Grantee Name: Catholic Charities Diocese of Yakima
dba Catholic Family & Child Service
Grantee City and State: Richland, WA
Grant Project Title: *Family Connections Demonstration Project*
Family Connection Program Areas: Kinship Navigator, Family-finding and Family Group Decision-Making

Summary of Grant Project

In Central/Eastern Washington State, a private/public/tribal partnership between Catholic Family and Child Service, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Casey Family Programs, and the Yakama Nation will weave together Kinship Navigator (KN), Intensive Family Finding (IFF) and Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) with the intent of serve 840 youth by
- reducing the number of dependent children and youth
- increasing the percentage of relative placements
- reducing pre-permanency lengths of stay
- reducing the number of placement moves for children
- increasing adoption rates by relatives
- identifying additional familial connections for youth to aid in identifying long term family support options

Kinship Navigation services will be expanded to include a Tribal Navigator in an area where Native American youth are disproportionally represented as well as adding culturally relevant infrastructure and personnel to serve informal and formal kinship care providers in the 8-county, rural/urban area that surrounds Benton/Franklin County, facilitating access to supports, services and resources community wide.

Benton/Franklin County will be the focused site for IFF and FTDM services. IFF will identify innovative family search technology, and will then integrate the search results into the existing child welfare continuum of care so as to increase success rate of locating and engaging suitable relatives for child placement with the intent of achieving permanency for the child as well as supportive familial connections.

FTDM will increase capacity, quality and scope of meetings at all placement changes - entry, exit and transition, to facilitate improved safety, permanency, well being and mental health for the child while engaging the family and child, as appropriate in decision-making and the case plan.

It is the synergy of these three focused scopes of work that we hypothesize will ensure the achievement of established outcomes as measured by Tri-West Group, the project’s Independent Evaluator.

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