

2012 Family Connection Discretionary Grants:
Combination Family Finding/Family Group Decision Making

Project Abstract/Summary

Grantee Name: Catholic Family Center

Grantee City and State: Rochester, New York

Grant Project Title: *Kinship Navigator County Collaboration Demonstration Project*

Summary of Grant Project:

Goal: The Project will establish a sustainable unified system of kinship services for families with children eligible for TANF assistance and/or at risk of entering foster care. Led by Catholic Family Center's NYS Kinship Navigator (KN) program in collaboration with five county CW/TANF agencies and subcontracts with organizations that have expertise in kinship care, the Project targets five upstate NYS counties (Orange, Dutchess, Ulster, Broome, and Tioga), with a population of 1,104,519. **Strategy:** KN currently provides information, referral, and leadership of a kinship service network across New York. KN and its Project partners will implement: outreach including training/forums for caregivers and professionals; systematic referrals to the KN program from CW/TANF agencies; creation of pro bono legal assistance networks; educational forums for caregivers and professionals; creation of a "Kinship Corps" of trained caregivers; a web-based data collection system; and sustainable coalitions initiated by kinship summits and sustained by local stakeholders. Project partners are NYS-based organizations: Cornell Cooperative Extensions; Family Enrichment Network; Mobilization for Youth (MFY) Legal Services; National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights; and the Center for Human Services Research, School of Social Welfare, SUNY Albany. **Targeted Children:** TANF eligible and children who are "engaged" by the local CW agency, including children whose relatives who are contacted by Child Protective Services and assume care of children without initiation of a dependency proceedings, voluntary placements, and kinship guardianships. **Needs:** The Project addresses: access to TANF nonparent (child-only) grants, legal assistance, and specialized general services, including local kinship, health, mental health, and advocacy, and will show that a collaboration between the local CW/TANF agencies and a kinship navigator avoids foster care entry and improves outcomes for children. **Case Level Data Sharing:** CW/TANF agencies will share case level data for identified children at risk of entering foster care and/or TANF assistance eligible with the CHSR. **Outcomes:** Establishment of sustainable local networks, over 5,650 contacts with kinship families, 4,110 referrals to services, including kinship direct services, TANF nonparent grants, legal assistance, health and mental health services, and general services.

For more information, contact:

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