

# ADOPTION SUPPORT & PRESERVATION SERVICES

*A Continuing Public Interest*



**NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER**  
*for Adoption*

— A Service of the Children's Bureau & —  
Member of the Training & Technical Assistance Network  
at Spaulding for Children



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A Service of the Children's Bureau & Member of the TTA Network

Published March 1996, Revised February 2004, May 2005, March 2011, and June 2012  
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The National Resource Center for Adoption is operated by Spaulding for Children and is made possible by grant number 90CZ0019 from the Children's Bureau. The contents of this book are solely the responsibility of Spaulding for Children and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Children's Bureau, ACYF, ACF, or HHS. The Children's Bureau funds this National Resource Center for Adoption as part of a network of National Resource Centers established by the Children's Bureau.



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# A Tribute to the National Consortium for Post Legal Adoption Services

**T**he National Consortium for Post Legal Adoption Services spent nearly three years listening to families, talking with service providers, and reviewing state pilot projects to distill from them the best ways to preserve and support families that are created through adoption. Many of the dollars spent on adoption support and preservation services fund long-term residential treatment services for adoptive children. In some states, families had to dissolve their adoptions before residential treatment services could be accessed for their children.

The National Consortium believed that many of these children would require less intrusive intervention and that the adoptive families would not seek adoption dissolution if an adequate safety net of therapeutic, supportive, and financial support services could be woven together. Such a system involves an array of family centered services available whenever problems arise, not just when a crisis threatens to tear apart the adoptive family.

On behalf of the adoptive family, the National Consortium was pleased to provide this information to the field.

# Introduction

*"I used to be naive. I thought I could take children who had been seriously hurt and give them unlimited love and fix them. I've learned that we can't fix them. All we can do is give them love and support and fight for them to get the services they need. We can't protect them from what's already happened to them."*

— *Adoptive Mother*

**A**doption is not just a legal act or a time-limited social process. It creates a unique family experience and has a lifelong impact on all whose lives are touched by it. Adoptive families and adopted children face issues that other families do not face.

These core issues are based on the fact that forming a family through adoption is different than forming a family biologically. Preparation for the arrival of a child, social support, rituals and celebrations are often different for adoptions than for births. Adopted children also arrive with a past and with ties to another family. Differences are highlighted by the following issues, all of which will be part of an adoptive family's life:

## **Mastery or Control**

Most people strive to gain a sense of mastery or control over their environment. These efforts are often challenged during the adoption process. Adoptive families are "studied" before they

are "approved" for a child, and their innermost hopes and dreams are made known to others. Agencies and courts maintain responsibility for a child for a specified period of time, and as a result, the family's ability to control its own destiny is challenged.

## **Entitlement**

Adoptive parents and adopted children struggle with entitlement—whether they have a "right" to one another. The legal entitlement is granted with the court decree of adoption. Emotional entitlement, however, is much more complex and develops slowly over time.

## **Claiming**

Claiming is the process by which the adoptive parents come to accept the adopted child as their own and as a full-fledged member of their family. Older children who have memories of earlier families also must come to accept the adopted family as their own.





### Unmatched Expectations

Often times, adopted children and the families adopting them have different expectations for the new relationship. Clarifying and perhaps changing expectations may be crucial to family stability.

### Family Integration

Adopted children bring with them biological family ties and their ways of functioning in other families. Adopting families also have had their own way of functioning prior to placement of the children they adopt. Blending these styles into a new way of functioning can be an extremely complex task.

### Separation, Loss & Grief

These very powerful emotions are experienced by all persons touched by adoption. In addition to physical separations, there are emotional losses and grief resulting from these issues that will impact individuals throughout life.

### Attachment

Attachments with others are based on human interaction. These attachments are formed through experiences in early childhood, which determine the ways in which an individual will view the world. Attachments in adoptive families are unique because they require integrating the children's past histories, experiences, and bond with their birth families into new trusting relationships.

### Identity Formation

A sense of personal identity is formed, both consciously and unconsciously, through experiences, interaction with and exposure to other

people and by making decisions concerning who and what one will be. Being born to people who did not rear them and being reared by people who did not give birth to them, present a unique developmental challenge to people who are adopted. Adoptive parents also may struggle with their identity not only as a family, but also an adoptive family.

These issues emerge and reemerge as the family and adopted child go through life and may be compounded when children who have been adopted also have experienced the trauma of abuse, neglect and living in multiple settings. Historically, adoptive families have been expected to "go it alone" and many cannot access services needed to meet the challenges they face. Most communities do not offer comprehensive services geared to the unique needs of adoptive families.

Recent years have brought a cascade of changes in adoption, including the redefinition of "adoptable child." Agencies have become increasingly sophisticated about finding families that will adopt children with a multiplicity of needs. Unfortunately, policy makers and community leaders continue to be unaware of the urgent need to support and preserve these adoptive families after they are formed.

Adoptive placement, once viewed as an ending, is now viewed as a beginning. Adoption professionals and others now recognize that adoptive families need a variety of services long after the adoption is finalized. Adoption support and preservation services must be available for all adoptive families who need them, regardless of the age or special needs of the child when adopted.

## Adoption Support & Preservation Services Defined

Adoption support and preservation services can be described as the array of services provided to families designed to support and preserve the family unit and maximize the child's potential and integration into the family. Such services are family centered, recognize underlying adoption issues which may affect the child and family, build on the family's strengths and empower parents to make decisions about the best interest of their child and family.

These services are detailed and illustrated by The National Consortium for Post Legal Adoption Services Adoption Support and Preservation Concept Map on page 14.

# Guiding Principles of Adoption Support & Preservation

*"Our whole family had become dysfunctional. Our marriage was coming apart. We did not know how to cope with our daughter. No one had ever told us about any of what she was going through. We had this fantasy that adoption was the same as forming a family biologically. We were not prepared to help our children, especially our daughter, with the grieving process, the guilt, the anger."*  
— Adoptive Parent

**T**here are four guiding principles which underpin a competent adoption support and preservation service system. These principles recognize the impact of adoption on families and serve to facilitate an appropriate interdisciplinary response to the ongoing needs of the adoptive family:

## **1 Families created by adoption are different from families created by birth.**

Adoption creates special circumstances which families, professionals and society need to validate and address for the healthy development of the adoptive family.

## **2 Adoption is a lifelong experience.**

As a lifelong experience, adoption presents unique opportunities and challenges for families and communities based on the history of the child, the developmental stages of the child and family, the supportive community network available to the family; and the adoption issues which affect integration of the child into the family.

## **3 Adoption is beneficial to parent, child and society.**

Adoption provides positive rewards for the child, the family, the family's community, and society in general. The child is helped by becoming

part of a stable, nurturing relationship within an adoptive family which allows the child to grieve past losses and build new attachments. The adoptive family benefits from the growth they experience in nurturing a child who otherwise may not have had a permanent, stable family. The community is enhanced by building strong, self-sufficient families, rather than expending resources to maintain children in public service systems such as juvenile justice and child welfare. Society at large benefits from adoption, the connecting of parents with children, and the consequent social and economic contributions of both.

## **4 Society is responsible for providing support and preservation services to the adoptive family.**

Society sanctions adoption through its concern for children, its policies and laws; therefore, society must actively support the adoptive family and provide a service network which takes into account the effects of adoption on the child and family. Society has a special obligation to families who have adopted children who were formerly in foster care and experienced abuse and neglect. Because of their multiple emotional needs, families who adopt these children need greater support than other families.

## System of Service Delivery

*"The constant struggle with a system that does not pay care providers in a timely manner causes further damage to the integrity of the adoptive family. When we know our provider is not being paid or are asked to leave a service facility for lack of payment, parents lose self-esteem."*

*— Adoptive Parent*

**A**n adoptive family may need support and assistance from a variety of programs and service systems. A network of parents, adoptees, and professionals from various service systems and agencies, both public and private, need to work together to ensure that such a system of service is available and easily accessible.

The adoptive family, adopted children, adult adoptees, and birth parents are the experts

about the system of care and support they need. Working in partnership, mental health and child welfare professionals, as well as school and court personnel need to play a major role in developing the array of services that are coordinated and allow individuals and families to access services from all agencies, systems, and funding sources.





# Adoption Support & Preservation Services

*"One of our older children had to be hospitalized and the hospital was very happy to say we'll put him in a long-term residential placement after the hospital. And the course of treatment was going to be about two and a half years which meant that they would take him until adulthood. So they really disempowered us."*

*— Adoptive Father*

**R**ather than a single approach to helping families involved in adoption, adoption support and preservation services must rely on the coordinated delivery of an array of services as determined by the family in conjunction with supportive helpers. As such, the services which may be needed vary greatly in terms of number, intensity, expense, and type. For this reason it is essential that a local network oversee the establishment of the entire array. The following services are illustrated on the concept map:

## Advocacy

Experience tells us that true systems change is spearheaded by the efforts of consumers whose needs are not being met. Adoptive families have expressed concern for quite some time about the helping professionals lack of awareness of adoption issues. Their advocacy efforts resulted in the development of post adoption resources in some areas of the country.

Advocacy needs to continue until all adoptive families can choose service providers who are knowledgeable about adoption issues. This can be done most effectively by developing partnerships between members of the adoption triad, (adopted persons, adoptive parents and birth parents) and the professional community. Results

can be measured by the increased awareness and competency of the professional community about adoption issues and the increased abilities of individual families to access resources and supports to keep their families together.

Another area of adoption-related advocacy is health care reform. Advocates are asking for treatment to be provided for pre-existing conditions of adopted children. Particular focus is being placed on mental health counseling to work through grief and loss issues.

## Family Education

On-going education provides the opportunity for adoptive families to understand how the addition of a child through adoption affects the relationships and balance within their own families and how their experiences differ from those of birth families.

Information about the developmental stages of the adoptive family and identification of typical crisis points for all members of the adoptive family are essential parts of this education. This information can be taught by professionals or shared among families who have common experiences.

## Information and Referral

It is important that adoptive families have information about available adoption resources when they identify a question or need. Prompt referral and easy access to an appropriate resource can prevent escalation of problems that lead to crisis. Maintaining a reference of up-to-date information about adoption resources and supports available in the community is the key component in this service. A means of identifying and evaluating adoption competent service providers must also be developed.

## Financial Supports

Financial support, as a service, refers to money made available to families who adopt children from the child welfare system. Eligibility requirements, as well as criteria for how funds are to be spent, vary greatly. There continues to be debate about families' eligibility for financial support.

Financial support may cover the cost of legal fees related to the adoption process; medical care for adopted children who are not covered

by existing family insurance; some day-to-day expenses of families; and expenses associated with the special needs of the child. State and federal subsidies are generally available to families adopting children who have come out of the foster care system.

All financial assistance systems available to families and individuals must be responsive to the needs of adoptive families. Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Insurance, special education, Head Start and public assistance programs for families need to train staff to assess and intervene with adoptive families.

## Family Support

Adoptive families are likely to need resources and supports to help them cope with the changes that result from adding a new and often challenging member to their family. Respite care, on a planned and/or emergency basis, is extremely helpful and has been shown to be effective in averting crisis by reducing the build up of stress in adoptive families.

Parents who are members of adoptive family support groups report that the experience of sharing with and learning from the similar situations of other adoptive parents is often more helpful than other, more intensive types of services.

## Community Support

Informal community supports help maintain and strengthen the adoptive family and may lessen the need for more formal or intrusive intervention. When a family does seek outside help, they first look for resources within the community that are familiar to them. Many community institutions, agencies and associations such as, churches, schools, recreation centers, neighborhood organizations and parent groups, have the potential to offer support and assistance to the adoptive family. Their effectiveness, however, hinges on their understanding of the unique needs of adoptive families. It is critical to involve the local community in all efforts to increase sensitivity to adoption-related issues so that they can successfully respond to an adoptive family's needs.



## Psycho-Social

A cross-system approach to social and emotional support services which is focused on keeping families together is the essence of adoption support and preservation services. In keeping with practice standards, treatment must be offered in the least restrictive environment. In many communities, an array of services are available, which range from outpatient, group counseling, intensive day treatment programs to locked inpatient treatment. Adoptive families who find themselves in need of intensive treatment for their child are often only aware of residential treatment as an option. There are also a number of other options for out of home placement, including bridge families, therapeutic foster care, therapeutic respite care, camps and therapeutic day care which can offer relief to the family while addressing the issues unique to adoption.

Awareness of adoption-related issues by psycho-social service providers is particularly important, because efforts must focus on the entire family and build attachments between family members in order to be successful. They must also address the underlying emotional issues of the “acting out behaviors” of the adopted child in order to facilitate change. With these outcomes in mind, home based treatment is often more effective than office based intervention.

## Reunion and Past History Inquiries

Information about one’s past is part of the knowledge base that defines a person’s present and future. Some past information, like medical history, may be essential to a person’s life. Inquiries for such information from adult adoptees, some of whom are 70 years old or more, reinforce the fact that the effect of adoption is lifelong. Over the years, adult adoptees have demanded greater access to their past through information in their adoption records. More recently, birth parents and birth siblings have begun voicing the need for greater access to information about the adopted individual. Adoptive parents also request information from records either for medical providers or so they can work with service providers to help their child resolve past life experiences.

Many states have changed their laws to allow access to non-identifying information in adoption records and to provide central registries or search intermediaries to facilitate reunions between birth parents and their adopted offspring. Assistance from someone familiar with the unique nature of adoption is essential to all members of the adoption triad, especially during such search experiences when emotional stress and excitement is intense.

## Mediation and Problem Solving

The deep and powerful emotions that accompany adoption lend themselves to the possibility of conflicts among the involved parties, which most commonly include members of the adoption triad. Mediation and problem solving is helpful when conflicts arise at any point in the life cycle of the members of the triad. Instances where mediation is helpful may be those associated with ongoing relationships between the birth family and the adoptive family through an open adoption arrangement. Helping families to reach amicable solutions to problems such as, the type and degree of contact is one way that mediation and problem solving is utilized. In addition, issues related to adoption search lend themselves well to the use of this service such as, the provision of a neutral party to act as an intermediary between the adoptee and the birth parent. Along the same vein is the mediation of visitation between brothers and sisters by birth who have been placed in different adoptive families. Keeping those very vital sibling relationships intact is often difficult for non-related adoptive families to accomplish on their own. Finally, mediation is used when the adoptive family is considering the dissolution of the adoption and relationships with other helping professionals have broken down.

## Service Coordination

Service coordination allows families access to needed services and resources which may otherwise be difficult for them to find. This includes resources not otherwise linked through formal organizational structures or funding sources. When this service is needed, it is essential that one primary service coordinator be identified who will access all services needed, on behalf of the family, regardless of system or agency boundaries.

# Characteristics of Adoption Support & Preservation Services

*"It saved our family from totally splitting up. I had gone everywhere I could think of for help. No one had proper help for us—until the adoption support services."*

*— Adoptive Parent*

**S**pecific characteristics distinguish a model of adoption support and preservation services. These characteristics provide the framework within which adoption preservation and support services will be provided:

## **Family Centered**

Adoption support and preservation services are generally accessed by the adoptive family on a voluntary basis. In this model, all services provided are offered with the adoptive parents as partners in the process. It is important that adoptive parents be the decision makers for their child because they have the day-to-day responsibility for and the lifetime commitment to the child. Research indicates that the most effective services are those which are offered within the context of the adoptive family, with interventions designed to help the family deal with the specific needs of the adopted child.

## **Strength Focused & Normalizing**

Services that recognize and build on the strengths of the adoptive family and its members, while normalizing the adoption experience, help families to face any new challenges with greater understanding and strength.

## **Directed by the Family**

It is essential that the adoptive family direct the services they require and be fully involved

in all decisions about their child. Families often receive primary support from other adoptive families or parents. These community links are less intrusive than professional intervention and parents often report them to be more helpful.

## **Community Based**

Community based adoption support and preservation services that are easily accessible to the adoptive family through a variety of systems within the community, assure that services are used by all types of adoptive families. Community based services are also more likely to offer interventions which keep the adopted child within the family.

## **Multi-Disciplined**

The adoptive family may have a variety of service needs which can span a number of systems and require a multi-disciplinary approach to intervention. No one-service system is likely to be able to provide for the complex needs of some adoptive families. This model specifies collaboration among service systems through a local, cross-system network which provides an array of family support services. The network would also determine a process for identifying a single services coordinator for a family in order to maximize the resources available and facilitate access to resources.

