



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

April 17, 2009

Dear Colleague:

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend the Fourth Annual Administration for Children and Families (ACF), African American Healthy Marriage Initiative (AAHMI), *The Black Family in the 21st Century: Connecting Marriage Research to Practice Conference*. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work, the Jordan Institute for Families and The Annie E. Casey Foundation have joined us in this effort. The conference is designed for researchers, state and local human service professionals, and practitioners from various disciplines including representatives from healthy marriage coalitions, fatherhood, community and faith based organizations and youth. The Conference will be held on June 16-18, 2009 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the Friday Center.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available at a fee of \$4.00 for participants who make a specific request on the registration form.

The AAHMI promotes a culturally competent strategy for strengthening the institution of healthy marriage in the African American community. Research suggests that African Americans have higher rates of single-parent headed families and lower rates of marriage and marital stability than any other ethnic group in America.

The goal of the conference is to provide a forum for presentation and discussion around a broad range of research and model practices that hold promise for stabilizing healthy marital relationships, responsible fatherhood and improving child-well being. This event will also provide attendees with unique opportunities to exchange views around the critical issues impacting families and communities; as well as recommend what is missing in the field of research that would support healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood programming for African Americans. We are expecting approximately 400 participants.

I hope you will be able to join us, for your perspective will add a valuable dimension to this important discussion. Registration is required for all participants and I encourage you to register as soon as possible, as space is limited. If you are not able to attend, please consider sending a representative. For conference details and online registration, please visit the website: www.aahmi.org. Should you have general questions, please contact Carol Osborne via email at: carol.osborne@acf.hhs.gov. I look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diann Dawson".

Diann Dawson, Director
Office of Regional Operations