

OCSE Child Access & Visitation Program

Name of State: Louisiana

Part I: Contact Information

- Name of State Program Contact Gordon Hood
- Name of Designated State Agency Department of Social Services
Child Support Enforcement
- Street Address 530 Lakeland Drive
- City, State, & Zipcode Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804
- Telephone no. (225) 342-4780
- E-mail Address ghood@dss.state.la.us
- Fax no. (225) 342-7397

Part II: Statistical Profile

- Total no. of minor children under 18 years of age living with one biological parent (1990 U.S. Census data) 402,430

Part III: Previous and Current Year Funding Levels

	<u>Federal \$ Grant</u>	<u>State \$ Match</u>	and	<u>Percentage</u>
• FFY 1997	\$ 205,732	\$ 22,859		10%
• FFY 1998	\$ 205,732	\$ 22,859		10%
• FFY 1999	\$ 182,411	\$ 20,268		10%
• FFY 2000	\$ 182,411	\$ 20,268		10%

Part IV: Summary of State’s Proposed Use of FFY 2000 Grant Funds

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Process for Awarding Funds:		
• Request for Proposals (new & continuation)	X	
• New only		
• Continuation only		
• Other _____		

Time of Year RFP’s are Issued and/or Funding Decisions Are Made:
 Fall _____ Winter _____ Spring _____ Summer X

Award of Funds: Grants X Contracts _____ Cooperative Agreements _____

Targeted Priority Areas:

• Mediation			
voluntary	Yes _____	No	<u>X</u>
mandatory	Yes _____	No	<u>X</u>
• Counseling	Yes _____	No	<u>X</u>
• Education	Yes <u>X</u>	No	_____
• Parenting Plans	Yes <u>X</u>	No	_____
• Visitation Enforcement			
monitoring	Yes _____	No	<u>X</u>
supervision	Yes _____	No	<u>X</u>
neutral drop-off/pick-up	Yes _____	No	<u>X</u>

- **Development of Guidelines**

Visitation	Yes <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>
Alternative custody arrangements	Yes <u> </u>	No <u> X </u>

Summary Narrative: Proposed Use of FFY 2000 Funds

The goal of Louisiana’s Child Access and Visitation Grant is multi-faceted: 1) to assist parents by educating them on the importance of having both parents involved in their child/ren’s lives; 2) provide conflict resolution and prevention services; and 3) to encourage the development of parenting plans that both parents can agree upon. Louisiana has developed Pro Se Litigation forms that are handed out to clients. The state is also looking to devise a set of visitation guidelines that the courts can use when establishing visitation orders.

Participation in the program is voluntary. Louisiana uses the grant funds to support staff in six areas throughout the state to provide the aforementioned services. The state reports that during the grant year 1998-99, approximately 1,148 referrals were made to the child access program – an increase from the 913 referrals recorded during the grant year 1997-98.

Primary referrals come from the local child support agencies, and the recipients of these services are primarily unwed mothers and fathers. The state claims that the Child Access and Visitation Grant is very important to this growing population of parents, particularly in view of the fact that 77% of these referrals did not have an order for visitation. Louisiana also reports that at the time of referral, 66% of the 1,148 referrals involved non-custodial parents (usually fathers) who were paying child support but were still not allowed visitation with their children.

Louisiana has also formed a partnership with the Head Start Collaboration Project and is working together to provide services to young fathers within the state. In addition, the state has also collaborated with Hunts Correctional Facility and Family Road of Baton Rouge to provide these fatherhood services. (It is true that these organizations were trained/taught the “Young Fathers’ Project” by my predecessor, but I have been informed that Head Start is no longer teaching these at this time. They

report that this is due to a large turnover. Perhaps their new staff can be retrained and the alliance strengthened once again.)

Part V: Projects Funded by States with FFY 98 OCSE Dollars

Grantee Name, Address & Phone Number	Amount of Award & Services Provided	Number of Parents Served:		
		Total #	# fathers	3
1. Access & Visitation Program for the State of Louisiana Statewide (225) 342-4780 mothers	\$182,411 Education, development of parenting plans	290*		
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

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Participant Data: Part A
(by income and marital status)

Grantee Name & Program Title	Average Annual Income		Parent Participation Rates:		
			divorced	separated	unwed
1. A & V Program for Louisiana	Less \$10K	41%	25%	5%	70%
	\$10-19K	48%			
	\$20-29K	9%			
	\$30-39K	1%			
	\$40K +	1%			
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

Don't Know _____

Other, _____

Sources of Client Referral

GRANTEE							
Agency	Self-Referral	TANF	Child Welfare	Child Support	Social Services	Courts	Private
1. A & V Program for State of Louisiana	X			X		X	
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							