### **Adoption Sensitive & Competent**

Services are most effective when made available by providers who understand the differences that are inherent in families created through adoption and how these differences may impact the adoptive family throughout their life span. Providers who have received training in adoption issues and have gained a degree of competence regarding the unique needs of the adoptive family are more likely to be seen as credible resources by the adoptive families they are serving.

### **Culturally Sensitive & Competent**

Adoption support and preservation services providers must be aware of cultural factors rel-

evant to the families needing services. Adoption poses many unique issues which have to do with race and ethnicity. Families who have adopted children cross-racially or cross-culturally have special challenges integrating the child into the family and may need assistance in helping their child cope with racism in society. Practitioners working with families of color who have adopted children of like culture, ethnicity and race, need to be sensitive to the role of culture, ethnicity and race in family dynamics. Working with families who are not of the same race or culture as the practitioner requires additional skills on the part of those offering adoption support and preservation services.





# Outcomes

*“We have all grown to understand adoption and ourselves better. We’ve learned it’s okay that we can’t always take away our children’s pain—but we can help them cope with it. We have become more open with our inner thoughts. We’ve learned to share as a family—to be supportive.” — Adoptive Parents after receiving adoption support and preservation services*

**A**t least six major outcomes are associated with a successful adoption support and preservation system. They may be described as follows:

## 1 Strengthened Family Integration

A primary outcome of adoption support and preservation services is to assure that adoptive families stay together as a integrated family system that has incorporated their children’s histories, needs and behaviors.

## 2 Strengthened Attachment

Attachment issues for adoptive children and their families vary greatly, depending on the developmental history of each member, and how they view the world. Successful adoption support and preservation services build upon a child’s former attachments to birth parents, siblings

and other significant individuals that serve to strengthen the child’s attachment to the adoptive family.

## 3 Strengthened Family Functioning

A measure of family functioning is its ability to manage and to solve problems without outside assistance. Strengthened family functioning is enhanced when the family controls the type, extent and location of services provided.

## 4 Strengthened Parental Entitlement & Claiming

Adoption support and preservation services maximize the extent to which the family makes the child its own and develops a permanent family identity that includes all adopted children equally in family life.

## 5 Strengthened Identity Formation of Family Members

Successful adoption support and preservation services enhances the identity development of each of the family members within the context of the new relationships created by adoption.

## 6 Strengthened Community Networks

Adoption support and preservation services maximize the extent to which families can access readily available and coordinated community based services which reflect the cultures of the families being served.



# Resource Issues Implementing Adoption Support & Preservation Services

To ensure that an array of services is developed into an effective, coordinated delivery system, there are several major considerations that must be addressed at the state and local level related to public and private resources. Solutions to these issues are complex and will require joint leadership from both the public and private sectors. The primary issues regarding resources are funding, training, staffing and automation:

## Funding

Without adequate funding, even the best designed system will fail. Unfortunately, a discrete funding source for adoptive family support and preservation services does not currently exist. There are, however, a variety of funding sources that can be used in developing an effective system. Various federal resources, which have included Title IV-E, Title IV-B (Part 1), Title IV-B (Part 2) of the Social Security Act, Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Testing, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Title XIX, Title XX, and Adoption Incentive Funds. Some states have state and local funds allocated for family preservation and support services that can be used to assist the adoptive family. A cross-agency team at the state level, made up of adoptive family members and representatives from all agencies serving these families, would be a good place to begin to coordinate and identify what is currently available. Advocacy for state funding of adoption support and preservation must be ongoing.

## Training

Training is essential when building a competent system of adoption support and preservation services. Training of members across various service systems enhances frank dialogue about



differences and helps to eliminate barriers to cross-system collaboration. Therefore, it is important to have the training process fully encompass members of the cross-system network and allow opportunities to discuss collaborative efforts.

The outcome of training is to empower the participants to enhance and improve adoption support and preservation services within their agencies and organizations. The best training models require active participation, integration, and investment on the part of the participants.

All training curricula designed to enhance skills in the provision of services need to incorporate the following concepts:

- Services are built upon the knowledge and appreciation of the differences and unique issues adoption brings to family life.
- Services are focused on supporting and preserving the adoptive family.
- Services are culturally competent, provided in a non-deficit approach which builds upon the strengths of the adoptive family.
- Services are based upon educating, supporting and modeling for parents and facilitating access to resources.
- Services are based on a multi-system collaborative approach.

### Designated and Trained Staff

There are two staffing issues which are highly relevant to quality adoption support and preservation services.

The first issue addresses the availability of staff to help families when they are experiencing problems or are in crisis. While true specialization is recommended, when this is not possible due to limited resources, it is important to at least designate which staff (or which unit) will carry primary responsibilities for adoption support and preservation services. Ideally, the work load of this staff or unit will be controlled and given sufficient flexibility and authority to react promptly to parents' request for help and support.

The second issue addresses the need to assure that staff are competent to provide adoption support and preservation services. Successful staff must possess knowledge about community services, adoptive family dynamics, dynamics of difference in cross-cultural work, funding streams, agency and legal procedures, multi-disciplinary networks, team building, and any other area which can serve to help the adoptive

family. Access to ongoing training and consultation is needed to develop and maintain the skills and the breadth of knowledge needed for a competent staff.

### Automation

Planning for automation of the adoption support and preservation information system is an important part of any state's plan for implementing adoption support and preservation services. It is critical to develop ways to identify and track need, resources and utilization of the services. Ideally, this information could be a part of a state child welfare agency's statewide information system.

The system would allow providers to spend more time supporting and assisting families directly and less time managing cumbersome record keeping systems. These systems will work best if providers are given input into their design and implementation.



## Summary

**F**or moral, social, and economic reasons, it is in the public interest to assure that families remain intact and strong. The pendulum has swung and society again recognizes the importance of strong family systems in combating society's ills. Adoption support and preservation services help build strong foundations for families created by adoption. By developing and implementing these services, families involved in adoption, service providers and policy makers are assuring adopted children of every opportunity to become useful, productive citizens.

An effective adoption support and preservation service system requires a full commitment by adoptive families, communities, private and public agencies, helping professionals, administrators and policy makers. The commitment extends to building a jointly coordinated, jointly funded, multi-disciplinary system of public, pri-

vate and community services. Alternatives to limited categorical funding or block grants need to be identified and advocated for at the federal, state, and local levels. Communities must become adoption sensitive and recognize the need to include the adoptive family in service planning and service delivery.

Cross-system, cross-discipline training is an essential element in achieving successful outcomes. Also essential, is that services are provided in locations convenient to families and that they respect the culture and ethnicity of families being served. In essence, an effective adoption preservation and support service system is built upon the recognition that it is important to support and preserve adoptive families and that it is within the public interest to do so.

*"Our family has come a long way. We still need improvement. We're struggling to pay for counseling now for my daughter and my husband and I together. I, as an adoptive mother, need the support of others going through the same thing. I need someone to suggest ways of handling certain situations. I need to know what are adoption issues and what are just ordinary growing up issues. Please do all you can to keep these programs going and open to all adopted families. These programs give us hope that one day our family will be coping and functioning 'normally'. Hope that we will learn how to get through some of those barriers the trauma of the past life has formed in our daughter. Get through the anger our son has—that our family has been in such a turmoil. We need the adoption service!"*

*— Adoptive Mother who has received adoption support and preservation services*

# The National Consortium for Post Legal Adoption Services

## Adoption Support & Preservation Concept Map

### The following principles

Adoption is different. The dynamics of a family created by adoption are different from the dynamics of a family created by birth.

Adoption is lifelong and its impact creates unique opportunities and challenges for families and communities.

Adoption is mutually beneficial to parent, child and society.

Society is responsible for supporting and aiding integration and preservation of adoptive families.

### serve as a guide for

A LOCAL CROSS-SYSTEM NETWORK OR TEAM  
of Adoptees, Parents, Peers and Professionals

### who deliver and facilitate services

ADVOCACY

FAMILY  
EDUCATION

INFORMATION  
& REFERRAL

FINANCIAL  
SUPPORTS

FAMILY  
SUPPORT

COMMUNITY  
SUPPORT

PSYCHO-  
SOCIAL  
SERVICES

REUNIONS  
& RECORD  
INQUIRIES

MEDIATION &  
PROBLEM  
SOLVING

SERVICE  
COORDINATION

### that are

Community  
Based

Family  
Centered

Adoption Sensitive  
& Competent

Multi-disciplined

Strength-Focused  
& Normalizing

Directed  
by Family

Culturally Sensitive  
& Competent

### and that result in

Strengthened  
Family Integration

Strengthened  
Attachment

Strengthened  
Family Functioning

Strengthened Parental  
Entitlement & Claiming

Strengthened Identity  
Formation of  
Family Members

Strengthened  
Community Networks

Ameaud/MPASS/10CONCPT/4-13-94





# Glossary

**Adoption:** The legal relationship of parenting a child or children not born to you.

**Adoption support and preservation:** Community based interventions provided for the adoptive family with the goal of keeping the family together.

**Adoption triad:** Birth parents, adoptive parents and adopted individuals.

**Attachment – bonding:** An affectionate bond between two individuals that endures through space and time and serves to join them emotionally. (Klaus, 1976) Bonding and attachment are used synonymously.

**Birth parent:** An individual who bears a child who ultimately becomes a part of another family. Sometimes referred to as natural or real parent.

**Claiming:** The process that enables adoptive parents to raise their adoptive child in the same manner as children born to them.

**Collaboration:** The process of working across agency and professional boundaries to provide effective, efficient services.

**Cultural competence:** The essential, critical characteristic of knowing, appreciating and utilizing the culture of another in assisting with the resolution of human problems.

**Disruption:** Irreconcilable differences in the adoptive family that occur

before an adoption is legally finalized and results in moving the adopted child or children to another setting.

**Dissolution:** Irreconcilable differences in the adoptive family that occur after an adoption is legally finalized and result in negating the legal relationship and moving the child or children to another setting.

**Empowerment:** The ability and capacity to cope constructively with the forces that undermine and hinder coping: the achievement of some reasonable control over one's destiny. (Pinderhughes, Elaine, 1983)

**Entitlement:** The right to parent a child, which includes both legal and emotional components.

**Family integration:** The process by which the adopted child and adopting family form a new family system.

**Finalization:** the process of legalizing an adoptive relationship through the civil court system.

**Identity formation:** The process that individuals go through to clarify their values and determine who they are.

**Mastery and control:** The ability to influence one's fate and destiny.

**Permanency planning:** The value, philosophy and approach that holds that all children need stable, permanent families for healthy growth and development.



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# Appendix A

## National Adoption Resources

### **AdoptUSKids**

Adoption Exchange Association  
8015 Corporate Drive, Suite C, Baltimore, MD 21236  
(888) 200-4005  
[www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org)

### **The Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance**

1133 19th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 682-0100  
[www.aaicama.org](http://www.aaicama.org)

### **Child Welfare League of America**

1726 M Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 688-4200  
[www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)

### **Child Welfare Information Gateway**

1250 Maryland Avenue, SW, Eight Floor, Washington, D.C. 20024  
(800) 394-3366  
[www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)

### **National Resource Center for Adoption**

16250 Northland Dr., Suite 120, Southfield, MI 48075  
(248) 443-0306  
[www.nrcadoption.org](http://www.nrcadoption.org)

### **North American Council on Adoptable Children**

970 Raymond Ave, Suite 106, St. Paul, MN 54114-1149  
(651) 644-3036  
[www.nacac.org](http://www.nacac.org)

# Appendix B

## Survey Questions

### POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

#### Description of State Services

This survey is intended to collect information to assess services specifically offered to adopted children and their families (not including subsidy) in your state. Please provide information about those services that are specifically provided to children adopted through the child welfare system and their families.

1. Which of the following describes your state service system:  
☐ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system  
Comment:
2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?  
☐ Yes ☐ No
3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?
4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

#### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

Please describe the post-adoptive services provided by your state to adoptive families in each of the categories below? In each category, please indicate if services are provided statewide. If not, please indicate area covered.

1. Information and Referral:
2. Educational Programs or Materials:
3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):
4. Therapeutic Interventions:
5. Advocacy:
6. Respite:
7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding



limits and/or time frame limits):

8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):
9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:

### **Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services**

1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?
2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?
3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?
4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?

### **Support for Post-adoption Services**

1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?  
☐ Yes    ☐ No
2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?  
If yes, how are these funds being used?  
☐ Yes    ☐ No

### **Other Information on Post-adoption Issues**

1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state?  
☐ Yes    ☐ No  
If so, please provide name, address, description of program.
2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?  
☐ Yes    ☐ No  
If yes, please provide a link to that report and/or the top five needs identified in the study.

Thank you for providing information about your state's post-adoption services. If we should need clarification on a particular response; we ask that you complete the following information for a contact person in your agency.

Name:

Agency:

State:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

## Appendix C

### State Responses

Alabama  
Alaska  
Arizona  
Arkansas  
Colorado  
Connecticut  
Delaware  
District of Columbia  
Florida  
Georgia  
Idaho  
Illinois  
Iowa  
Kansas  
Maine  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Minnesota  
Missouri  
New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
New Mexico  
New York  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
South Carolina  
South Dakota  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Utah  
Vermont  
West Virginia  
Wyoming

# ALABAMA

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:** State operated, county administered.

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

22,676 Federal subsidy.  
8,052 State subsidy.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption Services?**

- Yes  
☒ No, as State Office administers subsidy and post adoption support services provided under contract.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Information and referral through contract post adoption agency that is statewide. Provides information and guidance in adoption process and resources available.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Contract agency partners with public child welfare agency to provide annual conference around permanency as well as statewide training to staff, providers and families.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Contract agency provides monthly support groups for children, foster and adoptive families and adult adoptees.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Contract agency 20 hours of individual counseling provided for children and families. The public child welfare agency provides counseling subsidies in certain cases.

**5. Advocacy:** Contract agency recruits, trains and completes adoption home studies for potential family and then links them with the post adoption support available across the state.

**6. Respite:** Contract agency provides respite outings for family and children to ball games, social events, etc. Annual 4-day adoption camp for up to 144 youth experiencing the adoption process as a means of support to them and respite for families.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):**  
No response.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Adult adoption search and information requested are managed from the State Office of the public child welfare system.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** Contract agency has a lending library on various issues and matters involved in adoption and provides this as a free service through mail or pick up for families interested or who have adopted. Agency also provides training through a Therapist Network to enhance and improve the quality of provider support for children and families.

# ALABAMA

## Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Post-adoption services through the contract agency are provided to anyone who has adopted whether from the public agency or private agency. Financial subsidy through the department is based on special needs criteria.
- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** Post-adoption services through the contract agency are provided to anyone who has adopted whether from the public agency or private agency.
- 3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** Financial subsidy through the department is based on special criteria.
- 4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** Contracted post adoption provided through Safe and Stable Federal grant. Services expanded through Adoption Incentives Grant. Services likely will be adjusted once Adoption Incentive Funds no longer available.

## Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**  
☒ Yes  
☐ No
- 2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**  
☐ Yes  
☒ No

## Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

- 1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**

Debra Hawk-Finley  
Alabama Pre and Post Adoption Connections (APAC)  
181 West Valley Avenue, Suite 300  
Homewood, AL 35209  
info@casapac.org  
1-866-803-APAC

Provides recruitment, training and home studies for prospective families while also providing and linking families to post-adoption services mentioned in survey.

- 2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

No

- ☒ Yes. Needs identified include:
- Financial assistance
  - Trained therapist and counselors
  - Respite
  - Educational information and training on issues facing children adopted
  - Accessibility to supports

## Contact

Marie Youngpeter  
Alabama Department of Human Resources  
marie.youngpeter@dhr.alabama.gov

# ALASKA

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No. Services are not accessible across all regions, mainly due to the remoteness of many communities in Alaska.

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Approximately 2,700.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- ☐ No  
☒ Yes. If there are no other services available to the family, they are expected to provide post-adoption services.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** The Alaska Center for Resource Families (ACRF) provides training, referral services, individual support and information to those who are or are interested in becoming foster parents, adoptive parents, relative caretakers or guardians.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** ACRF Distance Learning Education videos, self-study courses. They can provide families with books or videos, self-study courses and on-site or telephonic trainings, as well as one on one support and training.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** ACRF pre- and post-adoption and guardianship support services are available. Services include access to an extensive resource library, Hague compliant adoption preparation training, case management, education through self-study courses or on-site and telephonic trainings, advocacy, support, referrals and crisis management.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** These are mainly provided through private therapists of community behavioral health agencies.

