

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Application Release Date: February 6, 2026

Application Deadline: March 27, 2026

Proposal Information

Introduction

The Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence (ACCARDV), a department within the Academic Affairs Division of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) is pleased to offer the Request for Proposal (RFP) to fund the development, support or expansion of Child Abuse Prevention programs.

The intent of this RFP is to fund the development, support or expansion of programs engaged in prevention of child abuse and neglect through goals and objectives supporting one or more of the following recommendations from the 2025 Arkansas Infant and Child Death Review (ICDR) Report:

1. Increase opportunities for substance misuse prevention for teens, parents and caregivers.
2. Establish, support or expand upon early interventions for family experiencing traumas.
3. Establish, support or expand early intervention programming such as home visiting or parenting education that is focused on men who are caring for infants.
4. Establish, support or expand hospital-based violence intervention programs targeting the pediatric population.
5. Establish, support or expand education about the increased risk of infant mortality when parents and caregivers are using, misusing or abusing drugs or alcohol while caring for an infant.

The mission of the ICDR is to review all unexpected infant and child deaths in the state of Arkansas. These reviews result in the development of interventions and recommendations through collaboration, community education and policy. The recommendations included in the RFP provide an opportunity to connect child abuse and neglect prevention and improved safety for children from a public health perspective.

This RFP is offered by an agency with more than 30 years of experience in working with agencies focused on the prevention and intervention of child abuse, rape and domestic violence. Based on this extensive experience, the RFP is rooted in the following statement from Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: A Technical Package for Policy, Norm, and Programmatic Activities:

Preventing child abuse and neglect can also prevent other forms of violence. Each of the various forms of violence are interrelated and share many risk and protective factors, consequences, and effective approaches to prevention. Given the overlap of the risk and protective factors for child abuse and neglect and other forms of violence, it stands to reason that the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect can prevent other forms of violence and abuse. Moreover, strategies that support the development of safe, stable, and nurturing relationships between parents or caregivers and their children could be key in preventing the early development of violent behavior in children. Emerging evidence suggests that by stemming the early development of violent behavior, such relationships can also reduce many types of violence occurring in adolescence and early adulthood, such as youth violence, intimate partner and dating violence, sexual violence, and self-directed violence.

The Center for the Study of Social Policy developed the Strengthening Families framework which was adapted by the Office of Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) for the FRIENDS (Family Resource Information, Education and Network Development Service) National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention. The protective factors framework includes nurturing and attachment, knowledge of parenting and child/youth development, parental resilience, social connections, concrete supports for parents, and social/emotional competence of children. The health and well-being of families and children can be increased by focusing on the promotion of protective factors, which are circumstances impacting individuals, families, communities or society. Protective factors can lower risk for families and communities, thereby increasing the likelihood of successful prevention efforts.

According to the Office of Child Abuse and Neglect within the Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, child abuse prevention occurs in three categories. Primary prevention efforts focus on the general population, while secondary prevention programs are focused more directly on families where risk factors are present. Tertiary prevention work includes efforts in families where maltreatment has already occurred.

Eligibility

Eligible organizations are those committed to prevention of child abuse and neglect through development, support or expansion of training, conferences, curriculum development, home-visiting programs, parenting classes, etc. These organizations include, but are not limited to the following:

- Non-profit organizations, state agencies or university programs established to support victims of child abuse, sexual assault or domestic violence;
- Non-profit organizations, state agencies or university programs that do not currently provide prevention services related to child abuse and neglect but seek to expand services to include child abuse and neglect prevention;

- Criminal justice agencies such as law enforcement, prosecuting attorney offices and courts seeking funding to develop, support or expand prevention services related to child abuse and neglect.

Available Funding

The project period is a two-year funding cycle, with up to \$ 100,000 available each year. The initial year is SFY2027, which is July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. Funding for the second year of the program is contingent upon the funded applicant meeting goals, submitting timely reports, and submitting requested updates, as well as participating in requested site visits. Funding is also dependent on future availability of funds to ACCARDV.

