**Bureau Name:** Children's Bureau  
**Grant Number:** 90CO1020  
**Target Population:** Adoptable children  
**Fiscal Year:** 2005

**GRANTEE INFORMATION:**
- **Name:** Bethany Christian Services  
- **Address:** 901 Easter Ave., NE  
- **City/State/Zip Code:** Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
- **Principal Contact Person:** Dona Abbott  
- **Telephone Number:** 616-224-7530

**OTHER GRANT INFORMATION:**
- **Amount of Award:** $300,000.00  
- **Program Name:** Adoption Opportunities  
- **Project Period:** 9/30/2005-9/30/2010  
- **ACF Region:** 5  
- **Congressional District Served:** 3

**ABSTRACT:**
- **Organization Description:** Bethany Christian Services is a Christian adoption and family services agency that has been providing services since 1944. Besides adoption services, they extend their care to people struggling with unplanned pregnancies, infertility, and a multitude of other challenges. With many locations throughout the nation and internationally, Bethany Christian Services assists more than 30,000 people each year.

- **Use(s) of ACF Program Grant Funds:** The overall goal of the Youth Permanence through Mediation ("It's Up to Me") Project is to increase the number of older youth in foster care who achieve permanence and strengthened connections with their extended families through open adoption relationships and youth empowerment strategies. The project objectives are to develop a "mediated family conferencing" to negotiate permanent placement options and open adoption relationships between family stakeholders and adolescent-aged youth, develop a "kinship mentoring component" between youth and one primary "healthy" family or kinship member who will empower older youth to maintain key connections and linkages to their extended family system by providing liaison, advocacy, and
modeling roles, implement strategic counseling (through Bethany’s PTSD treatment program) to resolve case-specific sources of emotional trauma or stress that inhibit older youth from restoring positive relationships & connections with their extended birth family system, develop curriculum-based educational modules that increase the capacity of permanent foster & adoptive families to participate in open adoption arrangements and increased connections between older youth and their extended family network and demonstrate the value of the project model by expanding project/service to other geographic regions and venues in Michigan and by implementing a strong evaluation component. Project outcomes will strengthen the capacity of the Michigan DHS to bring its child permanency indicators into compliance with the Federal Child and Family Service Review (CFSR). The project will begin in Grand Rapids, be replicated in Muskegon County, and then applied to the state's MARE system.

ACF CONTACT INFORMATION:

Federal Project Officer: Theresa Epps
Telephone Number: 202-401-5402
Email Address: theresa.epps@acf.hhs.gov

(To revise this search, go back to Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)