**5. Advocacy:** ACRF also works in partnership with other community based and Tribal partners, in order to enhance the training and services available to resource families. This may include cosponsoring trainings, sharing resource materials, assisting with support groups for resource families and participating in mentoring services.

**6. Respite:** No response.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Alaska has limited resources and many children who need residential treatment are sent out of state.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Catholic Social Services (CSS) maintains a mutual consent adoption registry for open adoption only open to those who were involved in an adoption through CSS.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** None.



# ALASKA

## Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Services are open to any family for post guardianship or adoption.
- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** ACRF provides services to families regardless of the type of adoption. Services are offered whether children are adopted or placed under guardianship through a State, Tribal, relative, private, or international process.
- 3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** No response.
- 4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** ACRF is a grant funded program.

## Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**  
Yes  
X No
- 2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**  
No  
X Yes. The state funds ACRF through a grant.

## Other Information on Post-Adoption Issues

- 1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**

Post adoption support is a growth area for Alaska. One innovative program which has recently begun focuses on preparing adoptive families for placement. The Alaska Center for Resource Families has received a grant to help with the preparation of families interested in adopting legally free children through the Office of Children's Services (OCS). We are calling it "PARKA": Preparation for Adoption Readiness of Kids in Alaska. Services offered through this grant include intensive preparation and education, creation of Family Profile and DVD and exclusive access to OCS adoption and placement staff. Once a child is identified, the family will receive individualized support and training around the specific needs of the child.

PARKA parents are elite group who are highly trained, licensed home studied, and serious about the success of a child placed in their home. In theory, this preparation will serve the family through post adoption and they will be prepared to take advantage of post adoption support when needed.

- 2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

Yes  
X No

## Contact

KariLee Pietz  
Resource Family Program Officer  
Office of Children's Services  
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services  
Karilee.pietz@alaska.gov  
907-465-3145

# ARIZONA

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- X Statewide service system  
County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- X Yes  
No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

15,568

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- No  
X Yes. Once the adoption of a child with special needs is finalized the case transfers from the Child Protective Services Adoptions Worker to a Specialized Adoption Subsidy Case Manager. The Adoption Subsidy Case Managers are employed by the Division of Children, Youth and Families. post-adoption services are provided by adoption subsidy.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Adoption subsidy; private agencies; churches and community agencies.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Adoption subsidy; private agencies; churches and community agencies.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Adoption subsidy; private agencies; churches and community agencies.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Available for children eligible for Title XIX which includes all Adoption Subsidy children; adoption subsidy; private agencies.

**5. Advocacy:** Adoption subsidy; private agencies; churches and community agencies.

**6. Respite:** Available for children eligible for Title XIX which includes all Adoption Subsidy children; adoption subsidy; private agencies.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Available for children eligible for Title XIX who meet the criteria for behavioral health which includes Adoption Subsidy children. Adoption subsidy funds residential treatment for Adoption Subsidy children for whom Arizona Title XIX services are not available if medically necessary. Residential treatment is funded through Title XIX.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Mediation services are available through the juvenile court prior to the adoption to negotiate a communication agreement between birth and adoptive parents. Search services are provided through the Confidential Intermediary Program operated by the Arizona Supreme Court.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** Private agencies have provided resources to get legal assistance and have made arrangements for free or low cost recreational services for families.

# ARIZONA

## Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

1. **What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Need to meet the statutory definition of a special needs child. Must have entered the program through the foster care system (look up the wording for eligibility). Adoption subsidy services require eligibility for adoption subsidy. Private agencies have offered services to family members raising grandchildren or other relatives and adoptive families.
2. **Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** Adoption subsidy is available to private agency children who meet the eligibility criteria. Private agency services are available to any adopted children.
3. **Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** Arizona state law provides for adoption subsidy maintenance payments and for special services that pertain to a child's pre-existing conditions prior to finalization of the adoption. As well as non-recurring expenses up to \$2,000. Adoption subsidy is provided through state law but no other post-adoption services.
4. **Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** These services are provided through Title VI-E and state funds as authorized.

## Support for Post-adoption Services

1. **Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**  
 Yes  
 X No

2. **Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes. To support services to children in the Adoption Subsidy program and for the state match required for Title IV-E.

## Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

1. **Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:** Post-adoption services are provided through private agencies which include: Arizona's Children Association (AZCA), Lodestar Family Connection, Family Involvement Center (FIC) and Mentally Ill Kids In Distress (MIKID).

AZCA offers post-adoption services in most parts of the state through what are known as KARE Family Centers. They know that families caring for children born to others have unique needs and their services are provided in both Spanish and English. Services include:

- Information, education and resource referrals for grandparents, relatives, kin foster care providers and adoptive families.
- Help in completing guardianship packets (Guardianship Clinics) for Probate Court (forms provided free), to help caregivers enroll children in school and apply for medical services.
- Legal resource information to help make the best plans for the children.
- Assistance for families wishing to become guardians or adoptive parents through the juvenile court.
- Support groups for grandparents and relatives caring for children, as well as for adopting or adoptive parents.
- Help in completing benefit applications such as TANF, AHCCCS and Kids Care.
- Advocacy for caregivers and children in school, court systems, health care and mental health agencies, benefits programs, Child Protective Services, etc.

## ARIZONA

- Kinship Internet Resources
- Publication: Arizona Family Members Behind Bars: A Caregiver's Guide to Arizona's Criminal Justice System.

The KARE Family Program  
Coconino County  
906 W. University Ave., Bldg. B, Suite 130  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
888-231-5910  
928-527-1000, Ext. 105

The KARE Family Intergenerational Center—Phoenix  
1625 N. 39th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85009  
602-233-0017, Ext. 2329

The KARE Family Center of Tucson  
Pima County  
A collaboration of Arizona's Children Association with Casey Family Programs  
4710 E. 29th Street, #7  
Tucson, AZ 85711  
520-323-4476

The KARE Family Program  
Pinal and Gila Counties  
2066 W. Apache Trail, Suite 111  
Apache Junction, AZ 85220  
800-214-1693  
480-986-9209

The KARE Family Program  
Yavapai County  
440 N. Washington Avenue  
Prescott, AZ 86301  
888-771-3435  
928-443-1991, Ext. 18

The KARE Family Center  
Yuma County  
3780 S. 4th Avenue Extension  
Yuma, AZ 85365  
(928) 726-4335

Lodestar Family Connections Center  
2320 N. 20th Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85006  
602-254-2275, Ext. 4478

Services include:

- Specialized training
- Support groups
- Parent-to-parent mentoring
- Family recreational activities
- Parent and child play groups
- Resource library
- Q&A sessions with professionals
- On-line Q&A
- On-line chat/support group

Below are the family-run organizations within the state. Family Involvement Center serves families within Phoenix and MIKID serves families across the entire state:

Family Involvement Center  
1430 East Indian School Road, Suite 110  
Phoenix, AZ 85014

- Parent Assistance Line: 602-288-0155
- Support groups
- Direct-support services for families and youth

Mentally Ill Kids In Distress (MIKID)  
2642 E. Thomas Road  
Phoenix AZ 85016  
— And other locations throughout AZ

- Respite
- Direct support services
- Referrals to resources
- Support groups
- Educational meetings

**2. *Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?***

Yes

X No. While no formal assessment has been conducted since 2002, we routinely involve adoptive families and the Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents in assessing the needs of the adoptive community.

**Contact**

Deidre Calcoate  
Division of Children, Youth and Families  
Arizona Department of Economic Security  
dcalcoate@azdes.gov  
602-542-2357

or

Sue Schmelz  
Division of Children, Youth and Families  
Arizona Department of Economic Security  
sschmelz@azdes.gov  
520-784-2569

# ARKANSAS

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

3,121 Federal  
 425 State

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

- 1. Information and Referral:** Referrals for counseling, RAD therapy, respite care, residential treatment, IFS services, educational services.
- 2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Referrals and invitations to participate in the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder trainings and support group. Referrals to school-based programs.
- 3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Same as above.
- 4. Therapeutic Interventions:** IFS Services, RAD therapy, respite care, referrals for Residential programs.

**5. Advocacy:** Yes, see above.

**6. Respite:** Yes.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Medicaid.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Mutual Consent Volunteer Adoption Registry.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** No response.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Referrals for services and other services are provided for any adoptive parent who adopted from the foster care system.
- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** Court-ordered supportive or protective services cases.
- 3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** None.
- 4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** FASD support groups and training—will continue after grant ends.



# ARKANSAS

## Support for Post-adoption Services

1. *Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?*

☒ Yes  
☐ No

2. *Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?*

☒ No  
☐ Yes

## Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

1. *Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:* FASD training and support group.

2. *Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?*

☐ Yes  
☒ No

## Contact

Marilyn Counts  
Division of Children and Family Services  
Arkansas Department of Human Services  
marilyn.counts@arkansas.gov  
501-682-8437

# COLORADO

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

Statewide service system

X County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

X Yes, depending on the service.

No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Approximately 10,000.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes, county workers provide post-adoption services.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Each county department has access to Core Services. These services are available to adoptive families to prevent placement and support children/youth in their adoptive homes. In 31 counties across the state there are Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs in operation. These programs support adoptive families in preserving children/youth in their homes.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** No response.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Colorado has the Colorado Post Adoption Resource Center (COPARC). It provides families with access to support groups, mentors, training, respite services etc.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** COPARC maintains a list of adoption competent therapist.

**5. Advocacy:** Colorado Coalition of Adoptive Families (COCAF) is an advocacy group that supports adoptive families across the state.

**6. Respite:** COPARC (see 3 above) provides information about respite services.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Residential treatment is available if the family purchases the service. There are a limited number of Medicaid beds at residential facilities. Children/youth may qualify for residential treatment through a mental health provider at no or limited cost to their adoptive family for short term stays 30-60 days.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Search services are available through the Colorado Confidential Intermediary Program. There is a fee for this service.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** No response.

## Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

1. **What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** There is no cost for Promoting Safe and Stable Families; the family self refers. To be eligible for Core Services, the child/youth must be at risk of placement. Access for the COPARC services is family referral.
2. **Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** All children/youth at risk of placement are eligible for Core Services. COPARC has two programs, one for children/youth adopted from the public child welfare system and another for domestic/international adoptions.
3. **Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** Core Services are mandated by law.
4. **Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** The Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) is a federally funded IV-B Part @ funds. COPARC is also funded with IV-B Part 2 funds.

## Support for Post-adoption Services

1. **Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**  
☒ Yes  
☐ No
2. **Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**  
☐ No  
☒ Yes. Core Services are state funds.

## Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

1. **Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:** No response.
2. **Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**  
☐ Yes  
☒ No

## Contact

Sharen Ford  
 Colorado Department of Human Services  
 Sharen.Ford@state.co.us  
 303-866-3197

# CONNECTICUT

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Approximately 6,000.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Self-referral to the Connecticut Adoption Assistance Program (AAP).

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** The AAP provides support, education and a lending library to adoptive families.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Support groups are provided by Connecticut AAP. "Buddy" families are provided by the Connecticut Association of Foster and Adoptive Families, (CAFAP).

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** The AAP is an EAP model and provides referral services

for families within their communities. AAP has some flex funding to provide immediate therapeutic services until a family can secure services on their own.

**5. Advocacy:** Advocacy at a macro level is provided by CAFAP and a private non-profit Connecticut Council on Adoption volunteer group for legislation etc type of action. AAP provides advocacy for adoptive families for issues such as education.

**6. Respite:** No response.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Adoptive families may secure residential treatment on their own or apply through the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF is the public child welfare agency in Connecticut) Voluntary Services program. Efforts in Connecticut are focused on supporting families and keeping children in their home and community. When it is assessed this may not be possible the least restrictive setting is sought. If residential treatment is necessary, the Voluntary Services units assess each situation and provisions, funding limits or set time frames are based on the child's needs.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Search is provided by the Connecticut DCF. Mediation is provided by the Connecticut Juvenile Courts. Open adoption legal assistance is provided by CAFAP via the Connecticut Juvenile Courts.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** No response.

## CONNECTICUT

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** DCF voluntary services are provided to any family living in Connecticut. AAP is available to children adopted via the state's child welfare agency. CAFAP services are available to any foster or adoptive family residing in Connecticut who has an active approval or license.
- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** DCF voluntary services are provided to any family living in Connecticut. AAP is available to children adopted via the state's child welfare agency. CAFAP services are available to any foster or adoptive family residing in Connecticut who has an active approval or license.
- 3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** None.
- 4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** None are grant supported.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**  
 Yes  
 No  
 No response.
- 2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**  
 No  
 X Yes. The AAP program is funded by two sources; one is state funds, and I am unsure of the second funding source.

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

- 1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**

The Connecticut Adoption Assistance Program began in 2004, located at:  
 The University of CT Health Care Center  
 270 Farmington Ave, Suite 262  
 Farmington, CT 06032

They provide an EAP-based model of assistance to adoptive families and their children. Their model includes providing the state, based on four major geographies, four community case managers who provide assessment, referral, advocacy and support to adoptive families. Within the AAP they provide education, support, referral, and advocacy for families. They have a lending library and the first major collaborative within Connecticut called the Adoption Community Network. Quarterly meetings of families, adoption professionals, and others interested in adoption have formed to bring resources to a central location on the ACN website. They provide funding to smaller groups of adoption advocates to provide training within the state for adoption professionals and families. The AAP established goals to do outreach with Connecticut providers, educators and mental health practitioners in the state to build adoption competencies in their work.

- 2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

Yes

X No. The AAP has conducted customer service based surveys.

### Contact

Karen Miskunas, Program Manager  
 Connecticut Department of Children and Families  
 karen.miskunas@ct.gov  
 860-550-6461

# DELAWARE

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

About 900 children.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

Yes

- ☒ No. This is provided by the same agency that did the home study, etc., and/or this is handled by a contract with a private adoption agency.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Services are provided statewide.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Training on adoption-related topics. Services are provided statewide.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Services are provided statewide for children and parents.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Crisis assistance is provided as needed. Services are provided statewide.

**5. Advocacy:** Services are provided statewide.

**6. Respite:** No.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** No.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** No.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** N/A.

### Qualifications for Post-Adoptive Services

**1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Eligible families are those living in the state that have adopted a child previously in foster care, or those that have a permanent guardianship arrangement.

**2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** The contract agency may offer these services to families who did not adopt through the child welfare system, but in this circumstance they would not be able to bill the state for the services.

**3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** None.

**4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** None. The services started July 1, 2010, with state funds and will only continue if these funds are available.



## DELAWARE

### Support for Post-adoption Services

**1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes. Funds are being used for trainings and support groups.

**2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes. The funds are being used to reimburse the agency for the trainings, support groups, and crisis intervention services.

### Other Information on Post-Adoption Issues

**1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**

The contract is new from July 1, 2010. The services or agency running the training and support groups has about 25 years of child welfare experience, has national exposure, and is well respected.

Post Adoption Support  
A Better Chance for Our Children  
700-A River Road  
Wilmington, DE 19809  
1-877-533-2212

Information and referral, crisis assistance, statewide training on adoption topics, support groups for parents, therapy and support groups for children, love and logic parenting groups, parent/child bonding work shops, annual picnic, etc.

**2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

Yes

X No

### Contact

Frank Perfinski  
Division of Family Services  
State of Delaware  
frank.perfinski@state.de.us  
302-633-2655

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- X Statewide service system  
County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- X Yes  
No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Approximately 1,775.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- Yes  
X No assigned post adoption workers.  
Contract with a private provider for post-adoption services.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** All adoptive parents.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** All adoptive parents.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** All adoptive parents.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** All adoptive parents.

**5. Advocacy:** All adoptive parents.

**6. Respite:** All adoptive parents.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Agency does not pay for residential.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Records are closed in the District; therefore, a court order to break seal is necessary in order to open a record. A social worker is assigned to assist those individuals.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** No response.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

**1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** All parents who have adopted a child out of the foster care system.

**2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** None.

**3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** None.

**4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** None.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**

Yes

X No

- 2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes. To pay for a contract with a private provider to provide post permanency services to adoption and guardianship families.

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

- 1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:** No response.

