

Casper, Wyoming; First Interstate Bank, Ltd., Los Angeles, California; and First Interstate Central Bank, Calabasas, California.

Wells Fargo & Company San Francisco, California; to acquire First Interstate Resource Finance Associates, Newport Beach, California, and thereby engage in making, servicing, and acquiring loans, pursuant to § 225.25(b)(1) of the Board's Regulation Y, Liberty Brokerage, Inc., New York, New York, and thereby engage in securities brokerage activities, pursuant to § 225.25(b)(15) of the Board's Regulation Y, and Star System, Inc., California, and thereby engage in data transmission services through an electronic fund transfer network, pursuant to § 225.25(b)(7) of the Board's Regulation Y.

Comments on this application must be received by December 22, 1995.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 1, 1995.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 95-29822 Filed 12-6-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

New and Pending Demonstration Project Proposals Submitted Pursuant to Section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act: November 1995

AGENCY: Administration for Children and Families, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists new proposals for welfare reform and combined welfare reform/Medicaid demonstration projects submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services for the month of November, 1995. It includes both those proposals being considered under the standard waiver process and those being considered under the 30 day process. Federal approval for the proposals has been requested pursuant to section 1115 of the Social Security Act. This notice also lists proposals that were previously submitted and are still pending a decision and projects that have been approved since November 1, 1995. The Health Care Financing Administration is publishing a separate notice for Medicaid only demonstration projects.

Comments: We will accept written comments on these proposals. We will, if feasible, acknowledge receipt of all comments, but we will not provide

written responses to comments. We will, however, neither approve nor disapprove new proposals under the standard application process for at least 30 days after the date of this notice to allow time to receive and consider comments. Direct comments as indicated below.

ADDRESSES: For specific information or questions on the content of a project contact the State contact listed for that project.

Comments on a proposal or requests for copies of a proposal should be addressed to: Howard Rolston, Administration for Children and Families, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W., Aerospace Building, 7th Floor West, Washington DC 20447. FAX: (202) 205-3598 PHONE: (202) 401-9220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act (the Act), the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) may approve research and demonstration project proposals with a broad range of policy objectives.

In exercising her discretionary authority, the Secretary has developed a number of policies and procedures for reviewing proposals. On September 27, 1994, we published a notice in the Federal Register (59 FR 49249) that specified (1) the principles that we ordinarily will consider when approving or disapproving demonstration projects under the authority in section 1115(a) of the Act; (2) the procedures we expect States to use in involving the public in the development of proposed demonstration projects under section 1115; and (3) the procedures we ordinarily will follow in reviewing demonstration proposals. We are committed to a thorough and expeditious review of State requests to conduct such demonstrations.

On August 16, 1995, the Secretary published a notice in the Federal Register (60 FR 42574) exercising her discretion to request proposals testing welfare reform strategies in five areas. Since such projects can only incorporate provisions included in that announcement, they are not subject to the Federal notice procedures. The Secretary proposed a 30 day approval process for those provisions. As previously noted, this notice lists all new or pending welfare reform demonstration proposals under section 1115. Where possible, we have identified the proposals being considered under the 30 day process. However, the Secretary reserves the right to exercise her discretion to

consider any proposal under the 30 day process if it meets the criteria in the five specified areas and the State requests it or concurs.

II. Listing of New and Pending Proposals for the Month of November, 1995

As part of our procedures, we are publishing a monthly notice in the Federal Register of all new and pending proposals. This notice contains proposals for the month of November, 1995.

Project Title: California—Work Pays Demonstration Project (Amendment).

Description: Would amend Work Pays Demonstration Project by adding provisions to: reduce benefit levels by 10% (but retaining the need level); reduce benefits an additional 15% after 6 months on assistance for cases with an able-bodied adult; time-limit assistance to able-bodied adults to 24 months, and not increase benefits for children conceived while receiving AFDC.

Date Received: 3/14/94.

TYPE: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Glen Brooks, (916) 657-3291.

Project Title: California—Assistance Payments Demonstration Project (Amendment).

Description: Would amend the Assistance Payments Demonstration Project by: exempting certain categories of AFDC families from the State's benefit cuts; paying the exempt cases based on grant levels in effect in California on November 1, 1992; and renewing the waiver of the Medicaid maintenance of effort provision at section 1902(c)(1) of the Social Security Act, which was vacated by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in its decision in *Beno v. Shalala*.

Date Received: 8/26/94.

