1998 NASFAA Annual Conference

Community Service/America Reads

Chicago, Illinois

America Reads Challenge

- ◆ America Reads Commitment
- ◆ Training Conferences
- ◆ Tutor Training Subcontracts
- ◆ Family Literacy FWS Waiver

America Reads Commitment

- ◆ Institutions that would like to participate in the America Reads Challenge are committing Federal Work-Study (FWS) students as reading tutors of children or as family literacy tutors.

- ◆ More than 1,000 colleges and universities have joined this initiative.

- ◆ To sign onto the Challenge, please fax in the America Reads sign-up sheet at www.ed.gov/inits/americareads/arc-fwsi.html

16 Regional Training Conferences

◆ The U.S. Department of Education's Regional Educational Laboratories will conduct 16 America Reads training conferences this summer and fall.

◆ Topics include tutor training, management and support and best tutoring practices and principles.

◆ Who should attend: Trainers and coordinators of college/university, school, and community partnerships involved in or planning to implement tutoring programs.

◆ For more information about these conferences, please visit www.ed.gov/inits/americareads/training.html

Tutor Training Subcontracts

- ◆ In addition, the Regional Educational Labs are awarding sixty subcontracts of $50,000 each to tutoring partnerships across the nation for the purpose of providing direct training to FWS and volunteer reading tutors.

- ◆ Partnerships eligible for these subcontracts include colleges or universities that collaborate with schools and community organizations.

- ◆ The deadline is August 13, 1998.

- ◆ More information about these conferences is available at www.ed.gov/inits/americareads/training.html

Family Literacy FWS Waiver

- As of July 1, 1997, the federal government can pay 100 percent of the wages of FWS students tutoring children in reading.

- Beginning July 1, 1998, the waiver will also apply to FWS students tutoring children and/or their parents or caregivers in a family literacy program.

- Research shows that children whose parents work with them on literacy skills during early childhood have a better chance of reading well and independently.

- To find a family literacy program near you, you may wish to call the National Center for Family Literacy at 202-584-1133.

4. Question: What is the definition of a family literacy program for purposes of the new FWS family literacy institutional-share waiver?

Answer: A family literacy program integrates four components. It provides: (1) Literacy or pre-literacy education for children, (2) Literacy training for parents or caregivers of children in the program, (3) A means of equipping parents or caregivers with the skills needed to partner with their children in learning, and (4) Literacy activities between parents or caregivers and their children. This definition is consistent with the Even Start and Head Start definitions of family literacy programs. Some examples of comprehensive family literacy programs can be found in Appendix A, along with more information and research about family literacy.

The four parts make up a comprehensive family literacy program. The interaction between parent and child is very important. The family literacy concept recognizes the family as an institution for education and learning and the role of parents as their children's first teachers. The family literacy concept also is based on the premise that an investment in the education of adults in a family is, simultaneously, an investment in improving the chances for academic success for the children in that family.

13.   Question: How would an institution substantiate that a program selected for FWS employment meets the Department's definition of a family literacy program?

Answer: All Federally funded Even Start programs meet the definition of a family literacy program. For other programs, a signed letter from an official of the family literacy program stating that the program provides all four of the components outlined in question #4 would meet this requirement.