- 2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

Yes

No

No response.

### Contact

Sharon T. Knight  
District of Columbia Child and Family Services  
Agency  
Sharon.knight@dc.gov  
202-727-3655

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

Statewide service system

X County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

Yes

No

X Depends on the service.

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Approximately 29,000, but not all of these children still live in Florida.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

Yes

X No. We are totally privatized, and the Community Based Care Agencies are expected to provide post-adoption services.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Across the state, post-adoption services staff provides information and referral services. There are three types of post-adoption services staff: several Community Based Care agencies created a contract for provision of all post-adoption services, several Community Based Care agencies have one staff person responsible for post-adoption services as a "part" of their job duties, several Community Based Care agencies have required the sub-contract provider who is providing adoption services to also have their staff provide post-adoption services.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:**

Educational programs are provided as a part of the support group process. In addition, Adoption 101 was created and is provided as a part of the adoption process, and as a part of the post adoption program.

**3. Support Programs groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.-:**

All areas have one or more adoptive parent support group, and most areas have a quarterly newsletter sent to the families in the rural areas. Each of the support groups has a mix of mentoring and buddy families.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** The Central Office contracted with Rutgers University to conduct a train the trainer session on Adoption Competency for Mental Health Professionals. The 15 trainers from the session have been trained in mental health. Child welfare staff have been trained on the adoption competency curriculum. With this training, more mental health staff are conducting family therapy as opposed to or in addition to individual therapy. Most areas have in-home behavioral analysts or a crisis intervention program to assist adoptive families.

**5. Advocacy:** All provide educational advocacy and advocacy help with children involved in our DJJ program.

**6. Respite:** About a third of the post adoption programs provide respite. Two of our agencies were successful in acquiring a NACAC respite training grant, which improved opportunities.

**7. Residential Treatment please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits:-:** Usually, a child has to re-enter foster care in order to receive residential treatment but a few cases have been successfully funded with the help of Medicaid and our Children's Mental Health Office. Funding usually occurs on a case-by-case basis.

- 8. Mediation and/or search services or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions-:** Florida Adoption Reunion Registry is a service conducted by the Central Office. We accept applications from birth family members, adult adoptees and adoptive parents. If there is a match, we assist with a requested reunion. Registry also provides communication between birth family and adoptive family as requested when one party needs information but does not want to have direct contact. Registry also provides non-identifying information to adult adoptee as requested.
- 9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** No response.

## Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered-?** There are no eligibility criteria, but families whose adoption was conducted by a private agency, are referred back to that same private agency for post-adoption services, if applicable.
- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** To prevent a child from coming into foster care, post-adoption services are provided to non-child welfare adopted children, such as an international adoption.
- 3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** Florida Adoption Reunion Registry is mandated by state law. Post-adoption services such as a temporary case management, and information, referral, and support groups are mandated in administrative rule.

- 4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** Two agencies received a respite grant from NACAC, but the service will continue after the grant period is completed.

## Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding family preservation and family support-funds for post-adoption services?**  
 No  
 X Yes, a mix of all services provided are using PSSF, part 2.
- 2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**  
 No  
 X Yes. A mix of all services use state funds.

## Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

- 1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**  
 Sylvia Thomas Center  
 Hillsborough County  
[www.sylviathomascenter.org](http://www.sylviathomascenter.org)  
 This is our oldest and longest lasting post adoption program, now celebrating its tenth year. They have been innovative in applying for grants, local funding, training, and teen support group.
- 2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**  
 Yes  
 X No

## Contact

Kathleen Waters, Office of Family Safety  
 Florida Department of Children and Families  
[kathleen\\_waters@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:kathleen_waters@dcf.state.fl.us)  
 850-717-4686

# GEORGIA

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- X Statewide service system  
County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- X Yes  
No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

12,635 children were receiving Adoption Assistance in Georgia:  
Title IV-E funded = 8,195  
State IV-B-funded = 4,440

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- Yes  
X No. All post adoption client-based services are provided through contracted providers.

\*CWW's do complete monthly verification tasks of continued eligibility of AA benefits and provide guidance to Adopted families in securing post-adoption services.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

- 1. Information and Referral:** The Georgia Center for Resources & Support is available to assist families in locating needed resources, developing support groups, providing a "buddy" who has an adopted or foster child with similar special needs, or finding books and publications related to adoption and foster care issues. Adoptive families can also benefit from the Center's website, which contains current information about community resources and which provides

interactive training opportunities. Regional Resource Advisors are also available throughout the state of Georgia to assist adoptive families by providing advice, support, and training. Services through the Georgia Center for Resources & Support are provided to adoptive families statewide.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:**

Educational and resource materials for adoptive parents are provided by the Georgia Center for Resources & Support on a statewide basis. The Georgia Center for Resources & Support assists families in locating educational and resource materials. Adoptive families in Georgia can benefit from the Center's website, which contains current information about community resources and which provides interactive training opportunities. Regional Resource Advisors are also available throughout the state of Georgia to assist adoptive families by providing advice, support, and training. The website is found at [www.gacrs.org](http://www.gacrs.org).

**3. Support Programs groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):**

The Georgia Center for Resources & Support is available to assist families in locating needed resources, developing support groups, providing a "buddy" who has an adopted child with similar special needs, or finding books and publications related to adoption issues. The Adopted Teen Empowerment & Mentoring Program (ATEAM) is designed for adopted teens in 6th through 12th grades. The ATEAM provides participants with an opportunity for mutual support and self-expression through group interactions with other adopted teens. This group consists of teens and mentors who meet monthly at host sites in each region across the state. Meeting times are generally from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. one Saturday per month, with two weekend retreats planned each year. Parent transportation is required. Pre-registration is required for the program, as each site is limited to 30 youth participants. Services through the A-Team are provided on a statewide basis.



**4. *Therapeutic Interventions:*** The Crisis Intervention Team provides services to adoptive families in need of professional help to improve overall family functioning, preserve the family unit, and provide links to community resources. The team assists adoptive families of special needs children who have been placed in the home and approved for Adoption Assistance benefits. When a parenting challenge becomes a serious problem, the Crisis Intervention Team can provide early intervention services designed to prevent disruptions, dissolutions and to preserve the family unit. The program consists of Mobile Intervention Teams, including a Team Leader and an Intervention Specialist, who provide in-home family assessments and counseling to families on a statewide basis. All Team members understand the dynamics of the adoption process as well as the unique problems of attachment, trauma and loss which are common in children with multiple placements. They are trained in the prevention of aggressive behaviors, the de-escalation of crisis situations and the development of therapeutic intervention plans to address interpersonal relationships, school performance and physical/emotional health issues. While the Intervention Team is not designed to replace medical or therapeutic care, it does help the child and family identify and resolve problematic issues. Contact with the Team is for a limited time only (60-90 days). When Intervention services are discontinued, families are then referred to community resources coordinated by the Intervention Team. Crisis Intervention services are provided to adoptive families statewide.

**5. *Advocacy:*** The Georgia Center for Resources & Support provides advocacy services for adopted children and their families. The Regional Resources Advisors advocate for services for Adoptive families in Georgia.

**6. *Respite:*** Respite for Medically Fragile children is available in Georgia. Children who are receiving ongoing Adoption Assistance and who were adopted while in the permanent

custody of DFCS or who were placed from DFCS custody into the permanent custody of a specified individual for the purpose of adoption are potentially eligible for this form of Respite. This respite is approved by the SSAU and the approval period may not last longer than one year from the date of approval. Please Note: The provision of Respite for Medically Fragile Adoptive Children is dependent upon the availability of State funds and is not available after a child turns age 18. Respite funds may be available for families where the adoptive child is documented to meet the Medically Fragile criteria by a licensed Medical Provider. Respite for Medically Fragile Children is provided to adoptive families statewide. The child must meet one of the Medically Fragile criteria listed below:

- A condition that requires dependence upon durable medical equipment to include, but not limited to, wheelchairs, walkers, etc.).
- A condition that requires dependence upon medical support equipment to include, but not limited to, a respirator, feeding pump, suction machine, oxygen, etc.).
- A life-threatening, acute/chronic infectious disease, acute/chronic noninfectious disease requiring respiratory or other precautions excluding normal childhood diseases).
- A terminal illness.
- A condition that requires ongoing administration of intravenous medication or a feeding tube for nutritional support (G tube, etc.).
- A condition that requires intensive rehabilitation and/or developmental disability services.

**7. *Residential Treatment please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):*** Residential treatment in Georgia is provided through the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases to children that qualify for services. In Georgia Residential Treatment services are provided to children who have the need for residential treatment. Treatment is not based on whether or not a child has been adopted or not, but more on the need for services.

## GEORGIA

- 8. *Mediation and/or search services or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions***): Adoptees, birth parents, or siblings who have been permanently separated through adoption often reach a time in their lives when they want more information about their biological family. This “need to know” may be due to medical, genetic, genealogical, or personal reasons.

The Georgia Adoption Reunion Registry provides the following services on a statewide basis:

- Assistance to an adult adoptee in order to establish contact with the adoptee’s biological parents with the expressed consent of the biological parents).
- Assistance to adult siblings in establishing contact with each other provided at least one of them is an adoptee—with the expressed consent of the sibling who is being sought.
- Provides an adult adoptee or adoptive parents of an adoptee under age 18 with non-identifying information from the sealed adoption record without having to obtain a court order.
- Assistance to biological parents in registering their consent to contact/release birth family identifying information or to register their desire not to have contact and preventing the release of birth family identifying information from the sealed adoption record.
- Assistance to siblings in registering their consent to have contact or to register their desire not to have contact with the searcher.

- 9. *Please describe any other services not included in the list above:***

**State of Georgia/Department of Family and Children Services Website**

This website [www.adoptions.dhr.state.ga.us](http://www.adoptions.dhr.state.ga.us) contains a photo-listing of children available for adoption, information on upcoming events related to adoption, educational information, description of adoption services,

and links to other adoption-related sites. The State of Georgia’s website can be accessed by families statewide.

**Georgia State Adoption Tax Credit**

The state of Georgia offers a Tax Credit of \$2,000 to parents for the adoption of a qualified foster child. A qualified child is defined as a child who is under 18 years of age, and is in a foster home or otherwise in the foster care system under the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS). This credit will be available beginning the tax year the adoption becomes final and ending with the year the child turns age 18. Adoptive parents should consult with their tax professional before filing.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. *What are the eligibility criteria for such services i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered***? All children adopted in the state of Georgia are eligibility for the post-adoption services listed above with the exception of the monthly adoption assistance benefit as that eligibility has both Federal and State guidelines that must be met. All client based services are provided throughout the entire state.
- 2. *Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system***? All children adopted in the state of Georgia are eligibility for the post-adoption services listed above with the exception of the monthly adoption assistance benefit as that eligibility has both Federal and State guidelines that must be met. All client based services are provided throughout the entire state.
- 3. *Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law***? All post-adoption, client-based services are funded by PSSF and State Funds: Social Security Act, Titles IV-B and IV-E, as amended by PL 96-272, Social Services Block Grant requires 20% of all PSSF funds to be used for adoption promotion/recruitment and support [post-adoption services])/ The

## GEORGIA

Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 Public Law 105 - 89)/ O.C.G.A. 45-5-8 authorizes Adoption services and supplements.

4. ***Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?*** See #3 above.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

1. ***Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding family preservation and family support-funds for post-adoption services?***

X Yes  
No

2. ***Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?***

No  
X Yes. All post adoption service contracts are funded by 75% PSSF, 25% State Fund Match.

### Other Information on Post-Adoption Issues

1. ***Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:***

The Crisis Intervention Program has received rave reviews for their service to Adoptive families in Georgia. Crisis Intervention has done an outstanding job in helping to keep Georgia's disruption rate one to of the lowest in the country. Many parents like the family approach the Crisis intervention Team takes when working with adoptive. The Crisis Intervention team comes into the adoptive home and works directly with the adoptive child and adoptive family to stabilize any crisis. The intervention team also provides referrals to community resources as part of their discharge plan. Crisis intervention services are provided to families with a potential for disruption or dissolution of an adoptive placement or finalization. A team of skilled individuals work with families to asses and connect them to needed community resources. Referrals are accepted statewide, they must and be completed by DFCS case managers and submitted to the SSAU Post-Adoption Services Program Consultant.

For information, contact:  
Chena Blanchard, Program Manager  
404-946-6107

2. ***Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/ assessment of adoptive families?***

X Yes  
No

Every post adoption client-based service is followed up with a client survey that allows the participant to not only grade the value of the service but also recommend how the service could be changed to accommodate their specific needs and the needs of all adoptive families. Also, an annual adoptive family conference is held that is 100% training based on feedback from adoptive families.

### Contact

Debra C. Lookabill, MSW, Director  
Social Services Administration  
Georgia Department of Human Services  
delookabill@dhr.state.ga.us  
404-657-9385

Adrian Owens  
Post Adoption Program Manager  
Georgia Department of Human Services  
ajowens@dhr.state.ga.us  
404-657-3558

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY

### National Resource Center for Adoption

#### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

Statewide service system

X County-based service system

**Comment:** Regional-based service system.

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

X Yes

No

Some types of post-adoption services are available in all regions; however, the actual services available vary widely.

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

1,798 children as of June 30, 2010.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

X Yes

No

#### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Statewide; families are referred to community-based providers.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:**

Statewide; families have access to a lending library.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Statewide; families have access to foster/adoptive support groups.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Statewide; families can be referred to the Children's Mental Health program; however, this program now focuses on serving only children without insurance or Medicaid. Thus, children receiving adoption assistance are most often referred out to community providers. One region has used a regional contract with a psychologist to provide neuropsychological evaluations.

**5. Advocacy:** Statewide; primarily referral to community-based groups already in existence.

**6. Respite:** Statewide; adoptive families may be reimbursed for money they spend on respite only if it was negotiated into their child's adoption assistance agreement. Very few agreements contain respite services.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** None.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Statewide; we are a closed adoption state; however, triad members over the age of 18 may request non-identifying information. If members have each registered on a voluntary registry, identifying and contact information will be provided.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** None.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** The child must have a valid Adoption Assistance Agreement.
- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** Children who have a valid Adoption Assistance Agreement are eligible, regardless if they were adopted through a child welfare system or privately.
- 3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** None.
- 4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** None.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**  
No  
X Yes. Regions may choose to use PSSF funds to pay for adoptive families use of contracts for in-home support or other services.
- 2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**  
No  
X Yes. Services provided as part of Adoption Assistance Agreements special conditions are paid for through state funds (i.e., child care, respite).

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

- 1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:** None.
- 2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**  
No.  
X Yes. Survey results are in the process of being compiled.

### Contact

Stephanie Miller  
Idaho Department of Health & Welfare  
stephjmiller@msn.com  
208-334-5697

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY

### National Resource Center for Adoption

#### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- X Statewide service system  
County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- X Yes  
No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

30,000

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- X Yes  
No

#### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Yes – by both a call center and through DCFS post adoption staff.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** All children/youth with subsidies have access to professional staff that serve as Educational Advocates. These youth may also apply for the college scholarship program each year.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Provided statewide through Adoption Preservation programs with some additional programs called “Maintaining Adoption Connections” programs available in Cook County.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Adoption Preservation Programs—statewide intensive intervention with entire families to stabilize placements; Maintaining Adoption Connections—available in Cook County

with variety of therapeutic interventions; Therapeutic day care is a service that may be written into a child’s subsidy for those with an IEP and is designed to help meet the specific interventions identified in the IEP.

**5. Advocacy:** CEducational advocacy; DCFS post adoption staff.

**6. Respite:** Statewide programs that provide a variety of styles of respite from individuals providing service in home or by taking youth to other sites as well as some camping experiences for youth.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Not provided as a subsidy service, but may be available to youth that have not been able to obtain residential placement through the Individual Care Grant process and they have worked with one of our Adoption Preservation providers who has requested a clinical staffing for the youth to determine if the Director will approve the service to be paid for by the DCFS. This approval is accomplished through a Director’s exception and is not a given subsidy services.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Contract with Midwest Adoption Center to provide search and reunion service to current and former wards as well as operating a Confidential Intermediary program.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** Private contract to work with adoptive families where the current adoptive parent had died and support services are required to set up a new adoption with a subsequent caregiver.



### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** About 17% of post adoption population accesses services on an annual basis. Any youth with a subsidy is eligible for services. For Adoption Preservation Programs all adopted youth in state are eligible, including those privately and/or internationally adopted.
- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** Adoption Preservation (see answer in #1).
- 3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** Adoption Preservation, Midwest Adoption Center (search and reunion and confidential Intermediary).
- 4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** No response.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**  
☒ Yes  
☐ No
- 2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**  
☐ No  
☒ Yes. Some portion of all services are state funded.

### Other Information on Post-Adoption Issues

- 1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**  
 Adoption Preservation Programs and Maintaining Adoption Connections Programs.
- 2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**  
☐ No  
☒ Yes. Completed by Mark Testa while at Children and Family Research Center.

### Contact

June Dorn  
 Illinois Department of Children and Family Services  
 June.Dorn@Illinois.gov  
 312-814-6858

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY

### National Resource Center for Adoption

#### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- X Statewide service system  
County-based service system

**Comment:** Iowa is a state supervised/ county administered state.

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- X Yes  
No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

As of June 30, 2011, 9,349 children were eligible for subsidy.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- Yes  
No

Post-adoption services are provided in part by Iowa's statewide contractor for the recruitment and retention of foster/adoptive families called the Navigator Program. These services are available to families who have adopted special needs children and receive or are eligible to receive adoption subsidy funds and may be provided in the family's home. Many of the post-adopt support staff are also adoptive parents of special needs children so they have practical experience to draw on as well as ongoing training. Services are free to the family.

Other services such as therapy and counseling and psychiatric services are provided through Medicaid.

#### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Families can receive information and assistance in accessing community resources, resources

paid through Medicaid and resources available through the schools.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:**

Families can attend support groups and trainings offered through the Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association. The contractor also maintains a resource library that has information and materials that can be made available to families.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Support groups are available to families. Groups are held across the state.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Iowa KidsNet is able to provide crisis interventions, behavioral management plans and behavioral specific interventions to families. Post-adoption specialists are not licensed mental health providers. Mental health services can be accessed through Medicaid. There is financial support to assist families in payment of non-Medicaid therapeutic providers under specific conditions.

**5. Advocacy:** Iowa KidsNet post-adoptive staff provide advocacy for adoptive families in many areas—accessing services, working with the school, working with Iowa Department of Human Services, and any other areas a family needs that support.

**6. Respite:** Adoptive families are eligible for five days of respite a year at no cost to the family. This service is provided by the Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association. The Association pays the respite provider directly. Families may receive additional respite days if there are extraordinary circumstances and funds are available.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Residential treatment is not a post-adoption service available. If an adopted child needs this level

of care, the child re-enters the child welfare system and is placed in foster care. There are facilities that provide longer term psychiatric treatment that are paid through Medicaid.

**8. *Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):*** These services are not provided as post-adoption services. Iowa is a sealed record state. DHS will assist in providing information to adopted persons or birth family records on the procedure to have their information made available. Iowa KidsNet will assist adoptive families with their relationship with birth families as requested by the adoptive family.

**9. *Please describe any other services not included in the list above:*** No response.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. *What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?*** Post-adoption services through Iowa KidsNet are available to any family who adopted a child who is eligible for adoption subsidy.
- 2. *Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?*** These services are available to children adopted privately if the child is eligible for adoption subsidy.
- 3. *Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?*** None.
- 4. *Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?*** None.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. *Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?***

X Yes  
No

- 2. *Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?***

No  
X Yes. These funds are part of a purchase of service contract with Iowa KidsNet.

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

- 1. *Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:***

The Navigator Program through Iowa KidsNet has provided support services to hundreds of children and families. Families have been very positive about these services and have expressed how beneficial services have been to them. Additional information can be obtained from Tracey Parker (contact information below) or Kara L. Magnison, LISW, Supervisor Iowa KidsNet/Four Oaks  
1916 Waterfront Drive  
Iowa City, IA 52240  
kmagnison@fouroaks.org  
319-337-4523, Ext. 2804

- 2. *Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?***

No  
X Yes. Focus groups were held with adoptive families in 2009. Needs identified:

- Adoption competent clinicians
- Having psychiatric resources more available and more easily accessed across the state
- Increased subsidy payments
- Payment for child care expenses

### Contact

Tracey Parker, Adoption Program Manager  
Iowa Department of Human Services  
tparker@dhs.state.ia.us  
515-281-8799

# KANSAS

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Approximately 7,600.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No. Kansas contracts for adoption services.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Statewide.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Statewide.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Statewide.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Statewide.

**5. Advocacy:** Statewide.

**6. Respite:** Statewide.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding**

**limits and/or time frame limits):** Statewide. psychiatric residential treatment facilities are funded through Medicaid. The child must be screened in as medically necessary, and then rescreened at 90 days.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):**

Mediation services are not available, to my knowledge. Adoptions records in Kansas have always been open to adoptees once they become adults.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:**

No response.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

**1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Services are offered to any family that adopts a child from foster care.

**2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** Private child placing agencies are required to offer aftercare services per Kansas Department of Health and Environment regulations.

**3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** None that I know of.

**4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** None.

## Support for Post-adoption Services

1. *Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?*

Yes

X No

2. *Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?*

No

Yes

No response.

## Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

1. *Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:* No response.

2. *Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?*

Yes

X No

## Contact

Mary Cole  
Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation  
Services  
mary.cole@srs.ks.gov

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

In some regions, significant travel may be required.

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

About 3,400.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Yes. Families can contact Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine (a contracted agency) for this service, or they can call the Adoption Subsidy program.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Yes. The above agency AFFM has education and training available as does the Muskie School of Public Service, the Child Welfare Training Institute (CWTI), and Casey Family Services offers educational and training opportunities.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Yes. AFFM, Casey Family Services, and several other private agencies and adoptive and foster parent organizations and support groups (see attached).

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Yes. Children's Behavioral Health Services (CBHS) a state program offers services to adoptive families in this area as do several private organizations.

**5. Advocacy:** Yes. AFFM, Casey, Children's Alliance of Maine, and various adoptive and foster parent organizations and support groups.

**6. Respite:** Not per se, but may be able to access through CBHS and different agencies/organizations.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Yes, usually funded by Medicaid, through CBHS.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Search Services can be accessed (see attached) and through the Adoption Assistance program.2.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** Maine offers post-adoption services funds in the amount of \$1,000 per year, per child that adoptive parents may submit requests for (services, reimbursements for expenditures on behalf of the child, to pay for summer camps, recreation, etc.).



## Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** See #9 above. Most of our families (90+%) request these funds.
- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** Services from CBHS and private agencies would be available to non-welfare adoptions as described in #1 above. AFFM services are free.
- 3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** None.
- 4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** Unknown.

## Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**  
☐ No  
☒ Yes
- 2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**  
☐ No  
☒ Yes. As described above (#9) and through state-funded Medicaid.

## Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

- 1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**  
 Casey Family Services, Portland and Bangor  
 Maine offer an array of post-adoption services to children and families.
- 2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**  
☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unknown.

## Contact

Tim Swift  
 Office of Child & Family Services  
 Maine Department of Health & Human Services  
 timothy.swift@maine.gov  
 207-624-7946

# MARYLAND

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- X Statewide service system
- County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- Yes
- No

Services vary across the state.

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Approximately 8,000 children.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- Yes
- No

Maryland child welfare workers are expected to be able to provide families with information and referral services. They also should be able to assist families in applying for any financial assistance we offer families.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Statewide. Local departments of social services provide this service.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:**

Statewide.

- **Educational Training Voucher (ETV)** Program & State Tuition Waiver are available.
- Eligibility requirements for the **Tuition Waiver Program** for adopted children include:

- (a) An adopted child who resided in an out-of-home placement in the Maryland foster care program on their 13th birthday and was then adopted after their 13th birthday.
- (b) An adopted child was a younger sibling of an adopted individual, who was in foster care on his 13th birthday and was adopted after his 13th birthday concurrently with the younger sibling.
- (c) The adopted child must enroll as a degree seeking student at public two-year or four-year institution in Maryland on or before age 21.

- **ETV Program** requirements for adopted children are:

- (a) A child adopted from foster care after his 16th birthday.
- (b) Personal assets are not worth more than \$10,000.
- (c) Individual must be age 18,19, or 20 when first applying for ETV services.
- (d) Individual must have been accepted into or be enrolled in a degree, certificate, or other accredited program at a college, university, technical or vocational school.
- (e) Continued eligibility depends on progress towards a degree or certificate.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** A few of the local departments of social services facilitate adoptive family groups. They include Allegany Co. DSS; Baltimore City DSS, Carroll Co. DSS; Frederick Co. DSS; Prince George's Co. DSS; and Wicomico DSS. Families are referred frequently to private adoption organizations that provide support groups for adoptive families or free-standing support groups (unaffiliated with organizations).

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Several local departments provide counseling services to adoptive families through their Family Support Services. Families are usually referred

## MARYLAND

to other public agencies or private programs that provide more intensive intervention.

**5. *Advocacy:*** Advocacy occurs at the local level, primarily in the local departments' Family Resources Program through recruitment efforts. The State partners with the Foster Parent Association in advocating for post-adoption services. (In Maryland, families are dually approved.) Families are very concerned about the dearth of adoption-competent therapeutic supports particularly in the rural jurisdictions of the State. The Department of Human Resources has begun discussions with state agencies that oversee provision of mental health and education services to adoptees and their families in hopes of encouraging more practitioners in the public and private sectors to become adoption-competent. Slowly the number of these practitioners is expanding.

**6. *Respite:*** Families are referred by local departments of social services to respite programs that provide respite. Most of the programs are sponsored by private agencies.

- Respite care is available for children receiving services through Maryland Health Partners (MHP) for mental health services. MHP provides the mental health component of medical care for children with Medicaid eligibility in Maryland, including adopted children with special needs. The child must have a DSM IV diagnosis.
- Respite care is also available for children receiving adoption assistance who are also eligible for services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration. Funding for these services is limited, however.

**7. *Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):*** There is no specific state fund that pays for residential treatment care that is not covered by Medicaid for children receiving adoption assistance. However, any Maryland child who is involved with a state agency (Departments of Human Resources, Juvenile Justice,

Education, or Health and Mental Hygiene) has access to money available for this level of care through the Core Service Agencies help families by providing service coordination. Therefore, if it is determined that a child needs placement in a residential treatment care facility beyond what Medicaid will allow, that care can be funded.

**8. *Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):*** Mediation services are used to help adoptive and birth families determine the terms of the post adoption agreement prior to an adoption regarding post-finalization contact between the adopted child and the child's birth family. The agreement is included in the finalization order. The agreement covers contact while the adoptee is a minor. If the agreement is breached or a dispute arises the court may refer the parties to mediation for resolution. If a modification is requested, the court may order the agreement be modified if it can be satisfied that an exceptional circumstance warrants the modifying the agreement. The court is responsible for enforcement but may terminate the agreement if it is determined that enforcement is not in the best interest of the child.

Search, contact and reunion services:

- **Mutual Consent Voluntary Adoption Registry (MCVAR):** The Department of Human Resources/ Social Services Administration (DHR/SSA) maintains a registry of adult adoptees, birth parents, siblings, and other birth relatives. Individuals provide identifying information and authorize its release to other birth relatives. A computer searches the registry for individuals whose information matches. If a match occurs, the identities of the parties are confirmed through the agency that was involved in the adoption finalization. Once confirmed, the information is released to the interested parties.

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- **Adoption Search, Contact and Reunion Services (ASCRS):**  
The Mutual Consent Voluntary Adoption Registry is an expansion of MCVAR designed to provide adoption search, contact and reunion services to adult adoptees and birth parents. Individuals provide identifying information and authorize the Department of Human Resources to initiate a search. A referral is made to a certified Confidential Intermediary (CI) employed by a local department of social services or DHR/SSA licensed child placement agency. The CI is responsible for entering into a service agreement with the applicant and for initiating a search for the adult adoptee or birth parent. Once the search begins, the CI is required to report the search outcome within 90 days. If information needed to complete the search is outstanding, the CI may request an extension of an additional 90 days. No additional fees will be charged. If an applicant is requesting adoption search, contact and reunion services because of an emergency medical condition, there is no charge. A physician must provide written documentation of the emergency at the time of the request.

Other search services include:

- Providing the birth parent the opportunity to update agency records with appropriate birth family history.
- Accepting from the birth parent medical information critical to the adoptee's growth and development, and making full effort to communicate this to the adoptive family or the adult adoptee, as appropriate.
- Providing the birth parent with non-identifying information until the adoptee is 21 years old or older.
- Sharing identifying information if written consent has been given by the birth parent and by the adoptee who is 18-21 years old.

- Facilitating reunion with birth relatives when all appropriate parties have voluntarily consented when the adoptee is 18-21 years old.
- Provision of non-identifying information to an adoptee younger than 18 years old with the consent and involvement of the adoptive parent.
- Provision of any additionally acquired medical, social, psychological, and genetic history of the minor adoptee to the adoptive family.
- The local department shall accept from the adoptive family medical information which may be critical to the child's birth family and make efforts to communicate this to the birth family.

### **9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:**

#### **Post Adoption Services Permanency Program**

was created in FY 2008 as the result of state legislation mandating local departments to provide post adoption funds to adopted children and their families who might be in crisis in an effort to salvage adoption placements in danger of disrupting or dissolving. The funds are used to purchase selected services not covered by medical assistance or other existing programs. Funds are available to children under 18 years, and their families, whose adoptions were facilitated by public and private child placement agencies in Maryland, and those who were adopted through independent action in Maryland.

### **Qualifications for Post-Adoptive Services**

#### **1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Eligibility requirements for search services are:

For individuals actively searching:

- Adoptees 21 and over who do not have a birth sibling under 21 in the same adoptive family, birth parents, and birth siblings. Siblings, must also be over 21.

## MARYLAND

- The adoption or guardianship proceedings must have been conducted through a Maryland court or facilitated by a licensed Maryland child placement agency, regardless of the registrant's place of birth or current residence.
- The Registry maintains a list of similar registries in other states and may assist persons who were adopted elsewhere. Information about several national registries is also available.

Eligibility requirements for individuals needing non-identifying information are stated above in the description of services. Eligibility for all other post-adoption services are stated above in the description of services.

**2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?**

Search services are provided to children who received public foster care services but were not adopted in the child welfare system through the local departments of social services. The search service is informal and dependent on the staff availability. For youth who have aged out of the system, other services are available to them through Independent Living Aftercare Program, for youth 18 up to 21 years who were in out-of-home placement on their 18th birthday.

**3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** All services are mandated with the exception of the informal search service for youth who have aged out of foster care.

**4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** Some of the funding for therapeutic intervention and educational services are supported with grant funding. The funding for these services will probably continue but will be reduced due to budget constraints.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

**1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**

X Yes  
No

**2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

X No  
Yes

### Other Information on Post-Adoption Issues

**1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:** No response.

**2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

Yes  
X No. Not since 2002.

### Contact

Jill Taylor, Manager  
Out-of-Home Placement Services/Permanency  
Social Services Administration  
Maryland Department of Human Resources  
jtaylor3@dhr.state.md.us  
410-767-7695

# MASSACHUSETTS

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- X Statewide service system  
County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- X Yes  
No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Adoption 9,125  
State funded GRD subsidy 2,881

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- Yes  
X No. Post adopt services are provided through a contract with a lead agency.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

- 1. Information and Referral:** Yes.
- 2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Yes, there is also a component designed to educate therapists, attorneys, judges, and others who may be involved with adoptive families. A guide book has been produced and is distributed widely. All adopting parents are given the basic information about the program at legalization.
- 3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Yes.
- 4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Yes, short-term crisis intervention and also referral system.

**5. Advocacy:** Limited; this is largely confined to education on strategies and next steps.

**6. Respite:** Yes, but limited by budget. Much of the respite is done through day and evening activities where parents and children attend but are in separate groups/activities.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Any residential treatment would be accessed through voluntary service either at DCF or our mental health department.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Search is done by written application to this office. We have one dedicated individual assigned to search.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** No response.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Subsidy aside, any adoptive family in Massachusetts can use the post adopt services.
- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** The application process is the same for all adoptive families. Initial contact is through a state wide hotline. Families must self refer.
- 3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** The post adopt service contract is identified in our annual appropriation.



4. *Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?* None.

## Support for Post-adoption Services

1. *Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?*

Yes

X No

2. *Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?*

No

X Yes. There is one contract with a lead agency for 1.3 million dollars. It has not been increased since it's inception in 1997.

