

Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE)  
Programs to Strengthen Marriages and Families:

**HEALTHY MARRIAGES & HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS: THE  
GRAND RAPIDS CHILD SUPPORT DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this demonstration is threefold: first, to increase child support outcomes (e.g., paternity establishment, child support orders and payment of child support); second, to change community attitudes to be more supportive of healthy marriages; and finally, to provide marriage-skills training to couples expecting children.

This project focuses on low income populations in the Grand Rapids, MI, area. Recruitment, carried out by 10 faith- and community-based organizations, stresses the importance of establishing paternity while making use of the in-hospital paternity process. It also provides child support information for families taking marriage courses. Major focuses include marriage preparation and marriage mentoring by faith- and community-based groups, and the courts.

**GRANT RECIPIENT:** Michigan Family Independence Agency

**PROJECT PERIOD:** June 2003 – June 2008

**PROJECT FUNDING:**

Federal: \$990,000  
Private: 510,000  
Total 1,500,000