Senate.

DIVISION E--DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS 2004

In implementing this agreement, the Departments and agencies should be guided by the language and instructions set forth in House Report 108-188 and Senate Report 108-81 accompanying the bill, H.R. 2660.

In the cases where the language and instructions in either report specifically address the allocation of funds, each has been reviewed by the conferees and those that are jointly concurred in have been endorsed in this joint statement.

The conferees direct that the Departments and agencies funded through this Division make a written request to the chairmen of the Committees prior to the reprogramming of funds in excess of 10 percent, or \$500,000, whichever is less, between programs, activities, or elements unless an alternate amount for the agency in question is specified elsewhere in Division E of this Statement. The conferees further agree that a reprogramming request is required for actions involving less than the above-mentioned amounts if such actions would have the effect of changing an agency's funding requirements in future years or if the action can be construed to be the initiation of a new program.

The conferees reiterate that the Committees be notified regarding reorganization of offices, programs, or activities prior to the planned implementation of such reorganizations.

Finally, the conferees request that statements on the effect of this appropriation Act be submitted to the Committees within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

ONE PERCENT TRANSFER AUTHORITY

The conference agreement includes language permitting the Secretary of HHS to transfer up to one percent of discretionary funds between appropriations, with up to an additional 2 percent subject to approval by the Appropriations Committees. The language permits the transfer of funds appropriated for HHS in this Act as proposed by the House. The Senate bill proposed the transfer of funds under this or any other Act.

REFUGEE STATUS OF CERTAIN PERSECUTED GROUPS

The conference agreement includes a provision proposed by the Senate to extend the refugee status for persecuted religious groups. The House bill contained no similar provision. The conferees intend to fully protect religious minority refugee applicants from Iran, including the current caseload of Iranian Christians, Jews, Bahai, Mandaeans and Zoroastrians. Therefore, the administration should implement the provisions of section 213 of the conference report with respect to new applications, as well as to review previously denied applications for refugee applicants who have remained outside of Iran without a viable solution after being denied refugee status.

TITLE V--GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 515. (a) IN GENERAL.--Amounts made available under this Act for the administrative and related expenses for departmental management for the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Education shall be reduced on a pro rata basis by \$50,000,000: *Provided*, That not later than 15 days after the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget

shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations the accounts subject to the pro rata reductions and the amount to be reduced in each account.

DIVISION H--MISCELLANEOUS APPROPRIATIONS AND OFFSETS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

(b) **ACROSS-THE-BOARD RESCISSIONS.**--There is hereby rescinded an amount equal to 0.59 percent of-

(1) the budget authority provided (or obligation limitation imposed) for fiscal year 2004 for any discretionary account in divisions A through H of this Act and in any other fiscal year 2004 appropriation Act (except any fiscal year 2004 supplemental appropriation Act, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2004, or the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2004);

(2) the budget authority provided in any advance appropriation for fiscal year 2004 for any discretionary account in any prior fiscal year appropriation Act; and

(3) the contract authority provided in fiscal year 2004 for any program subject to limitation contained in any division or appropriation Act subject to paragraph (1).

(c) **PROPORTIONATE APPLICATION.**--Any rescission made by subsection (b) shall be applied proportionately-

(1) to each discretionary account and each item of budget authority described in such subsection; and

(2) within each such account and item, to each program, project, and activity (with programs, projects, and activities as delineated in the appropriation Act or accompanying reports for the relevant fiscal year covering such account or item, or for accounts and items not included in appropriation Acts, as delineated in the most recently submitted President's budget).

(d) **OMB REPORT.**--Within 30 days after the date of the enactment of this section the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report specifying the account and amount of each rescission made pursuant to subsection (b).

SEC. 167....for Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, \$500,000 for The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, for the Heathwood Youth and Families Community Center....