

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

**Project Abstract/ Summary**

**Grantee Name:** Oregon Department of Human Services

**Grantee City and State:** Salem, Oregon

**Grant Project Title:** *Connecting the Dots for Oregon Families*

**Summary of Grant Project**

This grant project will install the infrastructure, model clarity and workforce development supports needed to demonstrate the effectiveness of a combined Family-find/Family Group Decision-making model and bring it to full implementation and sustainability statewide. At the case level, the project will deliver family-find and family group decision-making for families early in their encounter with the State's Child Welfare agency in three distinct demographic niches in Oregon. Children and families will be served and outcomes improved. At the system level, a statewide task force will apply a nationally recognized and empirically supported model of implementation to identify and install sustainability supports in three domains: 1) workforce, 2) infrastructure, and 3) leadership.

The **Vision** of this program is that every child who comes to the attention of child welfare be connected, healed, and safe within the context of lifelong family and cultural ties.

The **Goal** of this program is to demonstrate the effectiveness of combined models of family-find and family group decision-making in three unique populations, while addressing infrastructure barriers and installing infrastructure supports for statewide implementation and sustainability.

The **Objectives** of this program are:

1. Empirically informed approach to systems change for full implementation and sustainability, to include statewide focus groups and national scans to identify leadership, infrastructure and workforce development strategies to help Oregon bring this model up to scale.
2. Implementation of combined models in 1) Lane County (medium sized); 2) Douglas County (rural); and 3) Multnomah County/focus on African American families (urban). Each county will have a local advisory committee to help position the model within community, court, and agency providers; and will convey barriers to state task force.
3. Research and Evaluation to inform practice locally and nationally. Research findings will be provided in feedback loops to decision makers, not held back until the end of the project.
4. Dissemination that makes a difference. Project findings and success stories shared with media, legislative allies, and field staff; also incorporated into training and coursework.
5. Project Management that reflects the values of family connections. Including statewide task force, with strong family voice and leadership; local collaborative advisory committees with family voice as well as provider and agency voice; and project managed by a child welfare training and research partnership that has a history of success.

**For more information, contact:**

Laurie Price, Project Coordinator  
503.945.6953

[Laurie.Price@state.or.us](mailto:Laurie.Price@state.or.us)

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/index.shtml>