Family Connection Grant Project
Abstract/Summary

Grantee Name: Maryland Department of Human Resources
Grantee City and State: Baltimore, Maryland (project also includes Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George’s and Washington Counties)
Grant Project Title: Making Place Matter through Family Kin Connections (Family Kin Connections)
Family Connection Program Areas: Kinship Navigator, Family-finding, and Family Group Decision-Making

Summary of Grant Project:

Making Place Matter through Family Kin Connections (Family Kin Connections) builds on the Department of Human Resources child welfare priority initiative, Place Matters. Family Kin Connections is designed to increase the number of children placed with family members, and engage families and children in case planning.

The Maryland project involves three areas:

- **Kinship Navigator Program** – A new program for Maryland involving the development of seven local Kinship Navigator programs and the provision of family service assessments. Kin caring for children who are not involved in the child welfare system is the targeted population.
- **Intensive Family Finding Program** – Expands current practice through a statewide contract with a computer-based search provider, and training on the Intensive Family Finding model for the seven sites. Older youth in care is the primary targeted population.
- **Family Group Decision Making** – Development of training that will provide a standard model of practices. Currently each site utilizes Family Involvement Meetings (FIMs) but they are not utilizing a standard model.

Seven local jurisdictions will serve as implementation sites: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George’s and Washington Counties and Baltimore City. These jurisdictions comprise a diverse mix of communities that includes rural, suburban and urban areas. Partners include: University of Maryland School of Social Work Ruth Young Center, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Casey Family Programs, Child Trends, and Local Management Boards (LMBs). Caregiver groups and local domestic violence partners that already work closely with each site will be involved through LMBs and local advisory board meetings.

The overarching project goals are to:

- improve safety, permanency, well-being and family functioning outcomes of children by strengthening family ties;
- provide information and supportive services to kinship caregivers;
- involve family members in decision making processes by teaming with families; and
- connect and re-connect children with relatives.

For more information, contact:
Maryanne Joynes, Project Manager
(410) 767-7114
MJoynes@dhr.state.md.us