## Other Information on Post-Adoption Issues

1. *Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:*

Massachusetts provides a tuition and fee waiver to children adopted from foster care. It is good at Massachusetts state universities and our community colleges.

2. *Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?*

Yes

X No

## Contact

Leo Farley  
24 Farnsworth Street  
Boston, MA 02210

# MINNESOTA

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

Statewide service system

X County-based service system

**Comment:** Minnesota is a combination of statewide services through state contracts and county administered family and case management services.

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

X Yes

No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Approximately 7,200 children.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

Yes

X No. However, public agencies provide case management and child welfare services through children's mental health and other service arrays.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** MNADOT is a central warm line. The warm line, website and referral services provide information about all adoption services statewide.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** MNADOPT provides training and materials to families at a very low cost.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Current state grants pay for paid support group leaders. Paid support group leaders have been provided by Minnesota since 2000. Unfortunately, the

support group attendance statewide is less than 200 parents and few support groups sustain themselves. From 2000 to 2008, grants also supported mentors and buddy families. Services for mentors/buddy families provided by grantees were unsuccessful and not used by adoptive families. Therefore, these services are no longer contracted.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Beginning July 1, 2011, Minnesota implemented a new call line for post-adoption services. Child welfare/adoption professionals will staff this line. These professionals will assess the adoptive families needs, provide information, referral, and follow up for therapeutic interventions. The state grant also provides funding for the therapist's fees, which may not be paid by another funding source.

**5. Advocacy:** Funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the post adoption contacts have a lot of advocacy services for adoptive parents.

**6. Respite:** Funded by adoption subsidy up to 504 per child per year.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Funded by county social services (local) if the adopted child meets the same criteria for placement as other children, such as placement for the child's mental health needs.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Minnesota has a semi-open adoption record policy. Procedures for searches are included in statute. Services are provided by private and public agencies. Minnesota Department of Human Services receives numerous complaints about search services provided by private adoption agencies. Complaints/concerns are generally

## MINNESOTA

about the cost to parent/adoptee and the poor quality of service, especially the length of time for completion of searches.

9. ***Please describe any other services not included in the list above:*** No response.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

1. ***What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?*** No eligibility requirements. Families that have adopted children under state guardianship or out of the foster care system must be prioritized.
2. ***Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?*** State grants and county social services are provided to all adoptive families, not just adoptive families that have adopted through the child welfare system.
3. ***Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?*** None.
4. ***Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?*** Except for child welfare case management services, all post-adoption services are grant supported.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

1. ***Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?***  
No  
X Yes, for the services described in previous questions.
2. ***Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?***  
No  
X Yes. Grants to private adoption agencies to provide post placement services and post-adoption services/therapeutic interventions.

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

1. ***Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:*** No response.
2. ***Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?***  
Yes  
X No

### Contact

Connie Caron  
Minnesota Department of Human Services  
connie.caron@state.mn.us  
651-431-4665

# MISSOURI

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

12,898

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- ☐ No  
☒ Yes, as a part of the adoption subsidy services and in a similar manner to the services provided to biological families.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Two Adoption Resource Centers (ARCs) are available for information and referral for adoptive families. These ARCs are located on the eastern and western borders of the state and serve their half of the state as divided down the middle.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** The ARC's provide educational programs, training, support groups as well as articles and materials for support of adoptive families.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Support Groups are provided by the ARCs.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Therapeutic Interventions are provided by referral to Adoption Therapy professionals.

**5. Advocacy:** Both ARCs provide advocacy services as a part of their service array.

**6. Respite:** Respite is provided through the subsidy agreement. Location of a respite provider is assisted by the ARCs.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Residential treatment is funded through the subsidy agreement. We approve services for six month periods but there are no current limits if the residential coordinator and the facility both recommended continued treatment. Funding in Missouri is based on the state contracted rates.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Local offices do limited search as well as our Adoption Registry staff person in central office. We do not offer mediation at this time, but the ARCs can refer families to mediators.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** N/A

# MISSOURI

## Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

1. **What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** All adoptive families are eligible for services.
2. **Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?**  
The ARCs provide services to both private adoptive and public adoptive families.
3. **Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** The Children's Division has a mandate by law to provide adoption services, which include support services to adoptive families. The specifics are not in law.
4. **Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** The ARC services are provided by state budget and some adoption incentive money. No grant funding is currently utilized.

## Support for Post-adoption Services

1. **Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**  
Yes  
X No
2. **Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**  
No  
X Yes

## Other Information on Post-Adoption Issues

1. **Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:** No response.
2. **Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**  
Yes  
X No

## Contact

Amy Martin  
Children's Division  
Missouri Department of Social Services  
Amy.L.Martin@dss.mo.gov

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

### POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

#### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- X Statewide service system  
County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- Yes  
No

Families from anywhere in the state can contact us for post-adoption services. The availability of services that we can refer families to vary in different parts of the state.

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

1,175.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- Yes  
No

There are five staff that specifically provide post-adoption services, but other staff sometimes need to assist if the family is in a remote area.

#### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

- 1. Information and Referral:** We provide information to families on a variety of service and resource available throughout the state. We will call and make facilitated referrals if necessary or helpful.
- 2. Educational Programs or Materials:** All of our Foster Parent Training is open to parents that adopted children from New Hampshire, or another state. These are offered in various locations throughout the state and on line. We also have a few classes offered specifically for adoptive families.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):**

Our adoptive families are welcome to attend our Foster/Adoptive parent Association meetings throughout the state. We do not have any other formal programs for support.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:**

We refer families for therapy with local providers. Our post adoption staff can provide short-term, in-home supportive services for families.

**5. Advocacy:**

We will assist families with advocating for services through schools or local area agency's. We will attend meetings and make phone calls on their behalf.

**6. Respite:**

We try and assist families in developing natural respite supports and linking them with local agency's that provide this service, or funding for this service. In rare circumstances, if it is felt the needs of the family will be met with time limited respite in a foster home, we will provide that service.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):**

Residential treatment is not available as a post adoption service.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):**

Our post adoption staff provide search and connection services for adopted individuals and/or birth family. Adoptive families may participate in a voluntarily mediated adoption (VMA) and mediation sessions are provided through the court. Training on VMA's is provided through our foster parent training program.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:**

No response.



## NEW HAMPSHIRE

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Any family that adopted a child and lives in the state of NH can call for post adoption assistance.
- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** We will provide information and referral, short term case management and advocacy to any family with an adopted child.
- 3. Which, if any, or these services is legally mandated in state law?** By state law, we must assist families with obtaining non-identifying information from adoption files if we were the agency that provided the adoption service. Our state laws do not mandate any of the other services.
- 4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** We do not currently have a grant that specifically supports post-adoption services but we do utilize services that are funded by grants for post adoption. We have a grant to help develop trauma informed systems of care within our state child welfare and juvenile justice system. This directly benefits our adoptive families because they are parenting children who have experienced trauma. The changes in the system this grant creates should outlive the actual period of the grant. We are also involved with a respite grant, which is providing funding to assist some of our families that adopted children with serious emotional disturbance pay for respite and pays for the providers to receive training. It is unknown if we will have a funding source to continue when the grant ends.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**  
No  
X Yes

- 2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes. Safe and Stable Families Act funding is used to pay for post adoption staff it is also used to fund our Community and Faith Based Initiative Grant which provides support services in many forms to our adoptive families.

### Other Information on Post-Adoption Issues

- 1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**

There are no specific post adoption programs operating in our state, outside of the services that we provide. Our Community and Faith Based Initiative (CFBI) Grant has been very instrumental in meeting some of the more specific fiscal needs of our adoptive families. Through the CFBI specific needs such as therapeutic camp, riding lessons, music lessons, school supplies, back packs, laptops and even home renovations needed to meet the needs of children with disabilities have been provided. This is probably one of the most helpful innovative programs we have available to assist with those needs. The contractor providing this service is Bethany Christian Services. The director is Jan Lessard, PO Box 320 183 High Street, Candia, NH 03034.

- 2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

Yes

No

A training needs survey was conducted in 2005 and a Respite needs survey in 2007. The respite needs survey indicated that adoptive families did need respite, most had access to a provider but they needed resources to pay the provider.

### Contact

Catherine Meister  
Division for Children Youth & Families  
New Hampshire Dept. of Health & Human Services  
Catherine.L.Meister@dhhs.state.nh.us  
603-271-8382

## NEW JERSEY

### POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

#### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- X Statewide service system  
County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- No  
X Yes. We have contracts through out the State with agencies who provide both pre and post-adoption services to families.

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Approximately 13,000 children.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- Yes  
No. The only direct services we offer are through the Adoption Registry for birth family connections.

#### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

- 1. Information and Referral:** New Jersey funds an Adoption Resource Clearinghouse, [www.njarch.org](http://www.njarch.org)
- 2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Same as above.
- 3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Same as above.
- 4. Therapeutic Interventions:** New Jersey funds a network of in home support services for adoptive families through service contracts with a number of private agencies for the provision of post-adoption services.

**5. Advocacy:** The PACC network does not include a formal advocacy function. Clinicians may advocate for their individual families with whom they are working.

**6. Respite:** Each PACC agency has a small flex fund account to be utilized for family respite services. This is not for the purpose of taking the child out of the home, but can be used to enroll them in activities or camp to provide families with this form of respite.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):**

No. Adopted children who need residential placement enter the same funding and placement process as any other child in the state.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** New Jersey maintains an Adoption Registry to help with the facilitation of family connections at the request of the adult adoptee or at the request of an adoptive parent on the behalf of their minor, adopted child.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** None.

#### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Post-adoption services can be accessed by any adoptive family in New Jersey. Most of the clientele have adopted through DYFS.

## NEW JERSEY

- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?**

Post-adoption services are usually accessed by families who have adopted through the state child welfare agency and had been receiving pre-adoption services. Those families who did not adopt through the child welfare agency can only access these services after adoption finalization.

- 3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** None.

- 4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** None.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**

X Yes  
No

- 2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

No  
X Yes. State funds are used to support services to families prior to the adoption finalization and are offered to families primarily who have adopted through the state child welfare system.

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

- 1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**

No response.

- 2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

Yes  
X No

### Contact

Betty Berzin  
Division of Youth and Family Services  
New Jersey Department of Children and Families  
Betty.Berzin@dcf.state.nj.us  
609-984-6080

# NEW MEXICO

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- X Statewide service system  
County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- No  
X Yes, but are more limited in rural areas and there are little to no competent adoption professionals in rural areas.

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Approximately 3,000.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- No  
X Yes, only upon request of the family.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Statewide thru contract and staff.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Statewide by contract.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Statewide by contract.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Statewide thru Medicaid providers; limited competent services in rural areas.

**5. Advocacy:** Statewide by contract.

**6. Respite:** Very limited thru Medicaid (next to impossible to get) and statewide by contract thru an informal respite program between families (limited access) this is a new program that has just begun in SFY12.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Medicaid funds, but extremely limited number of beds, hard to access.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Statewide. New Mexico has a state law that requires all adoptions be referred for open adoption mediation. Searches are done by the state office and private intermediaries that charge a small fee to access records. We still have sealed records in our state.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** Treatment foster care is often the preferred treatment route for adoptive families in New Mexico. These are funded by Medicaid and are available statewide. The success varies greatly.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

**1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** No eligibility criteria; if you are an adoptive family you qualify for services.

**2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** Children not adopted thru child welfare are served by contract to non-clinical services. They must access private health insurance or self pay to utilize clinical services.

## NEW MEXICO

**3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** Open adoption mediation and search only.

**4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** They are federally funded thru IVB and a small portion of adoption incentive . . . will not be able to maintain adoption incentive funding, which is creating the respite program.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

**1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**

X Yes  
No

**2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

X No  
Yes

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

**1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**

This year, we are creating and training families to create their own respite coop program where families can utilize and create their own respite providers. This is being contracted using adoption incentive monies. It is being marketed across the state, especially in rural areas. The contractor is:  
La Familia  
Albuquerque, NM  
505-766-9361

**2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

Yes  
X No

### Contact

Jill May  
New Mexico Children Youth and Families  
Department  
jill.may@state.nm.us  
505-476-0355 or 505-629-8272

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

#### 1. Which of the following describes your state service system:

Statewide service system

X County-based service system

**Comment:** The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) provides child welfare services through a county administered state supervised system. Each of the counties in the State has an adoption component at the local level. At the state level, a variety of services are provided. They are voluntary adoption agency approval, photo listing, subsidy review and approval, Interstate Compact placements, Helpline, and Medical Adoption Assistance referral.

#### 2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?

Yes

No

Core services are available in all counties. Counties assess their own needs and develop necessary services. Some counties have a very rich service array, while other counties offer only core services.

#### 3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?

Figures are not available at this time  
However, on average, 96 percent of the children adopted annually receive adoption subsidy. Adoption figures for the last three years are: 2008 = 2,351; 2009 = 2,212; 2010 = 2,299.

#### 4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?

Yes

No

All local departments of social services who have direct responsibility for the placement of child for adoption are expected to

provide post-adoption services. New York State Office of Children and Family Services regulations (Section 421.8) provides that social service districts (counties) provide to each child legally freed for adoption post-adoption services which means counseling, training parents on how to care for children with special needs, providing clinical and consultative services, and coordinating access to community support services for the purpose of ensuring permanence of the placement. Such services may be designed to treat problems that developed after the date of the adoption decree. post-adoption services may extend for three years from the date of the adoption decree.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

Direct state funding for post-adoption services has been provided previously through a TANF grant to thirteen successful bidders across the state. There was no guarantee of renewal and that funding ended in December 2010. The location of the agencies funded under this program left many counties in upstate New York without services.

Types of post-adoption services vary but include: parent support groups, information and referrals, walk-in centers, training, respite services, therapeutic intervention and mediation. Not all of these services are offered in each program. Note: For NYS fiscal year (SFY) 2011-2012 new TANF funds are available to fund post-adoption services for a one year period.

Districts can also fund post-adoption services through preventive services funding with 65 percent state reimbursement; many districts report insufficient local funds to make use of this funding.



## 1. **Information and Referral:**

- Information on birth families, for situations where the birth family is involved prior to adoption
- Access to birth and medical records
- Adoption subsidy information
- Referrals to other community-based service providers as needed
- Consultative services, defined as short term, less than five contacts, to address immediate concerns or crisis circumstances and includes providing advice, guidance, information and/or any necessary referrals to other appropriate resources

## 2. **Educational Programs or Materials:**

- Information and training on topics unique to foster/adoptive children with disabilities, behavioral issues and other special needs.
- Parent training is activity designed to increase parents' understanding of the dynamics of parent-child relationships, including providing such parents with the information, skills and attitudes needed to integrate an adopted child into the family by responding constructively to the patterns of behavior the child brings from previous homes and uses to test parent commitment, or to ward off closeness and emotional dependency.

## 3. **Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):**

- Peer support groups for parents
- Age appropriate support groups for children and youth
- Group activities that promote family strengths and sense of community such as recreational outings and cultural activities

## 4. **Therapeutic Interventions:**

- Psychological/psychiatric assessments for children
- Adoption-competent clinical treatment for children
- Family counseling
- Clinical services and counseling, defined as diagnosis, testing and therapies provided by a licensed social worker, licensed psychologist, licensed psychiatrist, or other licensed human services therapist

## 5. **Advocacy:**

- Educational
- Court/legal
- Medical
- Housing
- (Specialized) child care

## 6. **Respite:** May be included in Information, Referral and Assistance.

## 7. **Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** No response.

## 8. **Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** No response.

## 9. **Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** No response.

## NEW YORK

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** The TANF supported post adoption contracts are limited to the residents of the designated counties. Services are restricted to families with incomes no greater than 200 percent of the annual federal poverty line. Non-TANF funded services provided by the county are available to all eligible families in the county.
- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** All adopted children are eligible as long as they meet TANF requirements.
- 3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** Non-TANF services identified in OCFS regulations.
- 4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** The post adoption programs supported through TANF funds.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**  
No  
Yes  
Adoptive families would qualify for family preservation services at the county level. The TANF funding post adoption grants are solely supported by TANF.

- 2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes. See response to post-adoption services Provided by State to Adoptive Families.

