

OCSE Child Access & Visitation Program

Name of State: Nebraska

Part I: Contact Information

- Name of State Program Contact Roxie Webb
- Name of Designated State Agency Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Child Support Enforcement
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Part II: Statistical Profile

- No. of minor children under 18 years of age living with one biological parent. (1990 U. S. Census data) 90,157

Part III: Previous and Current Year Funding Levels

	<u>Federal \$ Grant</u>	<u>State \$ Match</u>	and	<u>Percentage</u>
• FFY 1997	\$50,000	\$ 5,556		10%
• FFY 1998	\$50,000	\$ 6,000		11%
• FFY 1999	\$100,000	\$11,500		10.3%
• FFY 2000	\$100,000	\$11,500		10.3%

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 X _____ Summer X _____

Award of Funds: Grants _____ Contracts X _____ Cooperative Agreements _____

Targeted Priority Areas:

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

- **Development of Guidelines**

Visitation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Alternative custody arrangements	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Summary Narrative: Proposed Use of FFY 2000 Funds

Nebraska's Child Access and Visitation Grant is administered by the state's Child Support Enforcement Division, Department of Health and Human Services. Nebraska's overall project goals were: (1) To overcome informational and institutional barriers associated with mediation; (2) Assist families through mediation and parenting plan programs to communicate and to make informed choices in an effort to find a mutually acceptable resolution concerning their children ; (3) To try and reach as many non-married fathers who need help in establishing access and visitation with their children; and (4) To provide an offender-specific parenting program that targets non-custodial parents who are inmates, parolees, and/or probationers. To meet these goals sub grants were made to two different organizations: (1) The Children's Rights Council was awarded \$5,000 to provide access counseling and parenting education to families throughout Nebraska. They also subcontracted with Con-Nections, an Omaha organization that has developed a program called T.E.A.C.H (Through the Eyes of a Child), to provide parenting education specifically aimed at noncustodial parents who are inmates, parolees, and/or probationers; and (2) The Court Administrator's Office of Dispute Resolution used its portion of the grant to establish a program focusing on mediation, parenting plans, and outreach education. The direct service delivery component of Nebraska's Dispute Resolution system is made up of six community-based nonprofit mediation centers. In the first year of developing this program, the six centers were able to provide mediation services and/or educational opportunities to 774 family participants. A major focus of this program was to establish more formal linkages with a number of community entities such as the court system, social service agencies, legal services, the ecumenical community, counselors, and mental health professionals. 209 referrals to Nebraska's program came from these community agencies. Approximately 115 education opportunities were made available to individual family members and 774 family members

participated in this education. As a result of this, 188 (94 fathers and 94 mothers) cases were referred for mediation. 170 cases were actually opened, 94 families utilized mediation, and 87 families completed mediation

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and established parenting plans. Over 80 percent of the participants reported satisfaction with mediation.

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

Grantee Name, Address & Phone Number mothers	Amount of Award & Services Provided	Number of Parents Served:		
		Total #	# fathers	#
1. Children's Rights Council		43	33	10
2. Court Administrators Office		168	84	84
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

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

Grantee Name & Program Title	Average Annual Income	Parent Participation Rates:		
		divorced	separated	unwed
1. Court Administrators Office		35 %	53%	12%
2. Children's Rights Council		63 %	18.5 %	18.5 %
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

Participant Data: Part B
(by race/ethnicity)

Grantee Name	<u>RACIAL / ETHNIC BREAKOUT:</u>					
	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native American	Pacific Islander
1. Court Administrators Office	88 %	1 %	9 %		1 %	1 %
2. Children's Rights Council	70 %	21 %			3 %	
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. Court Administrators Office	X			X	X	X	
2. Children Rights Council	X			X			X
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							