Family Connection Grant Project
Abstract/Summary

Grantee Name: Lilliput Children’s Services
Grantee City and State: Sacramento, CA
Grant Project Title: Kinnections Initiative
Family Connection Program Areas: Kinship Navigator and Family-finding

Summary of Grant Project

Lilliput Children’s Services, in collaboration with Sacramento County Department Health & Human Services and other vital child welfare partners including the Sacramento Child Advocates, the Children’s Receiving Home, and Stanford Home for Children, proposes an innovative and multi-agency service delivery model, integrating a Kinship Navigator Program with Intensive Family Finding Efforts. The Kinnections Initiative upholds the fundamental philosophy that children whose parents have failed to protect and nurture them, are best raised by members of their extended family, and that relatives are an invaluable resource for children in foster care. Lilliput’s mission, to ensure a child’s opportunity for permanency in a safe & nurturing family, includes the belief that permanency planning must begin from the moment a child enters out-of-home care. These efforts should continue throughout a child’s stay in foster care to ensure that when he/she exits, birth family connections have remained intact.

In order to accomplish this, the innovative Kinnections Initiative utilizes a dual approach: intensive family finding and intensive kinship navigator services. The Initiative will target African American youth between the ages of 6 and 17, entering the foster care system in Sacramento County for the first time through the Children’s Receiving Home of Sacramento. These approaches are innovative in that the focus is “upstream” when children are first falling into the child welfare stream, instead of attempting to rescue children downstream. Working upstream will eventually lead to far fewer children falling in and drowning in the foster care system. The Intensive Family Finding approach is designed to provide a thorough and exhaustive search for kin, and initiate comprehensive engagement services once kin are located. The intensive kinship navigator strategy, called Kinship Support Services Program Plus, provides intensive systems navigation, in-home case-management and therapeutic support with the goal of placement stability and facilitating permanency.

For more information, contact:
Beverly Johnson, LCSW
Program Director
(916) 830-7732
bjohnson@lilliput.org