Grant Title: HEAD START GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-2010-ACF-OPRE-YR-0018. CFDA Number(s): 93.600.

Agency/Department: Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Area of Research: Support dissertation research by advanced graduate students who are working in partnership with Head Start and Early Head Start programs and faculty mentors.

Release and Expiration: N/A


Amount: Award Ceiling: Up to $30,000 for a 12-month budget period. Applicants proposing a 24-month project period will be awarded up to $30,000 for the first budget period and $20,000 for the second 12-month budget period, for a total not exceeding $50,000 for the entire 24-month project period. Expected Number of Awards: 6.

Length of Support: Applicants may apply for either (1) a project period of 24 months with two 12-month budget periods or (2) a project period of 12 months (with one 12-month budget period).

Eligible Applicants: Public and State controlled institutions of higher education. See the full announcement for a complete list of eligible applicants.

Summary: Since 1991, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has explicitly supported the association between Head Start programs and their local research community through the Head Start Graduate Student Research grants. These awards attract applications from leading academic researchers and their graduate students, specializing in social sciences, education and/or health. In close collaboration with their Head Start program partners, these researchers design high-quality projects that directly address the needs of low-income children and families and their early childhood educators. The results inform and improve Head Start policies and practice. This funding mechanism also serves as an important research capacity-building effort. The grants foster the mentor- student relationship between leading researchers and their graduate students, in order to maximize the quality of the current work and build the skills of the graduate student. Within this supportive relationship, student researchers learn both theory and the hands-on features of conducting applied research within community service organizations. The researchers often contribute directly to their local Head Start partner programs (e.g., providing trainings, establishing databases, identifying key resources, and pursuing research that addresses questions of interest to programs), and many continue to make significant contributions to the early childhood and Head Start research field throughout their careers. The goals of the Head Start Graduate Student Research grant program are to: 1. Complete high quality research projects directed at the current concerns of Head Start programs and policy makers; 2. Provide direct support for advanced graduate students to encourage research with Head Start populations, thus contributing to the knowledge base about the best services and policies for diverse, low-income families and their children; Promote mentor-student relationships that a) provide project supervision from qualified experienced researchers in the field and b) support students' graduate training and professional development to produce researchers able to engage in high-quality, policy-relevant, applied research; 3. Emphasize the importance of developing and maintaining working research partnerships with Head Start programs and other relevant entities within the community, thereby increasing both the programs' use of current research information and the quality of the funded research work; and 4. Support active communication, networking and collaboration among the group of graduate students, their mentors and other prominent researchers in the field, both during the graduate students' training as well as into the early stages of their research careers.