**Bureau Name:** Children's Bureau
**Grant Number:** 90CO0987
**Target Population:** Adoptable children

**GRANT INFORMATION:**
- **Name of Grantee:** Massachusetts Department of Social 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:** 1
- **Congressional District Served:** 10
- **Related Links:**

**ABSTRACT:**
The Massachusetts Department of Social Services, working in partnership with Massachusetts Families for Kids, takes a systemic approach to finding adoptive and lifelong family connections for 125 youth in foster care. The model focuses on the older child and youth population to help ensure permanence for those who have been in placement the longest, and for whom the system is least likely to view as a priority. The model brings together seven innovative, youth-centered, family-focused strategies aimed at achieving success with older children and youth: Community of Care Review, Family Consultation Team (FCT), Specialized Youth Preparation, Specialized Parent Preparation, Youth Mentors, and Child-Specific Recruitment Strategies. These strategies have never been used together in a coordinated program focused on permanency for older children and youth, which provides a unique evaluation opportunity for permanency outcomes and to see the impact of a coordinated strategy. The project will work to institutionalize this approach as "best practice" with all older children and youth in foster care and will contribute many casework tools for dissemination. The project will contribute new options for achieving adoptive and lifelong family ties and will make new casework methods available for a population that has long been outside the mainstream of permanency planning efforts.

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(To revise this search, go back to Steps 1-6.)