Allowable/Non-allowable Activities

ACCARDV reserves the right to determine allowable and non-allowable activities. ACCARDV reserves the right to increase or decrease the award levels and scope of individual contracts during the contract periods, and/or reconfigure the program model at any time during the funding cycle. Non-allowable activities for this funding include but are not limited to food and beverage, salary support for employees who may have a conflict, direct funding for client support, or tangible property such as office furniture, computers, etc. Tangible property exceptions may be considered if necessary for projects and activities listed in the proposed budget.

Examples of Allowable Activities

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention programs may focus on children, parents/potential parents/caregivers or the professionals working with these populations. Examples of potential programs include but are not limited to: parenting classes for young men involved in the juvenile justice system, home visiting programs for at-risk families, or substance abuse educational or treatment programs for expectant mothers. Development of training curriculum or funding of conferences related to child abuse and neglect prevention and/or strengthening protective factors may also be considered

Examples of Non-Allowable Activities

Activities or areas that will not be considered as an allowable cost in award of funds are:

- Activities unrelated to prevention;
- Projects/services which duplicate existing training (including but not limited to mandated reporter training), education or services in a geographic area;
- Purchase of clothing, food, shelter, therapy, or similar costs;
- Marketing materials such as t-shirts, pencils or magnets.

Funds cannot be used:

- For lobbying purposes, fundraising activities or political education. Lobbying includes any effort to influence legislative action, including local ordinances. Positions supported with CAN Prevention funds cannot be lobbyists.
- For building alterations, renovations or construction.
- To purchase or improve land, or to purchase, construct, or make permanent improvements to any building.
- To reimburse pre-award costs
- For the purchase of furniture or equipment.

Application Deadline: March 27, 2026

Deadline for receipt of proposals is March 27, 2026 by 4:30 pm CST

Submission:

Please ensure all items are included in submitted proposals.

Submit an electronic copy of the proposal. The proposal should be submitted as one file, with the exception of any **required tax documents** which should be submitted as a **separate file**.

Submit electronic copy to: Sherry Williamson at ACCARDV williamsonsherryj@uams.edu by 4:30 pm CST on March 27, 2026

Questions

The Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence encourages any organization needing assistance to contact Sherry Williamson at ACCARDV by email:

williamsonsherryj@uams.edu

Funding Requirements

If a program is approved to receive funds, expenditures must begin within 30 days of receipt and first year funds must be expensed by June 30, 2027 unless the program is granted a written extension. Activities will be monitored through quarterly financial and statistical reporting to ACCARDV. Failure to submit any requested or mandatory documentation including but not limited to quarterly reports or budget modifications may result in the withholding of funds until the program is in compliance with the request.

Quarterly Reporting

Each funded program is required to submit quarterly financial and statistical reports. Reporting forms will be provided by ACCARDV prior to the beginning of the grant period. Quarterly reports are due 15 days after the close of each quarter. Agencies are responsible for providing accurate data for each reporting period.

Budget Modifications

After funds are awarded, budget modifications may be made at any time throughout the funding cycle. Budgets may be modified, but not recreated based on the prior approved budget. If new items are added to the originally approved budget, funded programs must submit a budget modification and narrative to be approved by ACCARDV. All budget modifications should be submitted electronically.

Extensions:

Extensions must be submitted in writing at least 60 days prior to the end of the grant cycle. Requests will be reviewed and decided upon by ACCARDV.

Proposal Application

The purpose of the ACCARDV Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Prevention Grant is to fund the development, support or expansion of programs engaged in prevention by increasing protective factors in communities. Funded projects will work to increase protective factors through creation or support of programs engaged in prevention of child abuse and neglect. The programs will include goals and objectives supporting one or more of the recommendations noted on page one of the RFP from the 2025 ICDR Report.

Organizational Experience and Capacity (15 points):

Provide a concise history of the agency, including any experience the organization may have in sexual assault prevention or domestic violence prevention, as well as any existing efforts related to child abuse and neglect prevention. If the agency is currently funded by the ACCARDV CAN Prevention Grant, please include program information. Describe the current staff or proposed position's capacity to complete the funded projects by meeting quarterly and annual goals. What administration and oversight systems exist for the organization?