Type: Combined AFDC/Medicaid.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Bruce Wagstaff, (916) 657-2367.

Project Title: California—Work Pays Demonstration Project (Amendment).

Description: Would amend the Work Pays Demonstration Project by adding provisions to not increasing AFDC benefits to families for additional children conceived while receiving AFDC.

Date Received: 11/9/94.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Bruce Wagstaff, (916) 657-2367.

Project Title: California—School Attendance Demonstration Project.

Description: In San Diego County, require AFDC recipients ages 16–18 to attend school or participate in JOBS.

Date Received: 12/5/94.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Bruce Wagstaff, (916) 657-2367.

Project Title: Connecticut—A Fair Chance—Modification.

Description: Proposed modifications would: establish time limits; disregard earnings for time-limited recipients up to poverty level; reduce benefit increase for additional children by one-half; require minor parents to live with adult; change redetermination, verification, and reporting requirements; provide employer tax credits for hiring AFDC recipients; require biometric identification as condition of eligibility for unit; establish two-tier payment system for new residents; simplify and conform AFDC and Food Stamp rules on resources; allow 24 weeks of job search without child care guarantee; change good cause criteria regarding participation; change JOBS sanctions; apply uniform sanction policy for JOBS, child support, and voluntary quits; extend transitional Medicaid to two years; provide transitional child care while income below 75% of state median; limit the application period for transitional child care to 6 months after leaving AFDC; establish fee for child care for AFDC recipients; serve non-custodial parents under JOBS.

Date Received: 8/10/95.

Type: Combined AFDC/Medicaid.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Nancy Wiggett, (203) 424-5329.

Project Title: Georgia—Jobs First Project.

Description: In ten pilot counties, would replace AFDC payment with paid employment; extend transitional Medicaid to 24 months; eliminate 100 hour employment rule for eligibility determination in AFDC-UP cases.

Date Received: 7/5/94.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending (not previously published).

Contact Person: Nancy Meszaros, (404) 657-3608.

Project Title: Hawaii—Families Are Better Together.

Description: Statewide, would eliminate 100-hour, attachment to the work force, 30 day unemployment and principal wage earner criteria for AFDC-UP families.

Date Received: 5/22/95.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Patricia Murakami, (808) 586-5230.

Project Title: Illinois—Six Month Paternity Establishment Demonstration.

Description: In 20 counties, would require the establishment of paternity, unless good cause exists, within 6 months of application or redetermination as a condition of AFDC and Medicaid eligibility for both mother and child; would deny Medicaid to children age 7 and under, exclude children from filing rules, and exempt Department from making protective payments to eligible children, when custodial parent has not cooperated in establishing paternity; delegate the establishment of paternity in uncontested cases to caseworkers who perform assistance payment or social service functions under title IV–A or XX.

Date Received: 7/18/95.

Title: AFDC/Medicaid.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Karan D. Maxson, (217) 785-3300.

Project Title: Kansas—Actively Creating Tomorrow for Families Demonstration.

Description: Would, after 30 months of participation in JOBS, make adults ineligible for AFDC for 3 years; replace \$30 and 1/3 income disregard with continuous 40% disregard; disregard lump sum income and income and resources of children in school; count income and resources of family members who receive SSI; exempt one vehicle without regard for equity value if used to produce income; allow only half AFDC benefit increase for births of a second child to families where the parent is not working and eliminate increase for the birth of any child if families already have at least two children; eliminate 100-hour rule and work history requirements for UP cases; expand AFDC eligibility to pregnant women in 1st and 2nd trimesters; extend Medicaid transitional benefits to 24 months; eliminate various JOBS requirements, including those related to target groups, participation rate of UP cases and the 20-hour work requirement limit for parents with children under 6; require school attendance; require minors in AFDC and NPA Food Stamps cases to live with a guardian; make work requirements and penalties in the AFDC and Food Stamp programs more uniform; and increase sanctions for not cooperating with child support enforcement activities.

Date Received: 7/26/94.

Type: Combined AFDC/Medicaid.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Faith Spencer, (913) 296-0775.

Project Title: Louisiana—Individual Responsibility Project.

Description: Statewide, would limit AFDC benefits to 24 months out of a 60 month period for able-bodied recipients with extensions where the individual has been actively seeking employment, where job availability is unfavorable, where the individual loses a job for factors unrelated to his job performance, or where the individual requires up to one year to complete employment related education or training; require each child to attend school and be immunized or the child will be removed from the budget group; and applies a full family sanction where the parent has declined or refused an opportunity for full-time employment, without good cause.

