**Bureau Name:** Children's Bureau  
**Grant Number:** 90CO0989  
**Target Population:** Adoptable children

**GRANT INFORMATION:**

- **Name of Grantee:** State of Connecticut Department of Children & Families  
- **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:** 1

**ABSTRACT:**

The Connecticut State Department of Children and Families (DCF) is implementing the Helping to Achieve Permanent Placements for Youth (HAPPY) Program in collaboration with the Village for Families & Children, Inc. and Hartford's Foster Care and Adoption Collaborative (FCAC), a highly successful faith-based recruitment/retention project. The goal is to achieve adoptive placements or subsidized guardianships for 40 children per year in foster care in the Hartford Region of Connecticut. Children referred to the program fall into three categories: 1) children just entering foster care, 2) children residing in kin foster care for several months, and 3) children in non-kin foster placements for whom searches for kin resource families have been unsuccessful. The project is training and licensing 30 adoptive families annually to maintain stable, safe, and healthy permanent placements. The initiative includes a new and intensive effort to locate and support kin to serve as permanent families. Kin, foster parent, and child involvement in decision-making is considered key and is supported during assessment, preparation, and planning meetings (referred to as family conferences). Investigative activities are undertaken as soon as the child is placed in foster care. Once families are identified, support services help eliminate barriers to permanency, including employment and housing issues, marital stresses, substance abuse, and mental and physical health problems.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

- **Principal Contact Person:** Michael Williams  
- **Address of Grantee:** 250 Hamilton St, Hartford, CT 06106  
- **Telephone of Grantee:** 860-550-6633  
- **Federal Project Officer:** Theresa Epps  
- **Telephone of Federal Project Officer:** 202-205-9880