Bureau Name: Children's Bureau  
Grant Number: 90CW1128

Target Population: At-risk children and families

GRANT INFORMATION:

Name of Grantee: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Fiscal Year: 2003
Amount of Award: $199,033.00
Program Name: Promoting Safe & Stable Families
Project Period: 10/01/2003-09/30/2006
ACF Region: 10
Congressional District Served: 3
Related Links:

ABSTRACT:

The Washington State Dept. of Social & Health Services oversees the Family Reunification and Stabilization Services provided as part of either intensive or less-intensive programs of family preservation. This evaluation will develop a comprehensive picture of referral to Family Reunification and Stabilization Services; the programs' clients; and their needs, services, outcomes, and potentials for improvement of Family Reunification and Stabilization Services. This will be done both descriptively and with predictive modeling to identify family and case characteristics and service elements associated with success or failure of reunification, over four years of services. We will use extensive information collected in the course of pre-existing initiatives, along with administrative data and interviews with social workers and therapists, to compare families who are and are not referred to the Family Reunification and Stabilization Services (and subgroups with different outcomes), and the Family Reunification and Stabilization Services' families with children in placement for relatively short or long periods of time. We will evaluate the effectiveness of the Family Reunification and Stabilization Services, identify the conditions of successful reunifications, describe linkages between client needs and the mix of services provided, examine mechanisms of effectiveness in terms of family functioning, and make recommendations for improvements to Family Reunification and Stabilization Services and supporting public child welfare services. We expect as a result of this evaluation to provide important new insights into the workings of family reunification programs and to inform the development of more effective approaches to reunification services both in Washington and nationwide.

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