Date Received: 9/22/95.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Sammy Guillory, (504) 342-4089.

Project Title: Maine—Welfare to Work Program.

Description: Statewide, would require caretaker relatives to sign a family contract; require participation in parenting classes and health care services; provide one-time vendor payments in lieu of AFDC for the purpose of obtaining/retaining employment; provide voucher payments to both married and unmarried minor parents; limit JOBS exemptions; expand eligibility for Transitional Medicaid and Child Care and replace sliding-scale fees with flat-rate fees; reduce Transitional Medicaid reporting requirements; disregard entire value of one vehicle; and apply any federal savings to the JOBS program services. In selected sites, implement ASPIRE-Plus, a subsidized employment program, would cash out food stamps, divert AFDC benefits and pass through all child support collected to families who participate in ASPIRE-Plus.

Date Received: 9/20/95.

Type: AFDC/Medicaid.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Susan Dustin, (207) 287-3104.

Project Title: Mississippi—A New Direction Demonstration Program—Amendment.

Description: Requests amendments to the Work First Component (operating in Adams, Harrison, Hinds, Jones, Lee and Washington counties) of the Mississippi New Direction Demonstration Project which would: provide transitional Medicaid and child care to AFDC families even if they have not received AFDC for at least three months; and permit JOBS sanctions to be imposed for exempt clients that volunteer for JOBS and then drop out without good cause.

Date Received: 11/20/95.

Type: Combined AFDC/Medicaid.

Current Status: New.

Contact Person: Larry Temple, (601) 359-4476.

Project Title: New Hampshire—Earned Income Disregard Demonstration Project.

Description: AFDC applicants and recipients would have the first \$200 plus ½ the remaining earned income disregarded.

Date Received: 9/20/93.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Avis L. Crane, (603) 271-4255.

Project Title: New Hampshire—New Hampshire Employment Program and Family Assistance Program.

Description: Statewide, would replace AFDC with Employment Program administered by both Employment Security Agency and Family Assistance Program; require job search and other employment-related activities for first 26 weeks of receipt followed by work-related activities for 26 weeks; eliminate JOBS target group funding requirement and change JOBS reporting requirements; require recipients attending post-secondary or part-time vocational training to participate in work-related activities; eliminate JOBS services priority for volunteers; establish limits for provision of transportation and other JOBS services based on activity and local conditions; eliminate remoteness as exemption from JOBS; require non-custodial parents to participate in JOBS; increase earned income disregard to 50%; eliminate AFDC-UP eligibility requirements; allow transitional case management for up to one year; raise resource limit to \$2,000 and exclude one vehicle and life insurance policies; pass through child support directly to family; take SSI income into account in determining eligibility/payment; eliminate conciliation and apply JOBS sanction of 50% of AFDC benefits for three months followed by no payment for three months, allowing option to increase initial sanction up to 100%; exempt pregnant women from JOBS only during third trimester; for minor parents cases, include in assistance unit any parent or sibling living in the home; eliminate gross income test; disregard educational grants; allow emergency assistance for families with employment-related barriers; allow State to eliminate the certificate option for child care and development block grant funds and use of these funds for capital improvement; eliminate ceiling on At Risk Child Care funds; provide that FFP for AFDC not be

reduced during life of demonstration; fund computer system modifications at 80% FFP; require pregnant recipients to cooperate with child support; require that AFDC apply for Medicaid as a unit and not individually; eliminate requirement of receipt of AFDC for 3 of last 6 months in order to receive transitional Medicaid; and allow State to require that some individuals be assigned to a managed care program; substitute outcome measures for JOBS participation rates; change participation requirements for parents with children under 6, UP recipients and minors; establish a medical deduction; increase the sanction for non-cooperation with child support; exempt individuals with significant employment barriers from JOBS; treat lump sum income and all real property, except a home, as a resource; and use 20% of gross earned income as a Medicaid disregard. Also contains various Food Stamp waivers.

Date Received: 9/18/95.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Marianne Broshek, (603) 271-4442.

Project Title: New Hampshire—New Hampshire Employment Program.

