

**Bureau Name:** Children's Bureau  **Grant Number:** 90CA1740  
**Target Population:** Married couples and their families  **Fiscal Year:** 2005

**GRANTEE INFORMATION:**

- **Name:** Rockford MELD  
- **Address:** 716 N. Church St.  
- **City/State/Zip Code:** Rockford, IL 61103  
- **Principal Contact Person:** Annette McLean  
- **Telephone Number:** 815-965-8336

**OTHER GRANT INFORMATION:**

- **Amount of Award:** $149,937.00  
- **Program Name:** Child Abuse and Neglect Discretionary Projects  
- **Project Period:** 9/30/2005-9/29/2009  
- **ACF Region:** 5  
- **Congressional District Served:** 16

**ABSTRACT:**

*Organization Description:* Rockford MELD was established in 1981, in response to a growing need to address the needs of young, unwed mothers in the city of Rockford. The start-up funding originated through a grant from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. In the year 2000, Rockford MELD's direction changed to include young dad’s, a key component in building strong families. The organization has developed a number of strong community partnerships since its inception.

*Use(s) of ACF Program Grant Funds:* The project will serve families in the city of Rockford, Illinois, an urban community of 150,115. The target population will consist of unmarried, cohabitating families in the community, with a special emphasis placed on African American and Hispanic families, which comprise 25 percent of all families in Rockford. Low-income, married couples will also be served. The program intervention goals will include: increasing public knowledge about the benefits of marriage, increasing the number of marriages before conception, increasing the well-being of children, reducing teen pregnancy rates and out-of-wedlock births in the community, and reducing the number of children placed in child protection and foster
care. The program objectives will be accomplished through three specific strategies, each with varying levels of intensity. The strategies are designed to target individuals and couples at their current readiness level, with the intent of educating the community about the benefits of healthy marriages and strong family relationships, as well as addressing issues that result in higher numbers of children in child protection and foster care, high teenage pregnancy rates, and higher numbers of single parent families. The preventative approach will also be employed, incorporating abstinence-based and marriage education programs into the current prevention programs that are coordinated at local high schools that specifically target adolescents.

**ACF CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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