



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation

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Administration for Children and Families
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ACF Overview

- The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is a division of the Department of Health & Human Services. We promote the economic and social well-being of children, families, individuals and communities with leadership and resources for compassionate, effective delivery of human services.
- ACF administers more than 60 programs with a budget of more than \$53 billion.
- Programs include: Child Care, Head Start, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Child Welfare, Child Support Enforcement, and more.

OPRE Overview

- The Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) builds, and disseminates knowledge about effective approaches to helping low-income children and families through rigorous research and evaluation projects including:
 - Evaluations of existing programs and innovative approaches to help low-income children and families
 - Research syntheses
 - Descriptive and exploratory studies
- OPRE also leads performance management and the improvement and use of data.

Evaluation Policy

ACF seeks to promote **rigor**, **relevance**, **transparency**, **independence**, and **ethics** in the conduct of evaluations. ACF's Evaluation Policy, which was established in 2012, addresses these five key principles to govern ACF's planning, conduct, and use of evaluation.

Rigor: ACF is committed to using rigorous methods to yield accurate findings.

Relevance: Our evaluations should address legislative requirements and congressional, federal, state, tribal, and local interests.

Transparency: We will make information about planned and ongoing evaluations easily accessible. We will release results regardless of the findings. Reports will present comprehensive results, including favorable, unfavorable, and null findings.

Independence: Evaluation should not be biased. To promote objectivity, we protect independence in the design, conduct, and analysis of evaluations.

Ethics: ACF-sponsored evaluations will be conducted in an ethical manner and safeguard the dignity, rights, safety, and privacy of participants.

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