Description: In three pilot sites, would require work after 6 months of AFDC receipt; eliminate the exemption from JOBS for women in the second trimester of pregnancy; eliminate the JOBS exemption for caretaker of a child under 3 but not less than 1 year of age; replace the earned income disregard of \$90 and \$30 and ⅓ with a 50% disregard which is not time-limited; raise the resource limit for recipients to \$2,000; disregard full value of one vehicle per adult for applicants and recipients; apply a full family sanction voluntarily quitting a job or refusing to accept a job; apply a sanction of reducing the payment standard by 30% for one month for failure to comply with JOBS in the first instance, by 60% in the second instance for one month, and in the third instance apply a full-family sanction for three months or until compliance; and require non-custodial parents to participate in JOBS.

Date Received: 10/6/95.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Marianne Broshek, (603) 271-4442.

Project Title: North Carolina—Work First Program.

Description: Statewide would eliminate increase in AFDC benefits resulting from a birth of a child, limit JOBS exemptions, require a self-sufficiency contract, and limit AFDC receipt to 24 cumulative months.

Families who reach the time limit could not reapply for 3 years. The contract would require: Cooperation with child support; child immunizations and medical check-ups; school attendance; and that teen parents live with a parent/adult and graduate from high school. Failure to sign the contract would result in denial of the AFDC application. Failure to comply would result in the loss of the adult's AFDC benefits and (starting with the second sanction) Medicaid coverage for a minimum of: 3 months for the first sanction, 3 months for the second, 6 months for the third, and 3 years for the fourth. The State would offer new applicants a one-time payment in lieu of AFDC; expand AFDC-UP eligibility; raise the resource limit to \$3,000 and the vehicle asset limit to \$5,000 for AFDC and Food Stamps; and provide for automatic food stamps eligibility for AFDC-eligible families.

Date Received: 9/20/95.

Type: AFDC/Medicaid.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Kevin Fitzgerald, (919) 733-3055.

Project Title: North Carolina—Cabarrus County Work Over Welfare Demonstration Project. *Description:* In Cabarrus County, would require AFDC and Food Stamps applicants and recipients, with exemptions, to sign an agreement to participate in employment and training for up to 40 hours per week; would divert AFDC and Food Stamps benefits to private employers to supplement wages; and would disregard those wages for AFDC, Food Stamps, and Medicaid eligibility (for NPA participants). Also, would extend the \$30 and ⅓ disregard to 2 years for unsubsidized earnings. Individuals who not comply would be denied AFDC, Food Stamps, and Medicaid (unless pregnant) according to the following schedule: first, until compliance; second: for a minimum of 4 months; and third and subsequently: for a minimum of 8 months. Adults who do not sign an agreement would be denied AFDC, Food Stamps, and Medicaid (unless pregnant) until they sign.

Date Received: 10/5/95.

Type: AFDC/Medicaid.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Kevin Fitzgerald, (919) 733-3055.

Project Title: Ohio—Ohio First.

Description: Statewide, would replace current earned income disregards with \$250 and ½ for twelve months for recipients; eliminate the work history requirement for married parents in AFDC-UP cases; eliminate 100-hour rule for AFDC-UP; disregard of stepparent

income for four months; increase the vehicle asset limit; use established vacancies for subsidized employment slots; require applicant job search as a condition of family eligibility; maintain food stamp benefit levels when the AFDC benefit is reduced as a result of sanction; impose progressive sanctions for noncompliance with JOBS leading to whole family sanctions; establish that failure to comply with JOBS equates to failure to comply with work program requirements under the Food Stamp Program; limit AFDC eligibility to 36 months out of any 60 month period, unless exempt; allow the IV-D agency to determine good cause for noncooperation with Child Support Enforcement; change penalty for failure to cooperate with Child Support provisions to include a whole family sanction if the failure continues for two years; change penalty for fraud to include ineligibility for all assistance unit members until payments received fraudulently have been repaid; require development and signing of a self-sufficiency contract as a condition of eligibility for the assistance unit; require pregnant women receiving Medicaid to participate in substance abuse screening as part of prenatal care; implement sanctions for failure to cooperate with substance abuse screening leading to whole family sanctions.

Date Received: 10/27/95.

Type: AFDC/Medicaid.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Joel Rabb, (614) 466-3196.

Project Title: Oklahoma—Untitled.

Description: In four pilots conducted in five counties each, would (1) extend transitional child care to up to 24 months; (2) require that all children through age 18 be immunized and require that responsible adults with preschool age children participate in parent education or enroll the children in Head Start or other preschool program; (3) not increase AFDC benefits after birth of additional children, but provide voucher payment for the increment of cash benefits that would have been received until the child is two years old; and (4) pay lesser of AFDC benefit or previous state of residence or Oklahoma's for 12 months for new residents.

