Bureau Name: Children's Bureau
Grant Number: 90CY0096
Target Population: Child welfare professionals

GRANT INFORMATION:
Name of Grantee: Michigan State University
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Related Links:

ABSTRACT:
The Michigan State University School of Social Work will create a Masters of Social Work (MSW) traineeship program to educate and recruit eight MSW students yearly for careers in public child welfare. Building on core graduate courses with relevance for child welfare, trainees will enroll in a child welfare specialization designed to address child welfare worker competencies. This specialization will include a focused child welfare practice course, a child advocacy seminar with family law students, and select electives. This academic content and field work will especially address three challenges for public child welfare: (1) the legal knowledge and court skills required for child welfare practice; (2) the cultural knowledge and competency required for effective practice; and (3) knowledge and skills to address the health and mental health of children and families. All trainees will have a child welfare field placement with a field instructor, dedicated field liaison conducting field seminars, and academic advisor. A workshop series targeting child welfare challenges will be developed to wrap around the classroom and field education experiences. Special features of this traineeship include: (1) a focus on interdisciplinary perspectives through the seminar with law students and forums with medical students preparing for pediatric and primary care; (2) a series of conversations with alumni of the child welfare system so that the trainee educational experience is informed by former children and youth from the child welfare system; and (3) a dedicated virtual community will be created for trainees (and graduates) to enrich their educational experience and provide post-graduate support, strengthen networking and mentoring, provide ongoing feedback to the School, and assist with evaluation and career planning.

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