

Family Connection Grant Project Abstract/Summary

Grantee Name: Public Children Services Association of Ohio

Grantee City and State: Columbus, Ohio

Grant Project Title: *Enhanced Kinship Navigator Project*

Family Connection Program Area: Kinship Navigator

Summary of Grant Project

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio, in collaboration with seven Ohio counties and the Human Services Research Institute, with support of Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, proposes to demonstrate the effectiveness of Kinship Navigator programs in high-need areas of Ohio. Each of the seven county agencies involved; Ashtabula, Clark, Crawford, Hardin, Portage, and Richland children's services agencies, and the Lorain County Office on Aging (with the support of the children's services agency) will provide enhanced Kinship Navigator services to a broad population of kinship caregivers. Both caregivers known to the PCSAs and those not known will be served and are expected to benefit from the proposed project.

Kinship Navigator programming will build on both experience and evidence, and will include

1. increased staffing to assure adequate capacity to perform both case-level and system-level functions, including outreach
2. improved information about and access to needed services & supports for kinship families (especially legal assistance, support groups, respite care, financial assistance, and short-term child care)
3. strong system-level collaborative planning via advisory groups, to both guide the project and create more effective interagency partnerships, which will strengthen and sustain the service delivery system supporting kinship families.

Process and outcomes evaluation will document implementation of the Kinship Navigator program in each county and operation of state- and local-level advisory groups; it will also assess improvements in system linkages and child & family outcomes in intervention counties compared to control sites. Expected outcomes include caregivers' increased satisfaction with caregiving role, increased percentages of kinship caregivers taking permanent custody of children placed in foster care, shorter time between removal and permanency, and less re-entry to formal care for children placed with kin. Project products will be widely disseminated to increase the knowledge base around kinship navigator programs.

For more information, contact:

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