**Grant Title:** AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 - EARLY LEARNING MENTOR COACHES

**Funding Opportunity Number:** HHS-2010-ACF-OHS-ST-0120. CFDA Number(s): 93.708.

**Agency/Department:** Administration for Children and Families.

**Area of Research:** Early Learning Mentor Coaches who will provide on-the-job guidance, coaching, training, and technical assistance to classroom teaching staff, home visitors and family child care providers who work in Head Start and Early Head Start programs.


**Application Deadline:** July 19, 2010.

**Amount:** Award Ceiling: $225,000 per budget period. Award Floor: $175,000 per budget period. Expected Number of Awards: 150.

**Length of Support:** 17-month project and budget period.

**Eligible Applicants:** ACF seeks applications from current Head Start and Early Head Start grantees. Applicants may include individual grantees who wish to provide coaching to their own teaching staff in order to improve outcomes for the children they serve. Such programs must have the organizational capacity to provide for the coaching to be supplied through this grant, either through reassignment of existing staff or by hiring new staff or contracting with consultants. OHS also welcomes applicants from current grantees who may wish to expand the coaching of their own staff to staff in other Head Start and Early Head Start programs. In both cases, the applicant must document a record of strong performance in their early childhood program as well as their overall program management and demonstrate that the responsibilities of administering this grant will not result in a decline in their performance.

**Summary:** These funds will support Early Learning Mentor Coaches (Coaches) who will provide on-the-job guidance, coaching, training, and technical assistance to classroom teaching staff, home visitors and family child care providers (teaching staff) who work in Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The goal of the Coaching initiative is to improve the quality of teaching; assist programs to promote positive, significant and sustained outcomes for children; and promote career development for teaching staff working in Head Start programs. The Coaches will provide professional development related to ongoing child assessment and its connection to teaching and learning; the aggregation and analysis of child progress data and the use of such information for curriculum implementation and continuous program improvement; strategies for improving teacher child interactions; and effective strategies for working with culturally, linguistically, developmentally and age diverse groups of children. Coaches will also provide encouragement designed to support teaching staff’s completion of college coursework on their paths to earning academic degrees.