Date Received: 10/27/95.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Raymond Haddock, (405) 521-3076.

Project Title: Oregon—Oregon Option.

Description: As a statewide project, would incorporate waivers already approved in 1992 for JOBS Welfare

Program and in 1994 for the JOBS Plus Demonstration with previously pending waiver requests to increase vehicle asset limit and extend transitional child care. Requests guaranteed level of federal funding, with funds not used for benefits to be used for other community support or prevention programs. Also would, with some exceptions, limit receipt of AFDC benefits to no more than 24 out of 84 months for families with employable parents; allow case manager to determine JOBS exemptions on an individual basis; eliminate the time restrictions on job search; impose progressive sanctions, leading to full-family ineligibility, for non-compliance with JOBS; require ineligible alien parents of AFDC children to participate in JOBS; require counseling for recipients with substance abuse problems; require teen parents to live in an adult-supervised setting; discontinue the AFDC-UP program from June through September each year and eliminate the 100-hour rule and work history requirements; increase asset limit to \$2,500 for non-JOBS participants and \$10,000 for JOBS participants, and treat lump-sum payments as an asset; require annual AFDC eligibility redeterminations; modify the rules for potential liability under EBT.

Date Received: 7/10/95.

Type: AFDC/Medicaid.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Neely, (503) 945-5607.

Project Title: Oregon—Expansion of the Transitional Child Care Program.

Description: Provide transitional child care benefits without regard to months of prior receipt of AFDC and provide benefits for 24 months.

Date Received: 8/8/94.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Jim Neely, (503) 945-5607.

Project Title: Oregon—Increased AFDC Motor Vehicle Limit.

Description: Would increase automobile asset limit to \$9000.

Date Received: 11/12/93.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Jim Neely, (503) 945-5607.

Project Title: Pennsylvania—School Attendance Improvement Program

Description: In 7 sites, would require school attendance as condition of eligibility.

Date Received: 9/12/94.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Patricia H. O'Neal, (717) 787-4081.

Project Title: Pennsylvania—Savings for Education Program.

Description: Statewide, would exempt as resources college savings bonds and funds in savings accounts earmarked for vocational or secondary education and disregard interest income earned from such accounts.

Date Received: 12/29/94.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Patricia H. O'Neal, (717) 787-4081.

Project Title: South Carolina—Family Independence Program.

Description: Statewide, would, with exceptions, time limit AFDC benefits to families with able bodied adults to 24 months out of 120 months, not to exceed 60 months in a lifetime; eliminate increase in AFDC benefit resulting from birth of children 10 or more months after the family begins AFDC receipt, but provide benefits to such children in the form of vouchers for goods and services permitting child's mother to participate in education, training, and employment-related activities; eliminate deprivation requirements, principal earner provisions, work history requirements, and 100-hour rule for AFDC-UP; increase AFDC resource limit to \$2,500 and disregard as resources one vehicle with a market value up to \$10,000, the balance in an Individual Development Account (IDA) up to \$10,000, and the cash value of life insurance; disregard from income up to \$10,000 in lump sum payments deposited in an IDA within 30 days of receipt, earned income of children attending school, and interest and dividend income up to \$400; require participation in a family skills training program; require certain AFDC recipients to submit to random drug tests and/or participate in alcohol or drug treatment; require children to attend school; increase amount of child support passed through to AFDC recipients; require more extensive information for child support enforcement purposes; modify JOBS exemptions and good cause criteria, and increase sanctions for non-compliance; make job search a condition of eligibility; allow non-custodial parents of AFDC children to participate in JOBS; pay transitional grant equaling 3 percent of the maximum family grant following employment; and provide transitional grant Medicaid and child care for 12 months from the date of employment for cases previously closed due to time limit.

Date Received: 6/12/95.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Linda Martin (804) 737-6010.

Project Title: Texas—Achieving Change for Texans.