Project Development, Support or Expansion (5 Points)

Clearly state if the program is new development for the applicant or if it is a support or expansion project. Preference will be given to applicants utilizing grant funds for new projects, although existing projects may be funded. Points in this section will only be awarded to new projects.

Project Summary (50 points):

Include the following information in the project summary: Please link project to one or more specific recommendations from the 2025 ICDR Report listed on page one of the RFP. What is the proposed project and how will it be delivered? Are the activities clearly linked to the budget? Who will be served? Why is this project needed? Are there specific risk factors for child abuse and neglect present in the target population? If so, please describe.

Regarding the proposed, supported or expanded project for which your agency seeks funding, identify any underserved populations to be served and address the methods to ensure their inclusion in the services.

Are there specific community partners with whom the applicant agency will collaborate on this project? If so, please include letters of support from agencies or partners to demonstrate a clear intent to participate in the program if funded. Describe how the applicant will ensure there is no duplication of services related to the project funded by this grant.

Goals and Objectives (20 Points):

Goals are broad statements of what your agency hopes to accomplish with this funding. Each goal must include at least two objectives.

Objectives are specific steps toward accomplishing a goal. Each objective must include at least one measurement. Detail how each objective will be measured. Objectives should reflect the SMART Objective principles:

Specific: Describe the specific behavior or outcome to achieve, which should be related to a number, rate, percentage, or frequency.

Measurable: Determine the system by which progress toward achievement of objective will be measured.

Achievable: Ensure the objective is achievable within the timeframe addressed in the application.

Relevant: Determine staff responsible for objective have the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to succeed.

Time-based: Include time frame or specific start/end date during which activities related to the objective will occur.

Please describe how proposed project/activities may contribute to the increase in any of the following protective factors: nurturing and attachment, knowledge of parenting and child/youth development, parental resilience, social connections, concrete supports for parents, and social/emotional competence of children.

Evaluation Plan (15 Points):

Include a clear plan to determine the impact of the project. What tools will be used to determine the success or failure of the program? How will the agency measure the implementation of this measurement?

Budget and Budget Narrative (45 points)

Applicants must submit program and budget proposals reflecting activities for the period of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. A tentative budget for the second year of the program should be included as a separate annual budget for July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028.

Budgets must include headings for the following categories: personnel/salaries, maintenance/operations and projects/activities.

Budget Narratives must also include headings for the following categories: personnel/salaries, maintenance/operations and projects/activities.

All proposals must include requested funding for projects and activities. If funds are not requested for other categories, please list those categories as such. Funds allocated for either of the other two categories should directly support the proposed projects and activities. Any funds requested for salaries must include the percentage of total position salary being requested and fund positions directly involved in the program. Proposals requesting only personnel/salaries or maintenance/operations will not be considered.

Assurances (no points- documents required for consideration) must be signed and dated.

Attachments (no points- documents required for consideration)

Resumes for staff funded in any capacity by CAN Prevention Grant- please limit resumes to one page per person.

Organizational Chart with names and job titles

Job description for current or proposed prevention position to be funded

Letters of support, if required by project

Additional attachments required based on applicant type:Non-profit:

Current Board of Directors listing with names, positions and contact information (for non-profit applicants)

Documentation of 501(c)(3) status

Most recent IRS Form 990 (please submit as separate file.)

Public agency or educational institution:

Letter of support from Agency director responsible for supervisory authority of funded program

Proposal Submission Checklist:

Items 1 – 7 must be 12-point font, double spaced, include page numbers and be no more than 16 pages in length; although letters, if required by the project, will not be included in 16 page limit.

- _____ **1. Organizational Experience and Capacity** *complete form provided by ACCARDV and provide additional narrative*
- _____ **2. Program Development, Support or Expansion** *narrative provided by applicant*
- _____ **3. Project Summary** *narrative provided by applicant*
- _____ **4. Goals and Objectives** *narrative provided by applicant*
- _____ **5. Evaluation Plan** *narrative provided by applicant*
- _____ **6. Budget** *use categories provided by ACCARDV*
- _____ **7. Budget Narrative** *use categories provided by ACCARDV*
- _____ **8. Signed Assurances** *use form provided by ACCARDV*
- _____ **9. Attachments** *documents provided by applicant*
 - ___ Resumes for staff funded by CAN Prevention Grant
 - ___ Organizational Chart with names and job titles
 - ___ Job description for current or proposed prevention position to be funded
 - ___ Letters of support, if required by project

