**Bureau Name:** Children’s Bureau  
**Grant Number:** 90CO1006  
**Target Population:** Adoptable children  
**Fiscal Year:** 2004

**GRANTEE INFORMATION:**

- **Name:** Adoption Resource of Wisconsin  
- **Address:** 6682 W. Greenfield Ave.  
- **City/State/Zip Code:** Milwaukee, WI 53210  
- **Principal Contact Person:** Colleen Ellingson  
- **Telephone Number:** 414-475-1246

**OTHER GRANT INFORMATION:**

- **Amount of Award:** $300,000.00  
- **Program Name:** Adoption Opportunities  
- **Project Period:** 9/30/2004-9/29/2009  
- **ACF Region:** 5  
- **Congressional District Served:** 4

**ABSTRACT:**

**Organization Description:** Adoption Resources of Wisconsin (ARW) began in 1984 to recruit permanent homes for children, specifically to support and sustain adoption. The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) contracts with ARW for many services, including state adoption exchange services, websites for birthparents, adoptive families and professionals, coordination to the Department for statewide training events and providing post adoption assistance regionally.

**Use(s) of ACF Program Grant Funds:** Adoptive kids who have come out of the public child welfare system are often described as “mad, sad and bad.” Yet caring families open their hearts and their homes to these youngsters. This project is an innovative approach to promoting child safety, stability and well being by strengthening the relationship between parents. It will demonstrate the potential to improve the stability of marriage in the adoptive family and minimize adoption disruption by strengthening every aspect: parents’ ability to relate to one another; the child's ability to relate to the parents; and the parents’ ability to relate to the child. This project implement and evaluates post adoption services utilizing four key components: (1)
marriage education using a curriculum based on the research of Dr. John Gottman and others; (2) forgiveness therapy curriculum to help parents teach their adopted children the meaning and power of forgiveness in overcoming the anger and associated behaviors that impact the family so negatively; (3) respite care and peer support to provide parents vitally needed time to focus on their relationship as well as build an informal network of parents with similar situations; (4) connection to the faith-based community to support them through the lifelong journey of adoption, including a curriculum specifically for churches. At the end of this five-year project, we will have tested the validity of this theory among a total of 130 participating families (260 parents and 520 to 800 children). Based on the outcomes, we will have refined the curriculum to maximize its effectiveness. This model can then be replicated to improve the success of adoptions from the public child welfare system across the country.

ACF CONTACT INFORMATION:

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