



Permanency support services for adoptive, foster and kinship families

Permanency support services are available to assist children, youth and families throughout the foster care or adoption process. The Minnesota Department of Human Services contracts with agencies to provide services that help families support and care for children and youth who have been adopted or are in foster placements or kinship care. Agencies under contract to provide these services in Minnesota are listed below.

Adoption Medicine Clinic, University of Minnesota

This clinic provides **comprehensive child well-being assessments** for foster, adoptive and kinship youth. Assessments examine medical, developmental, cognitive and mental health needs through assessment of the child's family, medical and developmental history; a medical exam including lab work, screening for toxic exposure and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders; and an assessment of developmental skills.

Adoption Medicine Clinic University of Minnesota is at 2512 S. Seventh St., Minneapolis. Make appointments by calling 612-365-6777. For more information, email iac@umn.edu, call 612-624-1164 or visit adoption.umn.edu.

Ampersand Families

This organization provides statewide adoption and permanency services. Learn more at www.ampersandfamilies.org, and see specific services below.

Heart Gallery: Ampersand recruits and supports a pool of professional photographers to take photos of Minnesota's waiting children. The photographs are used to recruit adoptive families.

For more information, contact Matt Smith, matt@ampersandfamilies.org or 612-605-1904, or visit www.minnesotaheartgallery.org.

Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics® assessments: Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics® is an evidence-based tool for assessing the impact of childhood trauma on the developing brain. Once completed, the assessment can provide guidance to foster, adoptive and kinship parents/caregivers on integrative, mind-body activities and strategies that can help restore the neglected neural pathways. Ultimately, these interventions aim to help children and youth who experienced childhood trauma to strengthen pathways in the brain that are required for things like self-regulation, attention, problem solving and reciprocal relationships. Families will also be connected with mind-body practitioners who can help them integrate holistic strategies, and may receive some assistance to purchase necessary equipment when the item is not covered by Medical Assistance.

For more information, contact nmt@ampersandfamilies.org or 612-605-1904.

Family activities: In State Fiscal Year 2020, Ampersand Families will offer retreats in different locations throughout the state, each open to 10 to 15 families. Each retreat provides opportunities for parents to receive

group training and individual consultation with professionals on issues such as medication management, trauma- and attachment-informed parenting strategies, mind-body interventions, special education, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and occupational therapy. Parents have time to socialize with other parents to build their support network. Each retreat also includes extensive youth programming, some of which is youth-led. Youth build their own support networks, make new friends and have fun in a nature based setting.

For more information, contact Emily Krumberger, emily@ampersandfamilies.org or 612-605-1903.

Peer Support for Youth – Youth Leaders: Ampersand Families offers leadership and personal development opportunities for youth ages 12-20. Several times per year, the group meets for social, psychoeducational and activism activities. Specific activities are determined by the youth, but may include creating videos to help recruit and train families, or creating materials to encourage other youth to be open to the idea of adoption. Training is also available for youth so they can speak publicly to raise awareness of the need for foster, adoptive and buddy families. An online community specifically for participating youth will also help them develop supportive community relationships and provide tools to promote permanency.

For more information, contact Stacy Gehringer at stacy@ampersandfamilies.org or 612-559-6779, or Emily Krumberger at emily@ampersandfamilies.org or 612-384-4289.

Buddy family services: Ampersand Families is piloting a buddy family program that will match volunteer families with families who will adopt or have adopted a child under state or tribal guardianship. Buddy families make a commitment to provide an additional level of support to the adoptive family, including a couple of evenings and/or overnights a month to provide the parent and youth “respite” from the hard work of family-building. They complete training and background studies through Ampersand Families.

For more information, contact Misty Coonce at misty@ampersandfamilies.org or 612-605-1903.

Children’s Home Society of Minnesota

This organization provides statewide adoption and permanency services. For more information on the services listed below, contact Heidi Wiste at heidi.wiste@chlss.org or 651-646-7771, or visit www.chlss.org/education-events/foster-care-adoption-education-classes/.

Pre-adoption training: Children’s Home Society of Minnesota provides centralized 16-hour pre-adoption education to prepare families who intend to parent a child or children under guardianship in Minnesota.

Innovative recruitment: Children’s Home Society engages in recruitment activities to increase the pool of families interested in adopting children under state or tribal guardianship.

