Family Connection Grant Project
Abstract/Summary

Grantee Name: South Carolina Department of Social Services
Grantee City and State: Columbia, South Carolina
Grant Project Title: SC Connecting for Kids
Family Connection Program Areas: Kinship Navigator and Family-finding

Summary of Grant Project

SC Connecting for Kids is implementing kinship navigator services in 6 counties, family finding in 11 counties, and is developing training specifically for kin caregivers. Statewide implementation is the long range plan.

The SC Guardian Ad Litem Program will provide family locator services to increase relative/fictive kin connections for older youth in danger of aging out of foster care without a supportive adult. Two locators will each complete a minimum of 100 searches per year and will facilitate connections between the child and the identified resource in collaboration with the child’s DSS caseworker. At least three potential family connections will be identified and contacted. Older youth in foster care have priority for the first year and younger children are accepted thereafter.

The SC Association of Children’s Home and Family Services through its member agencies will provide navigator services. The target population is relative/fictive kin caregivers of children diverted from foster care and whose parents are receiving in-home treatment services. The objective is for caregivers to beware of and to access needed services.

The USC Center for Child and Family Studies (CCFS) and its subcontractors will develop and deliver specific training for navigators and for kin caregivers.

United Way of SC will expand the 211 system statewide. Kinship support services are included.

USC CCFS will complete the evaluation to identify the most beneficial training for caregivers, services most needed to prevent entry/reentry into foster care; if the use of locator and navigators decreased entry/reentry; and if the use of locators increased the number of kinship placements for foster youth. The evaluation will include questions related to items in the CFSR.

An advisory council meets monthly and includes public and private partners (i.e. HALO’s), foster youth, a kinship caregiver, and others.

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