

2011 Family Connection Discretionary Grants:  
Using Family Group Decision-making to  
Build Protective Factors for Children and Families

**Project Abstract/Summary**

**Grantee Name:** Homes for Black Children  
**Grantee City and State:** Detroit, Michigan  
**Grant Project Title:** *Nurturing the Resiliency in Wayne County Families: Rethinking the Family Decision Making Model as Community Centered Child and Family Work*

**Summary of Grant Project**

Homes for Black Children will demonstrate the effectiveness of Family Group Decision Making as a best practice model in reducing the number of urban children who enter foster care, as well as reduce foster care recidivism in Wayne County, Michigan. In 2004, although African American Children represented only 48.86% of the overall child population, they represented 82.05% of the foster care population in Wayne County with a disproportionality rate of 1.69 (Michigan Family Independence Agency Warehouse Data, 2004). The grant project will focus on 100 African American families who are at risk of their child entering the foster care system or families who have had their child/ren returned from foster care. Referrals are anticipated from the Wayne County Department of Human Services, the Detroit Public School System, and Homes for Black Children's Foster Care Department. Fathers will be encouraged to participate in planning for their children, as well as all aspects of program activities. All referrals will be voluntary.

The Project will develop an individualized "Family Resiliency Plan" guided by each family to achieve its overall goal of improving child and family well-being through the use of four core evidenced based strategies which support and build upon the family's own strength:

- Family Group Decision Making
- Solution Focused Family Counseling
- Parent Advocate/Mentors
- Family Well-Being Cluster (includes collaborative partnerships with Wayne County Department of Human Services, The Detroit Public Schools, TJ Adams Employment Service, Community Mental Health Services, National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Greater Detroit, R&R Domestic Services, Inc. (Domestic Violence), and the Family Place (child care services). The Well-Being Cluster will also include services traditionally offered by Homes for Black Children, e.g., life enrichment activities, individualized counseling, and parent education.

**For more information, contact:**

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