Bureau Name: Children's Bureau
Grant Number: 90CO0994
Target Population: Adoptable children

GRANT INFORMATION:
Name of Grantee: Virginia Department of Social Services
Fiscal Year: 2003
Amount of Award: $400,000.00
Program Name: Adoption Opportunities Program
Project Period: 09/30/2003-09/29/2008
ACF Region: 3
Congressional District Served: 3
Related Links:

ABSTRACT:
To achieve permanent homes for children in Virginia's foster care system, under the Rural Adoptive Family Initiative (RAFI), resource families from rural areas are being aggressively recruited, trained, and supported. The service model includes a collaborative effort among the Virginia Department of Social Services, the Virginia One Church One Child Program, which is dedicated to recruiting African American families, and the Center for Adoption Support and Education, which is an independent post-adoption services agency. Demographic and census information about rural communities allows the project to conduct effective recruitment that focuses on the types of children available from the child welfare system. Professional marketing strategies ensure recruitment efforts targeted toward the appropriate populations. Families receive effective training to be prepared for the special needs of the children. Training is provided through CRAFFT, Virginia's current training system for resource families. Local social services workers also receive technical assistance in making matches and providing post-placement services. RAFI is hiring, training, and supervising mental health therapists in identified rural areas, providing training for school personnel on adoption-related issues, and training resource family and mental health professionals in educational advocacy.

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