Step 6: View Abstracts

Bureau Name: Children's Bureau  
Grant Number: 90CO1011  
Target Population: Adoptable children  
Fiscal Year: 2004

GRANTEE INFORMATION:

Name: Adoption Network Cleveland  
Address: 1667 East 40th St.  
Suite B-1  
City/State/Zip Code: Cleveland, OH 44103  
Principal Contact Person: Tami Lorkovich  
Telephone Number: 216-881-7511

OTHER GRANT INFORMATION:

Amount of Award: $400,000.00  
Program Name: Adoption Opportunities  
ACF Region: 5  
Congressional District Served: 11  
Related Links:

ABSTRACT:

Organization Description: The Adoption Network Cleveland (ANC) is a not-for-profit organization proposing to increase adoption among older children in Cuyahoga County (Greater Cleveland, Ohio) and to change the child welfare system to prevent teens from "aging out" without permanent connections. ANC is a unique organization that provides information, support, education and advocacy for all three members of the adoption triad. Over the past 16 years, ANC has provided programs and services such as an Adoption Helpline, supportive group meetings, parenting and pre-parenting workshops, professional trainings, search assistance, a newsletter, pre- and post- adoption educational opportunities, a lending library, advocacy, and a speaker's bureau.

Use(s) of ACF Program Grant Funds: Through Project CONNECT, Adoption Network Cleveland (ANC), in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (CCD8FS), will work with 12 private adoption agencies as well as One Church One Child, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Better Together [formerly the Marriage Coalition] to achieve the following outcomes for at least 200 of
the 356 youth - most of them African American - ages 13-17 currently in public custody who lack identified adoptive families: (1) adoption, (2) increased stability of adoptive placements, and (3) matching with a permanency champion, whom we will identify, recruit and support. Two of the concepts at the heart of Project CONNECT are: (1) the use of child-centered recruitment techniques which emphasize the resiliency of youth and a positive youth development approach and (2) the creation of a new role, permanency champion, a responsible adult - someone the teen already knows - who mentors, advocates, and provides active, on-going support for the teen. The project will also increase practitioners' knowledge and ability to achieve permanency for adolescents in public custody, promote responsible fatherhood and the recruitment of male permanency champions, and promote better couple/family relationships for adoptive families. Project CONNECT brings together several strategies in a comprehensive program to provide permanency for a significant number of youth. Project CONNECT will provide a model which can be replicated or adapted for children in public custody in any city in America.

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