

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

Project Abstract/Summary

Grantee Name: Larimer County Department of Human Services
Grantee City and State: Fort Collins, CO
Grant Project Title: *No Place Like Home*

Summary of Grant Project

No Place Like Home is a 3-year project of national significance, running from October 2011 through September 2014. This grant was originally awarded to the American Humane Association and then transferred to Larimer County Department of Human Services effective July 1, 2012. The project strategically combines the assets of the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child abuse and Neglect, Casey Family Programs and three innovative child welfare agencies with mature family group decision making (FGDM) programs to test the effectiveness of FGDM in safely preventing children from entering or re-entering foster care when they are receiving in-home services. The project sites—Larimer County Department of Human Services, Colorado; South Dakota Department of Social Services; and Texas Department of Family and Protective Services—have over two decades of collective experience in delivering FGDM to children and families who come to the attention of child welfare.

No Place Like Home will address existing gaps in the FGDM knowledge base around children and families receiving in-home services through a comprehensive evaluation design of FGDM implementation, processes, and outcomes (all tied to costs). Key features of the outcome evaluation are a random control trial (RCT) in Texas, an intent-to-treat design with randomly assigned controls in South Dakota, and a propensity score matching design for Larimer County, Colorado. In other words, all three sites will feature rigorous longitudinal and experimental or quasi-experimental designs addressing FGDM process, outcomes and cost effectiveness. In addition, given the over-representation of Latinos, African Americans and American Indians that exist in this project's targeted geographic areas, this project can provide guidance and evidence about the effectiveness of FGDM in supporting culturally diverse populations.

Additional features of the *No Place Like Home* project include individualized advanced training, technical assistance and coaching of the sites' staff and community; peer networking; and a highly tactical and extensive dissemination component that will reach thousands. At the conclusion of the project, ground-breaking knowledge will be gleaned and shared so that it can be used to improve child welfare practices and policies at local, state, and national levels.

For more information, contact:

Heather Allan, MSW

Project Coordinator, *No Place Like Home*

303-864-5134

heather.allan@childrenscolorado.org