



# OFFICE OF PLANNING, RESEARCH & EVALUATION

## Mission Statement

The Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) is responsible for advising the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families on increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of programs to improve the economic and social well-being of children and families.

In collaboration with Administration for Children and Families (ACF) program offices and others, OPRE:

- coordinates performance management for ACF;
- develops and oversees research and evaluation projects to assess program performance and inform policy and practice; and
- works to improve ACF data

The office provides guidance, analysis, technical assistance and oversight to ACF programs on:

- strategic planning;
- performance measurement;
- research and evaluation methods;
- statistical, policy and program analysis; and
- the quality, usefulness, sharing, and analysis of data; and
- synthesis and dissemination of research and demonstration findings

OPRE includes the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary, the Division of Economic Independence, the Division of Child and Family Development, the Division of Family Strengthening, and the Division of Data and Improvement.

## Brief description

### Purpose

OPRE studies ACF programs and the populations they serve, through rigorous research and evaluation projects. These include evaluations of existing programs, evaluations of innovative approaches to helping low-income children and families, research syntheses and descriptive and exploratory studies. OPRE also works to improve ACF data and coordinates performance management for ACF.

### How it is Administered

OPRE conducts its work primarily through competitively awarded grants and contracts

### Expected Goals

OPRE aims to inform and facilitate improvements in services for low-income children and families.

## Budget for Fiscal Year 2016

OPRE administers funds that Congress provides through a number of separate authorities. Most of these are linked to specific ACF programs, including Head Start, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, child care, Health Profession Opportunity Grants, the Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (jointly administered with the Health Resources and Services Administration), pregnancy prevention, and child welfare programs. OPRE was responsible for \$123 million in grants and contracts in fiscal year 2016.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Director

Naomi Goldstein, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning, Research, and Evaluation

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