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

- 1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:** No response.
- 2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**  
Yes  
No  
The New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children, a private advocacy group, conducted a survey in December 2009/January 2010 to determine the post-adoption service needs of adoptive families in New York State. The results are posted on their website ([www.nysccc.org](http://www.nysccc.org)).

### Contact

Brenda Rivera, Director  
Adoption Services  
New York State Office of Children and Family Services  
[Brenda.Rivera@ocfs.state.ny.us](mailto:Brenda.Rivera@ocfs.state.ny.us)  
518-473-1901



# OKLAHOMA

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- X Statewide service system  
County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- X Yes  
No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

13,218

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- X Yes  
No

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

- 1. Information and Referral:** All post adoption staff are located at our state office and services are provided statewide.
- 2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Lending library, post adoption parent training, support. Groups, Adoptive Parent Handbook, and Adoptive Parent Training Day.
- 3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Support groups are found throughout the state and are usually ran by foster/adoptive parents.
- 4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Referrals services are provided to families.

**5. Advocacy:** No response.

**6. Respite:** Respite is provided in the amount of \$300-\$400 per family, but there is only \$10,000 in this line item.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Only Medicaid compensable services are provided.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Both services are provided \$20 to register and \$400 for an initial search. Fees are waived for sibling search for their siblings who were also adopted from our system.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** In-state child care for employment for children 0-5 and partial reimbursement for out-of-state child care for employment for children 0-5.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** No response.
- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** All services are an option, but they may become income based.
- 3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** Post adoption medical, adoption assistance and non-reoccurring fees if eligible.

4. *Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?* None.

## Support for Post-adoption Services

1. *Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?*

☒ Yes  
☐ No

2. *Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?*

☐ No  
☒ Yes, to support the program.

## Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

1. *Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:* No response.

2. *Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?*

☐ Yes  
☒ No

## Contact

Jacquelyn Hill-Anderson  
Oklahoma Department of Human Services  
Jacquelyn.Hill@okdhs.org  
405-522-4487

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

Most services are accessible across all regions. The exception would be in-person consultation, advocacy, and family support in their community for regions outside the larger metropolitan areas.

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Approximately 11,000.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Statewide.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Statewide.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Statewide.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Statewide.

**5. Advocacy:** Statewide.

**6. Respite:** No response.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Statewide.

Children in need of residential treatment would be referred back to the state child welfare system. Families have the option of entering into placement agreements which do not require the child to enter into the custody of the department, but still allows the department to pay for residential treatment services using the same funds for the overall foster care population.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):**

The Department of Human Services funds post-adoption mediation with birth families. The Department runs the state Search and Registry program.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:**

The above services are contracted and funded by the Department and are provided by a separate agency, Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (ORPARC). Adoptive families are eligible for family support services from the Department on a self-referral basis; these services typically include crisis intervention, help to access to mental health or other services, and residential treatment. Families are encouraged to work with ORPARC before coming back into the child welfare system.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

**1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Families must have adopted children or entered into guardianships for children from the state child welfare system.



**2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?**

Families with guardianships of children from the state child welfare system are also eligible.

**3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** None.

**4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** None.

- Information, assistance, referral to services;
- In-depth consultation, advocacy, family support, with families in their community;
- Parent education and trainings;
- Lending library;
- Support group start up and assistance to adoptive/grandparent support groups;
- Statewide outreach;
- Quarterly newsletter;
- Collaboration and sponsorship of conferences;
- Spanish language services and newsletter.

## Support for Post-adoption Services

**1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes. Title IV-B, part 2 funds are being used to match general funds.

**2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes. General funds have historically been used with a IV-B, part 2 match. The post-adoption services budget was eliminated in the 2011-13 biennium due to budget cuts. The state will be using Federal Adoption Incentive funds for the next biennium with the hope that general funds will be reinstated in the next biennium.

**2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

Yes

X No

## Contact

Kathy Prouty  
Oregon Department of Human Services  
kathy.prouty@state.or.us  
503-947-5358

## Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

**1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**

The department funds the Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center that provides the services entered into this survey. They provide:

# PENNSYLVANIA

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:** We are a state supervised, county administered state.

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

18,000.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No, but they can opt to.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** This is provided by county agencies, via our toll free help line and via services provided through a contract. Available statewide.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Provided by a contract, statewide.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Support groups are available, provided via a contract/statewide.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** No, referrals for therapy are made. Statewide.

**5. Advocacy:** Case advocacy is provided via a contract/statewide.

**6. Respite:** Periods of planned respite are provided via a contract. Statewide.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Statewide. Psychiatric residential treatment facilities are funded through Medicaid. The child must be screened in as medically necessary, and then rescreened at 90 days.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Not always provided by the state. Provided by county/court/private agency. Mediation is new to our state, some of the services will be provided via our contract for adoption services. Search services have traditionally been provided by the agency that managed the adoption.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** No response.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

**1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Any family who has adopted, whether or not they adopted a child from the foster care system is eligible as are families who provide permanency to a child from the child welfare system through formal kinship care or permanent legal custodianship.

**2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** Any family who has adopted is eligible to receive the services, regardless of where the adoption was finalized. That includes all private adoptions/international adoptions, etc.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** None are grant supported. They are paid for with federal and state funds.

**4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** None.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

**1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**

Yes

No

**2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes. For all three of our primary post-permanency services, including case advocacy/support groups and respite.

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

**1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**

The PA Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN)  
c/o Lorrie Deck  
PO Box 2675  
Harrisburg PA 17105

SWAN is a statewide collaborative that provides adoption services to children in the custody of the county child welfare system who are in need of permanent homes. The post-permanency services mentioned throughout this survey, case advocacy, support groups and respite are all provided by SWAN and are available statewide.

**2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

Yes

No

We did prior to 2002. Since 2003, we have offered post-permanency services.

### Contact

Lorrie Deck  
Office of Children, Youth and Families  
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

#### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- X Statewide service system  
County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- X Yes  
No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Over 5,000 children continue to receive adoption subsidy.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- No  
X Yes. There are four regional adoption offices in SC, and each office designates an individual to work with post legal service requests. The agency makes a number of referrals for services and purchases such services as counseling and behavioral management thru medical subsidy which is a limited state funded system.

#### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Services are provided statewide through the four regional offices. Each office covers at least ten counties in their catchment area. More populated areas have greater services than the very rural counties, but generally families and staff can locate a service within a 50 to 60 mile radius of the family.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Each office shares with the family at the time of the finalization the post adoption brochure. Most families do not immediately request post legal services from the agency. Many of them have been connected to a therapist and are utilizing

services put in place prior to the finalization of the adoption. When the child and family circumstances change to need additional services the family will contact one of the four offices. The agency does make referrals to a private agency, Children Unlimited, for parenting classes and other educational supports. The state Foster Parent Association has a training component and adoptive families can attend any of these sessions.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Presently, South Carolina does not have support groups. In the past we have had a number of support groups both open and closed groups for specific durations and issues, however, with funding issues these services have been limited. There is still one private organization Children Unlimited that the agency refers families to on a regular basis. They provide weekend retreats for adoptive families, for adoptive teens and do some mentoring. The buddy system is informal and used by individual workers to connect their families to other families they know of personally.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Medicaid and state medical subsidy are both utilized to provide families with therapeutic services both in home and out of home. The agency tries to assist the family in identification of a therapist who has adoption related experience.

**5. Advocacy:** The post legal worker often is in the position of advocate for the family and child. The advocacy can be in multiply areas and is one of the direct service delivers families may receive.

**6. Respite:** The agency does pay for respite. We encourage the family to identify a relative/ friend or even an employee to come to their home to provide the respite in order to minimize the trauma for the child. The funds available for respite are limited to five days a year.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):**

Should a child who is placed from the SC foster care system need a residential placement the family would request such services from their regional adoption office. An assessment of the need which would include an evaluation of all previous efforts to resolve the child's needs without residential services would be evaluated. A special needs team would then assess the child's eligibility and assist with the location of the appropriate residential treatment facility. The family would be asked to contribute to the cost of the program if their financial means allowed them to do so. The family would at a minimum have to document their support to the child through from their adoption subsidy. The family is asked to remain a part of the treatment plan, visit regularly with the child and have a plan for reunification with the child. The time frame in the past has varied. However, the agency is developing criteria for implementation of a review of each child in the post legal status in a residential treatment facility. These services are paid through state funding and Medicaid.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):**

SCDSS has an employee on the state office level who responds to either birth family, adoptee or adoptive parents inquiries about information or reunions. The state statute allows for reunions to be mediated through our agency only when all three parties are notified and agree. Non-identifying information can and is shared with any of the triad members without the consent of the others.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:**

No response.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

**1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?**

Any adoptive family can receive education, case management and referral services from our state agency. For residential treatment services to be paid by the agency the child must have been placed by SCDSS for adoption.

**2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?**

See above.

**3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?**

Only reunion register is mandated.

**4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?**

None at this time.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

**1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**

No response.

**2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

No  
X Yes

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

**1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**

No response.

**2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

Yes  
X No

### Contact

Judy Caldwell, Cheryl Herring  
South Carolina Department of Social Services  
judy.caldwell@dss.sc.gov; cheryl.herring@dss.sc.gov  
864-254-8961, 803-898-7566

## SOUTH DAKOTA

### POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

#### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

No

☒ Yes. Medicaid is the primary funding for services, but if there is a service that is not funded by Medicaid, attempts are made to find other funding sources to assist the family with what is needed.

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

1,569.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

No

☒ Yes. Families are referred to the State Adoption Program Specialist, who usually assists families. There are instances where families seek out their former family service specialist and they help refer the family to either the Adoption Program Specialist or, if known, a service in the area. Either way, the family still needs to work through the Adoption Program Specialist for funding, outside of what Medicaid provides.

#### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Families are referred to services in their area or can be provided transportation reimbursement if they have to travel to a needed service. Both the Adoption Program Specialist and South Dakota's post-adoption services contract person provides information and referral services to families seeking a particular service.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Beyond Consequences the Post Adoption Contract facilitates training in the southeastern corner of the state. Families are able to access educational programs in their community, and they can request funding from the Adoption Program Specialist. DSS has funded alternative services such as after school programs for youth, paid tutoring, or have assisted families with funding for PACE and other programs that adoptive families have identified.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Support programs are found in the more populated parts of the state such as Sioux Falls and Rapid City. Currently the Post Adoption contract staff is running a support group for adopted adolescent girls, as this was an identified need in that area. A summer weekend camp is held once a year where families across the state are invited to attend with their children. There are a limited number of slots for this program. These services are not available in the more rural areas of the state.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Post adoption contract has adoption therapists on staff that can offer some home-based services. A psychologist and psychiatrist provide assessments and medication management for children referred through the post adoption contract. Home-based services are limited to families in the southeastern part of South Dakota. If a child needs a specialized therapist, that does not take Medicaid, funding through the non Title XIX Medicaid subsidy has provided reimbursement to families.

**5. Advocacy:** None.

**6. Respite:** There is a respite contract in place for the entire state to utilize. For out of state families, they can contact the Adoption Program Specialist and arrangements are made to pay for respite outside of South Dakota.



## SOUTH DAKOTA

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Medicaid funding is utilized for children placed in psychiatric residential treatment facilities. The school district where the child resides is asked to participate with funding education tuition during the treatment stay. Tuition payment can often be a major issue for families seeking treatment services for their children. DSS has used state general funds when school districts deny tuition payments and there is no other funding source. Group care services are also utilized for children who have been adopted, but due to limited funding, it is not as easily accessible to adoptive families.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** The Adoption Program Specialist is responsible for mediation and search services. There is an adoption registry that adoptees and birth family can register on. The Adoption Program Specialist assists adoptees and adoptive parents in petitioning to obtain adoption records.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** No response.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

**1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?**

If a family is receiving adoption assistance through the state, they are eligible for any services offered, however location of the service usually determines who actually accesses what is available.

**2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?**

Through the post adoption contract, any family who has adopted can request services from the contract. The entity that provides the contract has private funding for families that are not on adoption assistance. Families that are in danger of disrupting are a priority for the services.

**3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** None.

**4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?**  
Adoption incentive money has been used to fund a good share of the post adoption contract. Services offered may have to be reduced when funding is no longer available.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

**1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**

X Yes  
No

**2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

No  
X Yes. State dollars are being used to assist with the educational funding of adoptees in residential placement. State funds are also used to match the 25 percent requirement for Safe and Stable and Families Act funding.

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

**1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**

No response.

**2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

Yes  
X No

### Contact

Patty Reiss  
Division of Child Protective Services  
South Dakota Department of Social Services  
Patricia.Reiss@state.sd.us  
605-773-3227

# TENNESSEE

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Approximately 7,800 children.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** These services are provided statewide and completed in conjunction with the family.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:**

These services are provided statewide and are included in the Adoption Assistance agreement and renewal information, as well as on all agency websites and within local offices.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** The services are provided statewide.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** The services are provided statewide.

**5. Advocacy:** The services are provided statewide.

**6. Respite:** The services are provided statewide.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** These services are provided to children and families if eligible via Medicaid or Private Insurance, unless it is included in the initial adoption assistance agreement. Eligibility and time frame often depends on medical necessity.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** This service is provided statewide and at families' request.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** We also provide pre-adoption training and consultation for families, trainings, and most recently equine therapy.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

**1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Anyone that has adopted from the child welfare agency receives these services for free.

**2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** For any other family that adopts within the state (domestically or international) services are provided on a sliding scale fee to the provider (dependent on financial resources of the family).

**3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** I am not aware of any that are mandated.

- 4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** None of our services are grant supported; we contract with an in-state provider.

## Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes, to assist in support of our contract.

- 2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes. Our contract contains portions of state and federal dollars.

## Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

- 1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**

We contract with Harmony Adoptions Inc., for all of our post-adoption services and support.

- 2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

No

X Yes. We have yet to analyze the data collected in our pre- and post-adoption surveys of families, but look forward to doing so in the next several months.

## Contact

John Johnson  
Tennessee Department of Children's Services  
john.johnson@tn.gov  
615-253-6351

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

DFPS (the public child welfare agency) contracts with agencies for post-adoption services to serve all areas of the state of Texas; however, services in each area are dependent upon funding availability.

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Title IV-E: 26,233  
 Non-Title IV-E: 6,819  
 Total: 33,052

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Post adopt providers share information about community resources and make referrals as needed, including in crisis situations.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Providers may disseminate various informational materials, as well as provide parent training to assist with meeting the needs of adopted children. Any adult member of an adoptive family may participate in parent-training.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Contractors must ensure that adoptive families and children have access to

support groups that help them deal with issues related to adoption and caring for children with special needs. Contractors can meet this requirement by organizing and running support groups themselves, subcontracting with other parties to organize and run support groups, or referring clients to support groups that already exist in the community.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Providers must make post adoptive counseling available to the adopted child and parents including:

- Psychiatric, psychological, neuropsychiatric, neuropsychological, and developmental testing, evaluation, and interpretation
- Individual counseling
- Family counseling
- Group counseling
- Day treatment which usually includes four or more hours of counseling per day provided on an outpatient basis in a licensed hospital, a licensed facility for emotionally disturbed children, or a licensed treatment facility for drug and alcohol abuse
- Therapeutic or specialized camp

**5. Advocacy:** None.

**6. Respite:** This is childcare provided for a brief specified time to families. It may be provided for all or part of a 24-hour period; either in or out of the home; for as many as 60 days within a 12-month period.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Only adopted children with service levels of specialized or intense are eligible for this residential therapeutic care. The maximum stay is twelve months, with CPS Assistant Commissioner approval needed for extensions for an additional 90 days. However, usually the Post Adoption Services program can only pay for a few months, given the cost of the services. Services are funded the same way—General Revenue/IV-B-2.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** None.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** Crisis intervention must be available 24 hours a day. Post-adopt contractors provide case management.

## Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

**1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** All of the following criteria must be met:

1. When the child was placed for adoption, either:
  - DFPS served as the child's managing conservator and placed the child for adoption, or
  - A licensed child-placing agency in Texas served as the child's managing conservator and placed the child for adoption, and DFPS is currently providing Title IV-E adoption assistance to the child.
2. The adoption is consummated.
3. The adoptive child is younger than age 18. In limited circumstances and only if funding is available, services may continue to be provided for up to 90 days after the 18th birthday of adoptive children who begin receiving services at age 17.

