

# **Protective Factors for Populations Served by the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Search Methodology**

**Stage 1. Expert recommendations and snowball sampling.** In the first stage of the search, Expert Panel members were consulted in a Webinar held on Dec. 19, 2011. The participating experts (Expert Panel members are listed in the appendix) were asked to provide recommendations for key literature from their respective areas of expertise. Project staff also asked experts for input about search terms and databases. These sources were collated and added to the sources recommended by ACYF staff. The search team retrieved these references and, when appropriate, used a “snowball” sampling strategy to identify additional references to review based on key documents identified in any of these sources.

Articles were retrieved and summarized on a coding sheet that included keywords, specific factors addressed in each study, constructs, and terminologies relevant to each identified construct. Evidence pertaining to the implementation and assessment of models and constructs, populations included, and, where available, programs and policies associated with specific models and constructs were also coded. The coding sheet is found in the appendix. We have found in past efforts (Edberg, Yeide, & Rosenfeld, 2010) that sources identified through this method are highly relevant and help inform the scope of literature reviews.

**Stage 2. Keyword search.** In the second stage of the search the team used the informed keyword method. The keyword search was based on specified term searches that were compiled from consensus keywords from the Expert Panel and relevant to ACYF population groups. Linkage was accomplished using the Boolean “AND” function; this included combining key terms relevant to 1) resilience and protective factors, 2) key terms for specific populations, and 3) general and specific ACYF populations. For instance, the following search terms were used to identify literature for the homeless/runaway population:

1. Protective factor OR resilience OR promotive factor
2. Homeless OR Runaway
3. Youth OR adolescent\* OR young adult
4. Substance use prevention OR prosocial skills OR positive mentor OR role model OR....[the rest of the keywords identified by Expert Panelists as relevant protective factors were inserted]

The keyword search aimed to verify or rectify gaps identified through the first stage of the search. After piloting the search process to determine the most productive databases, the following sources were used: Academic Premiere, PsychInfo, PubMed, Google Scholar, ProQuest, and MEDLINE.

**Stage 3. Addressing gaps in the literature.** The two search methods used in the project are complementary. A keyword search is comprehensive but it can also uncover literature of poor quality, or literature that is marginally relevant or not relevant. By contrast, expert recommendations may not be exhaustive, but they typically produce high-quality, relevant material. Below is a visual schematic of the search process used in the project.

