

February 27, 2026

Alex Adams
Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: OPRE Proposed Restructuring

Dear Assistant Secretary Adams,

We, at the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), have greatly appreciated your partnership since assuming your role leading the Administration of Children and Families (ACF). It is in that spirit that we write to you to seek clarification on rumored developments regarding the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) within ACF. As you know, our members understand and value the importance of data, research, and evaluation to help guide decision-making through access to qualitative information on the efficacy of programs, models, and interventions across the human services spectrum. Members have raised concerns about a potential OPRE restructuring and its possible impact on state and local work. Through our TANF work, for instance, we are especially invested in redefining outcomes, and our TANF modernization framework emphasizes a need to identify and measure the right outcomes. OPRE has been a key partner in that work.

Our questions below are informed by input from our members. This request intends to better understand ACF's vision for supporting the key role OPRE has played and how a restructuring might impact states. As always, we stand ready to discuss potential opportunities to collaborate on improving outcomes for families.

Key Questions on the Restructure

- **New Structure:** Can you offer more clarity on the plans for the overall structure and plan for OPRE, its purpose and functions, staffing, and timelines for changes?
- **Continuity of Activities and Investments:** As ACF considers any structural changes, how does the Administration anticipate ensuring continuity of current research, evaluation activities, and existing projects and contracts?

- **Access to Research and Data Resources:** Can you share whether previously published OPRE research, data resources, and technical assistance materials will remain publicly accessible? Continued access to these materials is critical for states as they design, implement, and evaluate programs.
- **Staffing and Capacity:** To the extent staffing changes are under consideration, how is ACF thinking about maintaining the expertise and research capacity necessary to support evidence-building across program areas?
- **Future Research and Evaluation Strategy:** What is the Administration's vision for research, evaluation, and evidence-building across ACF programs moving forward? How will research priorities be identified and advanced?
- **State Partnership and Collaboration:** How does ACF envision ongoing collaboration with states, local agencies, and external research partners under any new structure? We are eager to understand how states can continue contributing to and benefiting from federal research and evaluation efforts.
- **Maintaining Research Integrity Under Any New Structure:** Given ACF's longstanding commitment to independent and objective evaluation, how will the agency ensure that research and evaluation functions remain appropriately independent from those who operate the programs and continue to meet federal standards for rigor and impartiality, regardless of where they are housed organizationally?

We appreciate the Administration's ongoing commitment to strengthening programs that serve children and families. We welcome a conversation with your team to better understand the continued and adapting priorities for ACF related to research, data, and outcomes for families. For further discussion, please reach out to me, Lexie Kuznick, at akuznick@aphsa.org. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely



Lexie Kuznick
Director of Policy and Government Relations
APHSA

