Family Connection Grant Project
Abstract/Summary

Grantee Name: Children’s Service Society of Wisconsin
Grantee City and State: Milwaukee, WI
Grant Project Title: Family Finding Program for Wisconsin Youth in Out-of-Home Care
Family Connection Program Area: Family-finding

Summary of Grant Project:

Children’s Service Society of Wisconsin will expand our newly established Family Finding program in four Wisconsin regions (Northcentral, Northwest, Southeast, and Southcentral). Family Finding Specialists will partner with local child welfare workers in 10-12 counties to implement the Family Finding model. Kevin Campbell will provide training and technical assistance.

Objectives. The goals of this project are to: (a) establish meaningful and permanent connections for 300 youth in OHC with relatives/kin who can provide emotional and legal permanency; (b) expand the use of family finding for youth in OHC in Wisconsin; and (c) demonstrate the effectiveness of family finding as an approach to achieve child safety, permanency and well-being.

Target population. We will screen a minimum of 70 youth in year one, and 115 in years two and three respectively. Priority will be placed on youth who: (a) are entering OHC and lack a viable reunification or adoption plan; and (b) have remained in care beyond ASFA limits.

Stakeholders. We will engage 10-12 stakeholders to support the expansion of the Family Finding program in Wisconsin. CSSW will convene a Project Stakeholder Committee (PSC) who will support the adoption and implementation of the model. Stakeholders will include both youth and family member and a diverse slate of public and private child welfare leaders. To raise awareness and encourage use of the Family Finding model, we will conduct outreach and education with a minimum of 500 system stakeholders (over three years) across Wisconsin.

Outcomes. CSSW will partner with Child Trends to conduct a rigorous evaluation of the effectiveness of the model on child outcomes related to child permanency/stability and child and family involvement in case planning. Youth in Milwaukee County will be randomly assigned to treatment and control groups. Counties outside of Milwaukee will be evaluated qualitatively.

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