Additional attachments required based on applicant type:

Non-profit:

- ___ Current Board of Directors listing with names, positions and contact information
- ___ Documentation of 501(c)(3) status
- ___ Most recent IRS Form 990 ***included as separate email attachment***

Public agency or educational institution:

- ___ Letter of support from agency personnel responsible for supervisory authority of funded program

APPLICATION COVER SHEET
Organizational Information

Applicant Organization: _____

Please check one: ___ non-profit ___ public agency ___ educational institution

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of person responsible for financial matters: _____

For non-profit: _____

Signature of Executive Director: _____

Printed Name of Executive Director: _____

Signature of Board President: _____

Printed Name of Board President: _____

For public agency or educational institution:

Please print the name and title of staff responsible for program supervision if funded:

Signature of responsible staff: _____

Please print the name and title for agency director/supervisor:

Signature of agency director/supervisor: _____

Please use Organizational Information form as cover sheet.

Required headings for ALL applications:

Organizational Experience and Capacity

Program Development, Support or Expansion

Project Summary

Goals and Objectives

Evaluation Plan

Budget*

Personnel and Salaries

Maintenance and Operations

Projects and Activities

Total Budget

Budget Narrative*

Personnel and Salaries

Maintenance and Operations

Projects and Activities

*Each application must include categories for Personnel and Salaries, Maintenance and Operations, and Projects and Activities. If no funds are requested in a category, please note this in budget and budget narrative.

Attachments: Non-profits only

For non-profits: please submit IRS 990 as **separate email attachment** from application. Non-profits will be sending two separate email attachments. One document is the application. A **second attachment** is the IRS 990.

Assurances

By executing these assurances, the applicant agency agrees that any award under this RFP will be administered, and activities or services provided, in accordance with applicable state and federal laws as well as regulations and policies of the University of Arkansas for Medical Science. This agency agrees to use any funds awarded under this RFP only for those activities described in this application.

The applicant agency agrees to the following:

It shall maintain records that document the nature and outcomes of its activities, including records necessary for the appropriate accounting of funds received and disbursed and shall make available to the Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence, UAMS, authorized sub-contractors or the Arkansas Legislature all records or documents related to activities funded under this RFP. The applicant agency shall make such reports (financial and programmatic) to the Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence, UAMS or authorized sub-contractors as may reasonably be required. It shall submit quarterly or other reports, as required. It shall initiate proposed activities within 60 days of award unless prior written approval of a delay is obtained from the Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence.

It will, with regard to any funds received by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, comply with and enforce the following UAMS policy: Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended), Executive Order 11246 (as amended), Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 (as amended), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Sections 503 and 504) (as amended), the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, (as amended), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (as amended), the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1991, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (as amended), Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) of 2008, U.S. Federal Court Decree in the Adams Cases of 1973 and Acts 99 and 962 of the Arkansas General Assembly. UAMS shall recruit, retain, promote and graduate students without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), status as a protected veteran, sex, age, marital or family status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Specifically, UAMS will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, creed, service in the uniformed services, status as a protected veteran, sex, age, marital or family status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation as a criterion in deciding against any individual in matters of admission, placement, transfer, hiring, dismissal, compensation, fringe 2 benefits, training, tuition assistance, and other personnel or educationally-related actions. Therefore, the policy of UAMS is that members of the University community neither commit nor condone acts of bigotry, racism, or discrimination.

It shall not permit any funds to be paid to any current or past member of the Arkansas legislature or current State employee without notifying beforehand the Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, all information in this application is true and correct. This application has been duly authorized by the applicant's governing body and **a copy of this finalized document will be provided to each member of the governing body.** The applicant will comply with all assurances and requirements should this project be awarded funding. Furthermore, I understand that this program will be required to complete progress reports (format to be provided by the Commission) should the project be awarded funds.

Signature of Executive Director

Date

Signature of Board Chair or President (for non-profit applicants)

Date