**Section 899.20 Selection Criteria**

a) DHS shall enter into contracts to establish or expand services (e.g. family counseling, loaning of toys and resources to families, providing referral information to families) offered by Lekotek centers or satellite offices based upon the availability of state funds.

b) DHS shall only enter into contracts for the purpose of establishing Lekotek centers with those agencies which are:

1) licensed by the National Lekotek Center (NLC), and

2) located in geographical areas designated by DHS in consultation with the NLC as being in need of Lekotek centers, based upon an agency's proposal which complies with Lekotek Manual (July, 1989), National Lekotek Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60204, with no later editions or amendments. The proposal shall also indicate:

A) cooperative efforts with the existing network of service agencies or the community,

B) the credibility of the agency, as determined by community responses to inquiries,

C) the outreach efforts and response to community needs by the agency,

D) the agency's endorsement of the Lekotek philosophy, and

E) the agency's contribution towards project maintenance.

c) The NLC will license an agency submitting an application for licensure, which is reviewed by the staff and trustees of the NLC. The agency must:

1) be a non-profit agency in good standing or a unit of local government,

2) provide evidence of a philosophy that is consistent with the NLC's,

3) agree to adhere to the established guidelines of the NLC for delivery of Lekotek services, and

4) provide evidence of sound fiscal status and financial commitment to the operation of the Lekotek program.