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DHS Awards Abuse Prevention Grants

DES MOINES, Iowa – The Iowa Department of Human Services Tuesday announced intent to award child abuse prevention grants to about 80 community-based volunteer coalitions totaling \$1.4 million.

“These grants are custom made to help fragile families keep their kids safe and to prevent the need for child welfare services,” said Wendy Rickman, administrator of the Adult and Child Family Services division of the DHS.

“These grants are not one-size-fits-all. They will fund specific programs as proposed by local experts who know the specific problems of their communities. This is the front door of Iowa’s child welfare system. When these programs succeed, they prevent the need for government services after child abuse has occurred,” Rickman said.

Most of the contracts are for core prevention services, such as parent education, respite care, and parent leadership programs. Some of these services target specific risk groups, such as very young parents or parents of children with disabilities.

Other contracts are for the prevention of sex abuse to include public awareness campaigns, media safety, and parent-child instruction on topics such as healthy sexual development.

The contracts will be administered by Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, which has a separate contract with the DHS.

Because of funding limitations, none of the programs received the amount they requested. All proposals were reduced by 18 percent. Bidders receiving the highest percentage of their request were those who scored the highest on reviews.

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Editors: Here is a nine-page list of organizations that received intent-to-award letters from the DHS. http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/list_abusepreventiongrantlist.pdf