Step 6: View Abstracts

**Bureau Name:** Children's Bureau  
**Grant Number:** 90CO0983  
**Target Population:** Adoptable children

**GRANT INFORMATION:**
- **Name of Grantee:** New Jersey Department of Human Services  
- **Fiscal Year:** 2003  
- **Amount of Award:** $350,000.00  
- **Program Name:** Adoption Opportunities Program  
- **Project Period:** 09/30/2003-09/29/2008  
- **ACF Region:** 2  
- **Congressional District Served:** 4  
- **Related Links:**

**ABSTRACT:**
The New Jersey Department of Human Services seeks to increase adoptions for foster children by demonstrating that high quality retention services are essential to permanent placements. The Lean on Me - Partners in Adoption project recognizes that older-child adoption is the "road less traveled" for most prospective parents. Companionship, support, and guidance offered by a caring adoption community are needed to ease the family transition and increase adoptions for waiting children. Through a public/private partnership in which the Office of Adoption Operations collaborates with Catholic Charities, the project seeks to double the rate of approved adoptive families referred to the Adoption Exchange. Collaboration with Robin's Nest—an innovative family-service organization—is showing that early service provision increases finalizations and stops the cycle of disruptions so common in foster care. The agencies are developing a community model of family recruitment and retention at the grassroots level based on existing research and client need. An evaluation is examining which program elements are most effective, which will be published, with recommendations on recruitment programs for adoptive families. Two significant benefits are expected: An increase in legal finalizations; and a significant increase in approved adoptive families for New Jersey children in need of adoption.

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