Description: Statewide, would implement requirement for a personal responsibility agreement which addresses issues such as child support cooperation, early medical screening for children, work requirements, drug and alcohol abuse, school attendance, and parenting skills training; would limit the caretaker exemption from employment services, disregard the earned income and resources from earnings of a child, set resource limits which promote independence from AFDC, eliminate work history and 100-hour rules for otherwise eligible two-parent families. In Bexar County would time-limit AFDC benefits to 12, 24, and 36 months depending on education and job experience, with extensions of the time-limit based on severe personal hardship, or in cases where the State could not provide supportive services, or the where the local economy was in such state that the recipient could not reasonably be expected to find employment, if State funds are available to continue assistance. Transitional Medicaid and child care services would be provided to individuals who exhaust their time-limited cash benefits. In two metropolitan statistical areas establish Individual Development Accounts to promote the transition to independence from AFDC, through allowable account deductions for education, business start-up costs and the like. In Fort Bend County would allow at recipient option, one-time AFDC cash emergency assistance payments of \$1,000 in lieu of ongoing regular AFDC payments with prohibition from applying for regular AFDC for a period of 12 months from date of receipt. In Dallas-Fort Worth would require electronic imaging (fingerprinting combined with photographic identification).

Date Received: 10/6/95.

Title: AFDC/Medicaid.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Kent Gummerman, (512) 438-3743.

Project Title: Utah—Untitled.

Description: Statewide, would exclude the value of a vehicle for AFDC recipient families, including those also receiving Food Stamps. Would not apply to initial eligibility determination.

Date Received: 10/3/95.

Type: AFDC.

Current Status: Pending.

Contact Person: Bill Biggs, (801) 538-4337.

III. Listing of Approved Proposals since November 1, 1995

None.

IV. Requests for Copies of a Proposal

Requests for copies of an AFDC or combined AFDC/Medicaid proposal should be directed to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the address listed above. Questions concerning the content of a proposal should be directed to the State contact listed for the proposal.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program, No. 93562; Assistance Payments—Research)

Dated: December 1, 1995.

Howard Rolston,

Director, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

[FR Doc. 95-29823 Filed 12-6-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4184-01-P

Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

Availability of Draft Clinical Practice Guideline on Smoking Cessation for Pre-Publication Review

AGENCY: Agency for Health Care Policy and Research.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) announces the availability of a draft AHCPR-sponsored clinical practice guideline on smoking cessation for pre-publication review. This guideline is being produced by a multidisciplinary private-sector panel of experts convened by AHCPR. The expert panel will not respond to individual comments but will consider all comments in determining revisions to the guideline. Individuals interested in obtaining a copy of the draft guideline for review must agree not to disclose its content to the public prior to its publication by AHCPR.

DATES: Comments must be postmarked by January 4, 1996.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research is responsible for the development of clinical practice guidelines that may be used by physicians, other health care practitioners, educators, and consumers to assist in determining how diseases, disorders, and other health conditions can most effectively and appropriately be prevented, diagnosed, treated, and clinically managed. The AHCPR facilitates the development of guidelines by establishing private-sector panels who are responsible for their content.

A private-sector panel of health care experts and consumers was formed in May, 1994 to develop a clinical practice guideline to improve the effectiveness of smoking cessation activities. A public meeting was also held in November, 1994 for the panel to receive comments and information relevant to development of the guideline. The panel has reviewed and synthesized the literature on this topic and drafted a set of conclusions and recommendations based on the best available scientific data and expert judgment.

A draft of these conclusions and recommendations is now undergoing peer review by a substantial number of individuals and groups who are knowledgeable about smoking cessation programs and related activities. With this notice, the panel and AHCPR are also making the draft guideline available to any person who wishes to review and comment on it, so long as the person agrees to honor the confidentiality of this draft (as specified below).

After review of all comments received, the panel will revise the draft guideline and prepare the clinical practice guideline on smoking cessation.

Potential reviewers should note that AHCPR may disclose the names of the guideline reviewers at the same time the guideline is published. The AHCPR may also release the review comments after the guideline is published. However, the comments will not be attributed to specific reviewers.

Confidentiality Statement for Reviewers

During the review process, and until published by AHCPR, the guideline is confidential. It may not be quoted, distributed, or copied without the prior written consent of the panel chair.

All requests for the draft guideline must include the following confidentiality statement signed by the requestor:

In order to protect the integrity of the panel's deliberative process and its final product, I agree that: I will not release, publicly present, publish, have published, or otherwise disseminate any portion of the draft Smoking Cessation guideline.

Signature _____

Date _____

Affiliation _____

Name (printed or typed) _____

Request for Draft Guideline

To receive a copy of the draft guideline, requests must include: Requestor's name; Affiliation (business or organization); Address (including zip code); Telephone and Fax numbers; Signed confidentiality statement; and Information on reviewer's computer resources, if applicable, (needed to