**2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** See #1 above.

**3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** They are not legally mandated, but they are allowed by Texas Administrative Code §700.1726 and by the Texas Family Code Sec. 162.306. See below. Texas Family Code Sec. 162.306. POST ADOPTION SERVICES. (a) The department may provide services after adoption to adoptees and adoptive families for whom the department provided services before the adoption. (b) The department may provide services under this section directly or through contract.

(c) The services may include financial assistance, respite care, placement services, parenting programs, support groups, counseling services, crisis intervention, and medical aid.

**4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** All of the post-adoption services are grant supported. The services would continue after the grant period, as DFPS would use general revenue if necessary.

## Support for Post-adoption Services

**1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes

**2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes. For SFY 11 - as the required 25% non-federal match and GR In Lieu of IV-B-2 federal funds when the grant has been spent.

## Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

**1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:** No.

**2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

Yes

X No

## Contact

Gail Gonzalez  
Texas Department of Family & Protective Services  
gail.gonzalez@dfps.state.tx.us  
512-438-3312

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:** Division of Child and Family Services.

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

Most post services are available throughout the state; however, some services may still be a long distance from families in rural areas.

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Of 5,420 children with an open Adoption Assistance Agreement, 4,135 are receiving a monthly subsidy.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- ☐ No  
☒ Yes. Every region of the state has DCFS post adoption staff to help a family access resources and address crisis.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

- 1. Information and Referral:** There are two sources of information and referral. Each part of the state has DCFS post adoption workers to help an adoptive family find appropriate resources to meet their family's needs. There is also a website, [www.utdcfsadopt.org](http://www.utdcfsadopt.org), that has updated statewide resources such as support groups, cultural groups, respite care, mental health services, educational advocacy, and many categories of special needs resources.

- 2. Educational Programs or Materials:** There is a lending library with many books and DVDs on many subjects. Parents and professionals can check out 1-3 items at a time. There is no charge to check out educational resources. The website also lists conferences, workshops and other educational opportunities. There are educational classes and trainings through the support groups throughout the state. There is an annual adoption conference available to all adoptive parents, and many mental health programs offer educational workshops and classes regarding childhood trauma and mental health diagnoses.

- 3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Utah has 40 cluster support groups throughout the state. Cluster facilitators take a training to learn leadership skills and then are given a small amount of money for snacks and to take minutes at each meeting. Most cluster groups have trainings or speakers at the majority of their meetings. Support groups usually also have two to three family fun activities. Often a cluster support group member will become an informal buddy or provide informal respite care for a struggling family.

- 4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Medicaid in Utah uses public mental health. There have been trainings on "adoption" specific treatment for several years in different regions of the state. Also a federal grant allowed Trauma Focused - CBT treatment training to be offered to all public mental health workers throughout the state. Each public mental health system throughout the state has a continuum of services including outpatient and after school groups. Mental health services vary throughout the state. Adoptive parents can also "carve-out" of the public mental health system and use other mental health therapists, however, the family often loses the ability to access psychiatrists or



after school programs when they choose to “carve out.” DCFS, also, has post adoption workers who are mostly clinical therapists and can provide crisis intervention to stabilize a family and then get them hooked up with community resources to meet their on-going family needs. If a child needs out-of-home treatment, the family may use any residential treatment provider that is available for children in foster care. The costs of the care and supervision for out-of home treatment has changed this year through corrective action by Medicaid, costs not covered by Medicaid (that of the parent’s responsibility) has increased. Utah’s legislature did not fund any state dollars to help adoptive families with the costs of out-of-home treatment. There has been a small amount of state funding allocated to post adoption needs within the DCFS budget but, unfortunately several children have come back into foster care this FY to accommodate their high costs treatment or special needs.

**5. Advocacy:** DCFS post adoption workers have advocated in schools for adoptive parents, as well as to help them get other services. Cluster group facilitators have been great advocates for services. There is a mental health advocacy group called NAMI that has helped adoptive parents. There are advocacy groups for many kinds of special needs, such as autism, that have been helpful.

**6. Respite:** Informal respite care is encouraged from the time of an adoptive placement by asking a new adoptive family to use their family or other adoptive families to provide scheduled respite care from the start. Informal respite care is also encouraged through getting to know other adoptive families at local cluster support groups. DCFS funds hourly in-home respite care through private Family Support Centers throughout the state and hourly in-home respite through the Youth Service Center in the largest metropolitan areas. Funding for this service is limited and needs are higher

than the availability of services. These private facilities also have crisis respite available to all families. More extensive respite care (weekend or longer) is arranged on a case-by-case basis with the help of DCFS post adoption workers, based on the families’ needs. All respite options are more limited than are needed.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** As stated in the therapeutic interventions section, if a child needs residential treatment, the family may use any residential treatment provider that is available for children in foster care. The costs of the care and supervision for residential treatment has changed this year through corrective action by Medicaid, thus the cost not covered by Medicaid (that of the parent’s responsibility) has increased substantially and Utah’s legislature did not allocate any state dollars to help adoptive families with the costs of residential treatment. There has been a small amount of state funding allocated to post adoption needs within the (already cut) DCFS budget, but unfortunately several children have come back into foster care this FY to accommodate their high costs treatment or special needs. Funding for residential treatment includes Medicaid covering direct treatment services. Care, supervision and education costs are paid for by a combination of re-assessing the monthly subsidy based on the child’s current special needs, using state funding within the DCFS budget and federal Promoting Safe and Stable Families and Adoption Act funding. As stated in the section above, with limited state funding options, several children have come back into foster care on a dependency petition to receive much needed high costs treatment.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** DCFS allows a child and/or the adoptive family to re-reviews the child's foster care records to help the child put the pieces of their life back together. Contact with the child's biological relatives is facilitated at the request of the adoptive family. DCFS post adoption workers can help mediate or educate both birth and adoptive family members about timing and boundaries that may be helpful to make a mutually contact successful.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** There is an annual "Adoption Celebration" held each year in November at an entertainment center. It is attended by hundreds of families and helps adopted children see they are not alone and that there are many different combination of races within families. Boondocks entertainment center donates rides and games and Wendy's donates chili so it is a day of fun. This is not really a service, but it helps kids see how many adoptive families there are and helps DCFS promote awareness of the need for more adoptive families.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** DCFS Post adoption Services and those funded by DCFS are available to families that adopted their children through a USA public child welfare system.
- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** Services funded through Medicaid or private funding are available to those who are eligible for such services.

**3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** There is no state law, to my knowledge, that mandates post-adoption services.

**4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** There are no current services that are supported by a time-limited grant.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**  
Yes  
X No
- 2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**  
No  
X Yes. As described earlier, there is limited state funding (there has been more in prior years) to help with care and supervision costs of residential treatment, and extended respite care. Some state funds are also used for Medicaid match and for employee match.

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

- 1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:** Not that I am aware of.
- 2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**  
No  
X Yes. *Post Adoption Support: Needs Assessment 2008 Report* by Susan Egbert, MSW, PhD, Independent Researcher. The on-line report contains detailed summaries of parents' responses with regard to their children's maltreatment histories; post adoption needs experiences; and post

adoption service awareness, access, use and ratings of quality. Quotes from parents are included in the report at:  
[www.utdcfsadoptex.org](http://www.utdcfsadoptex.org)  
Adoption Resources

### Contact

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# VERMONT

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- X Statewide service system  
County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

Yes

No

Yes and No. Funding prevents the same quality of service in the more rural parts of VT.

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

1,800.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

Yes

X No. Vermont does not have any public child welfare adoption workers.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** We have a one-stop shop through the Vermont Adoption Consortium. Families need only call one number to access services.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** We have two lending libraries, a website, and offer a variety of trainings for parents and professionals annually. We also have a specific training for teachers and school personnel on special needs adoption, trauma and adoptive family development.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** We have six to nine support groups throughout the state.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** We rely on the community mental health centers for therapeutic intervention. It is hit or miss around the state as staff turn over is high and most are not competent in special needs adoptive child/family development.

**5. Advocacy:** The post adoption agency staff are very good at helping adoptive families advocate for their children.

**6. Respite:** We use Title IV-B Subpart 2 Family Preservation Funds to pay for respite care. We also build child resiliency activities into the respite care budgets as well as traditional respite.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** This is a challenging area. Families must seek a coordinated service plan which involves the Department of Mental Health, Department of Education, and DCF. All three must agree that residential is necessary and must agree how to fund it.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Most DCF children are adopted by a relative or their foster parents and the birth family and adopting family have a relationship. We encourage that relationship to continue as long as it is in the best interests of the children. We encourage on-going sibling relationships. Search services are provided by the state.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** For a short time we had the capacity to provide trauma assessments for adoptive families that outline clearly the interventions, services and supports that were most likely to have the greatest impact on the child and family development.

## VERMONT

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

- 1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** To access any service child must be adopted, child must be on Medicaid, child must have a special need. To access respite funds, training, or education materials child may be in the guardianship of a relative, child must have special needs. Any guardian, adoptive or foster family can access training, information, educational materials and phone support.
- 2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?**  
We can serve any adopted child who has a special need, is having difficulty and receives Medicaid. I do not believe any.
- 3. Which, if any, or these services is legally mandated in state law?** These services are paid for through VT general funds and Title 4-B sub-part 2 Family Preservation Funds and Rehab Medicaid. Every year, the general fund is threatened.
- 4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** No response.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

- 1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**  
☒ Yes  
☐ No
- 2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**  
☐ No  
☒ Yes, to provide funds for respite and resiliency building activities.

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

- 1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**  
Leanne Lachance  
Vermont Adoption Consortium  
www.VtAdoption.org  
802-223-4744
- 2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**  
☐ No  
☒ Yes. Contact the adoption consortium.

### Contact

Diane Dexter  
Vermont

# WEST VIRGINIA

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- ☒ Statewide service system  
☐ County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

No response.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

- 1. Information and Referral:** The adoptive parents often utilize their DHHR Homefinder for I&R needs (varies from worker to worker and is not a formalized process). We do have CAPS Case Management through the ASO.
- 2. Educational Programs or Materials:** We have a contract with a private non-profit that has a lending library consisting of educational books. All adoptive parents can still attend the foster/adopt support groups that typically have an educational program at the meetings.
- 3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** All adoptive families are encouraged to continue attending the foster/adopt support groups. There are not specific groups through the DHHR for post-adoptive families.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** There are limited services available through the CAPS/ASO services.

**5. Advocacy:** Per ASO services, CAPS Case Management services are available.

**6. Respite:** Per ASO services, Crisis Respite can be provided three days per every 92 days for max total of 14 days.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** Adoptive parents are responsible and/or the child's medical card. If the child is taken back into state's custody then the state would be responsible. Limits are based on child's insurance.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** We have a mutual consent registry. The purpose of this registry is to provide a centralized location wherein birth parents and the adult adoptee may register their willingness to have their identity and whereabouts disclosed and to provide for the disclosure of such information provided each individual voluntarily registers. The information placed in the child's adoptive record will only be available upon request of an eligible person after the child and all siblings in an adoptive placement have reached the age of eighteen or upon court order for good cause shown. Upon registering, the applicant will participate in not less than one hour of counseling with a social worker or social service worker employed by the Department's registry. If a birth parent or adult adoptee resides outside the state, the Department will obtain counseling from a social worker employed by a licensed agency in that state.



## WEST VIRGINIA

9. **Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** No response.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

1. **What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Must be an adoption through child welfare.
2. **Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?** We have not had requests that I have been made aware of.
3. **Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** Mutual Consent Registry.
4. **Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** We utilize the Safe and Stable Families Act Funding and state money for these services. It is not likely they would continue without this funding.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

1. **Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**  
No  
X Yes
2. **Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**  
No  
X Yes. We have a managed care system – ASO Services – that is utilized for not only post-adoption but other services provided in the child welfare system. (parenting, transportation, crisis intervention etc.) With post adoption, a CAPS assessment would

have to be done then a referral for ASO services for the indicated services.

[http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/caps/aso\\_caps\\_overview.asp](http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/caps/aso_caps_overview.asp)

[http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/aso/aso\\_overview.asp](http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/aso/aso_overview.asp)

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

1. **Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**  
None I'm aware of.
2. **Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**  
No  
X Yes. We just completed a survey with an almost 50% return rate. The top needs identified in the study were:
  1. Increase the number of Medicaid providers in the state.
  2. Continued education for both adoptive parents and providers regarding adoption issues
  3. Better educational support services
  4. Greater access to counseling services, both individual and family (goes back to #2 also more providers)
  5. More training for adoptive parents regarding specific special needs issues/diagnosis.

### Contact

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# WYOMING

## POST-ADOPTION SURVEY National Resource Center for Adoption

### Description of State Services

**1. Which of the following describes your state service system:**

- X Statewide service system  
County-based service system

**Comment:**

**2. Are services accessible across all regions in the state?**

- X Yes  
No

**3. How many children were receiving subsidy in your state as of January 2011?**

Approximately 500 children.

**4. Are public child welfare adoption workers expected to provide post-adoption services?**

- Yes  
No

Not necessarily, unless there are issues.

### Post-adoption Services Provided by State to Adoptive Families

**1. Information and Referral:** Statewide information and referral is provided by Wyoming certified adoption agencies, Adoption Exchange (Wyoming is a member state) and the DFS field offices statewide.

**2. Educational Programs or Materials:** Same as above.

**3. Support Programs (groups, mentors, buddy families, etc.):** Wyoming foster care alliance is a grass-roots group that had their first conference, Road to Adoption, in 2010. Wyoming also has DFS foster care coordinators statewide that offer training and technical assistance.

**4. Therapeutic Interventions:** Generally, an adoption subsidy comes with Medicaid, so a family can seek therapeutic interventions.

**5. Advocacy:** Again, this would be similar to responses to 1 and 2 above.

**6. Respite:** Respite can be provided for foster care, but not usually for adoption. An adoptive family would have to contact their local office where the subsidy came from, as this is not something that is built in.

**7. Residential Treatment (please describe how these services are funded, and any funding limits and/or time frame limits):** This would have to be funded using the existing adoption subsidy, and the Medicaid portion. Wyoming also has a mental health waiver program that the family could apply for.

**8. Mediation and/or search services (or provisions for openness in child welfare adoptions):** Wyoming has a confidential intermediary program, once the child turns 18. We find that with most of our older adoptions, the children already know their birth family, and most understand that usually it is better not to cut those ties.

**9. Please describe any other services not included in the list above:** No response.

### Qualifications for Post-adoptive Services

**1. What are the eligibility criteria for such services (i.e., proportion of adoptions where services offered)?** Adoptions where in the child is adopted from the child welfare system are eligible for these services. This is the case statewide. Most service comes with an adoption subsidy.

## WYOMING

**2. Under what circumstances, if any, are these services provided to children who were not adopted through the child welfare system?**

If a child is in the custody of a Wyoming child-placing agency, and it is determined the child is special needs, those children may qualify for a subsidy. Although it does not happen on a routine basis, this provision has been used many times in Wyoming.

**3. Which, if any, of these services is legally mandated in state law?** Wyoming state law says if a child is adopted from the DFS foster care system or a child-placing agency and is determined special needs that a subsidy may be provided.

**4. Which, if any, of these services are grant supported, and if so, what is the likelihood that they will continue after the grant period?** Some services, which have been grant supported in the past are adoption camps for Wyoming children, *Fostering Today/Adoptions Today* (a magazine available to all of our families for educational purposes), foster parent college (where classes can be selected from the internet and are state funded). Whenever funds become available we review these options again, as they have been successful.

### Support for Post-adoption Services

**1. Are you using Safe and Stable Families Act Funding (family preservation and family support) funds for post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes. This has varied by the various services mentioned previously in this survey.

**2. Are you using State funds to provide post-adoption services?**

No

X Yes. If a child qualifies for an adoption subsidy, and for some reason does not qualify for the federal share, then Wyoming uses their state funds for the subsidy. This includes the cash payment, one time non-recurring costs, and the Medicaid portion.

### Other Information on Post-adoption Issues

**1. Are there exemplary or innovative post-adoption programs in your state? If so, please provide name, address, description of program:**

Most innovative were the adoption camps offered via the Wyoming state adoption council, several years ago. Wyoming Children's Society and Catholic Charities of Wyoming, as well as certain DFS staff ran the camps. As a result, families from across the state had someone to call that was in a very similar situation to their own, which allowed them to recognize that they were not all alone.

**2. Since 2002, have you conducted a needs survey/assessment of adoptive families?**

Yes

X No

### Contact

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