

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

Project Abstract/ Summary

Grantee Name: Ute Indian Tribe Social Services
Grantee City and State: Fort Duchesne, Utah
Grant Project Title: *Family Group Decision Making*

Summary of Grant Project

Previous needs assessments for the Ute Indian Tribe (UIT), located on the Uintah & Ouray Indian Reservation in Northeast Utah support the need for preventative and intervention efforts designed to strengthen families and child well-being. The program chosen for these preventative and intervention efforts is Family Group Decision Making (FGDM).

This program will serve Native American families of the UIT who have been referred to the Ute Indian Tribe Social Services (UITSS) because of possible child abuse or neglect. The FGDM project will provide services to 20 families per year for 3 years, for a total of 60 families.

The UITSS will utilize the nationally recognized and evidenced base FGDM Model developed by the American Humane Association (AHA) for this project. This model has been successfully implemented with other tribal populations.

The goals for this program are to: 1) Promote the safety, permanency and well being of Ute Tribal children and youth who may be at risk for child abuse or neglect and 2) Appropriately decrease the number of children and youth who enter or re-enter foster care, thereby reducing the time children and families are involved in the child welfare system.

Funding from this grant will be used to hire two FGDM Coordinators and pay for required training and evaluation. This program will be housed in the UITSS department under the direction of Program Director, Quanah Powaukee, Licensed Clinical Social Worker with the evaluation to be conducted by David Law, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Family, Consumer & Human Development at Utah State University.

Program partners for this project include the Utah Division of Child and Family Services Tribal Unit, Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement, Office of Juvenile Justice, Ute Indian Tribe Juvenile Court, Ute Indian Tribe Victims of Crime and Indian Health Services.

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