**Bureau Name:** Children's Bureau  
**Grant Number:** 90CO1009  
**Target Population:** Adoptable children  
**Fiscal Year:** 2004

**GRANTEE INFORMATION:**
- **Name:** National Indian Child Welfare Association  
- **Address:** 5100 SW Macadam Ave. Suite 300  
- **City/State/Zip Code:** Portland, OR 97239  
- **Principal Contact Person:** Terry Cross  
- **Telephone Number:** 503-222-4044

**OTHER GRANT INFORMATION:**
- **Amount of Award:** $400,000.00  
- **Program Name:** Adoption Opportunities  
- **Project Period:** 9/30/2004-9/29/2008  
- **ACF Region:** 10  
- **Congressional District Served:** 1  
- **Related Links:**

**ABSTRACT:**

**Organization Description:** The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) is a private, non-profit organization. NICWA is the only national Indian organization that is focused on adoption, child abuse and other issues that impact Indian children and families. NICWA is a membership organization with a 22-member all Indian board of directors. The board collectively has experience in tribal governments, mental health, tribal court systems, Head Start, education, tribal social services, state and federal agency administration, and private non-profit social services. NICWA defines its primary constituency as tribal governments and Urban Indian social service programs that serve Indian children and families.

**Use(s) of ACF Program Grant Funds:** NICWA proposes a comprehensive project, "Reclaiming Customary Adoption," to expand and improve adoption services provided by at least 20 rural reservation-based American Indian tribes by helping those tribes reclaim adoption as a culturally relevant practice. "A customary adoption is a practice, ceremony, or process conducted in a manner which is long-established, continued, reasonable, and certain; considered by the people..."
of a tribe to be binding or found by the tribal court to be authentic, which gives a child a legally recognized permanent parent-child relationship with a person other than the child's biological parent without termination of parental rights (TPR). Under this project, NICWA will provide training and technical assistance on developing customary adoption codes, practices, and processes. Participating tribes will develop and provide adoption services including customary adoption. The project will result in increased adoptive placements in rural tribal communities. This project will address challenges and barriers that inhibit rural Indian tribes from providing adoption services and Indian families from becoming adoptive resource families. Project activities will be specifically designed to mitigate cultural rejection of TPR. It will bring together the strengths of a national Indian organization and the services of participating tribes in a culturally based model that will reduce the length of time Indian children wait for adoption, increase the number of situations in which adoption is the permanency planning outcome, and bring tribal adoption laws and procedures into alignment with tribal values and custom. This project will begin with five tribes and expand to 20 by its conclusion. NICWA and its partner tribes will provide measurable results that are replicable and support existing federal policies regarding safety, permanency, and well being, including the Adoption and Safe Families Act and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

ACF CONTACT INFORMATION:

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