

2012 Family Connection Discretionary Grants:  
Combination Family Finding/Family Group Decision Making  
**Project Abstract/Summary**

**Grantee Name:** Homes for Black Children  
**Grantee City and State:** Detroit, Michigan  
**Grant Project Title:** BUILDING KINSHIP BRIDGES

**Summary of Grant Project:**

Homes for Black Children, a nationally recognized leader and pioneer in African American adoption and child welfare, will implement a demonstration project to serve 100 families in the Metropolitan Detroit area, whose children are in, or at-risk of entering into the foster care system. The focus will be to address key issues related to Kinship programs, utilize best practice methods to strengthen and stabilize families who are in *informal or formal* kinship arrangements. The Project is designed to provide preventative and kinship navigation/mentoring services to families. Homes for Black Children acknowledges that safety, well-being and permanence are central to children being served through the child welfare system based on the statistical data within the Wayne County area. This proposed model will be achieved through a coordinated implementation of well being cluster/life enrichment services and resources, supportive-solution focused counseling services to families, kinship care, parenting enhancement program, licensure preparation and supportive services geared toward helping Kinship Caregivers to obtain financial resources and assistance in applying for benefits for their kin.

This coordinated system will be delivered through a two-pronged kinship navigator approach: (1) preventive services for children at risk of entering the child welfare system and (2) permanency services for children who are in the foster care system. The preventive services component will be delivered within the schools and the community. Permanency services will be provided by a team effort of a kinship licensing specialist, and kinship navigator/mentors to improve kinship care provider's capacity to provide permanency through a unique kinship licensure process.

A major collaborative between Homes for Black Children, the public school community, the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS), and other community-based organizations in the Metropolitan Detroit area will be forged to implement the goals and objectives of the coordinated model. The overall project goal is to expand successful permanency options by improving and strengthening 100 family connections, primarily African American, who are in foster care or at risk of foster care placement. This will be accomplished through a coordinated continuum of care which includes:

A Kinship Navigator Program preventive component will assist kinship caregivers in learning about, finding, and using TANF programs and services to meet both the needs of the children they are raising and their own needs. The Kinship Navigator permanency component will consist of providing Kinship Navigation for foster care relative placements to effectively achieve foster home licensure. This component will also promote effective partnerships between Homes for Black Children and the Department of Human Services to ensure kinship caregiver families' permanency outcomes are achieved.

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