Family Connection Grant Project  
Abstract/Summary

Grantee Name: Renewal House, Inc.  
Grantee City and State: Nashville, Tennessee  
Grant Project Title: Renewal House Residential Program  
Family Connection Program Area: Residential Family Treatment

Summary of Grant Project

Since its founding in 1996, Renewal House has been providing a residential addiction recovery program for women and their children, primarily from Middle Tennessee. We improve family stability by addressing the interlocking issues of addiction, poverty, mental illness, domestic violence, homelessness, unemployment, and entanglement with the child welfare and criminal justice systems.

Through this project, Renewal House will continue providing these core services and incorporate three program enhancements to better engage, retain, and support today’s clients. Renewal House will 1) add family therapy to educate multiple generations and extended family members about the disease of addiction and its impact on family functioning so all become a positive force in the recovery and child welfare process; 2) add on-site mental health services, through Vanderbilt University Mental Health Center, for women and their children; and 3) provide Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) through group and individual sessions to teach clients techniques for managing impulsive behaviors. The impact of these additional family counseling, mental health, and DBT services will be evaluated.

Renewal House strengthens the family unit, helps prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families, and encourages reunification. For several years, Renewal House has specifically been partnering with the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services to promote safety, permanency, and well-being of children who are in foster care or at-risk of entering the foster care system. In addition to enhancing services, this proposal will demonstrate the effectiveness of this partnership by evaluating child custody outcomes for families served. Outcomes data will be translated to a program model that can be replicated in other locations across the state and nationally.

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