Innovative post-adoption services: Children’s Home Society provides innovative post-adoption services including assessment and supportive coaching to adoptive families. This service works to increase an adoptive family’s understanding of their child’s needs and trauma history, and provides appropriate and consistent interventions. The post-adoption services include an individualized intervention plan and quality parenting training.

Evolve

This organization runs UMOJA (Swahili for unity), a heritage camp for transracial families that has a primary focus on black/African-American children and youth being raised by foster, adoptive and kinship parents of another culture. The camp reflects on the contributions of African Americans, empowering families to raise children who are proud of the skin they are in. UMOJA MN offers an opportunity for youth to be led, taught by and connected to teachers, caretakers and community members of color.

Evolve offers three camps each year, held in the metro area and Greater Minnesota. Scholarships are available for adoptive and foster families.

For more information, contact Maliza Kalema at mkalema@evolveservices.org or 651-439-2446, or visit umojamn.org.

MN ADOPT

This organization provides statewide adoption and permanency services. A brief description of services is listed below. For more information, visit www.mnadopt.org or call 612-861-7115. For general adoption information or inquiries about a specific adoptable child, contact adoptioninfo@mnadopt.org. For general foster care information, contact fosteringnetwork@mnadopt.org.

Adoption, foster care and kinship information and referral: MN ADOPT provides information and resources for foster care, adoptive and kinship families. It also administers the State Adoption Exchange and the Fostering Network.

Training and education for foster, adoptive and kinship parents: MN ADOPT provides training on the effects of trauma, common disabilities of adopted children and those in foster care and kinship placements, and challenges for children in these placements. Similar training is provided for professionals who serve youth connected with the child welfare system on the effects of trauma, common disabilities of adopted children and those in foster care and kinship placements, and challenges for children in these placements. Direct education-related questions to education@mnadopt.org.

HELP: MN ADOPT offers a help line for adoptive, foster and kinship families throughout Minnesota. Clinical specialists provide individualized referrals to adoption-competent mental health professionals in a family's area. This can include in-home counseling and training. MN ADOPT also provides financial assistance to families experiencing financial barriers to obtaining services. Reach the help line at 1-855-670-HELP or 612-746-5137. For more information on the help line, contact help@mnadopt.org.

HELP navigator: MN ADOPT offers a navigator who conducts outreach to recently adoptive parents and connects those parents with needed resources. For more information, contact helpnavigator@mnadopt.org.

Post-adoption search services: MN ADOPT can contract with an agency to provide post-adoption referral services to assist adoptees in connecting with their adoption placing agency. For more information on post-adoption search services, contact searchinfo@mnadopt.org.

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

This organization provides Indian Child Welfare Act-related adoption and permanency services in the Twin Cities metro area. A brief description of services is listed below. Questions can be directed to Dawn Bjoraker, Indian Child Welfare Act kinship worker, at dbjoraker@miwrc.org, 612-276-1503. The center is at 2300 15th Ave. S, Minneapolis. Learn more at www.miwrc.org.

Placement family recruitment, preparation and support: The center provides individualized supports to potential Indian Child Welfare Act adoptive, foster and kinship parents that include home visits with licensing education and barrier identification, housing compliance assistance, culturally grounded emotional and practical supports, and culturally grounded resource referral to improve placement outcomes. Services include ongoing post-placement supports and connections to the organization's in-house services and other community services.

Foster family and kinship placement education and training events: The center hosts two events each year that are culturally grounded and also serve as an information and recruitment activity with a focus on recruiting foster, kinship and adoptive families for Indian Child Welfare Act-qualifying children.

Support group for foster, adoptive and kinship parents: The center provides weekly peer Indian Child Welfare Act placement support groups that utilize culturally grounded educational curriculum, traditional teachings, arts and crafts, and positive community norms to strengthen family/caregiver parenting skills and confidence.

Cultural activities: The center hosts four cultural field trips per year for adoptive, foster and kinship families.

The North American Council on Adoptable Children

This organization provides statewide adoption and permanency services. A brief description of services is listed below. For more information, visit www.nacac.org or contact Ginny Blade at 651-646-5082 or ginnyblade@nacac.org.

Parent-to-parent support: The council provides parent-to-parent support to adoptive, foster care and kinship parents through phone and email, in-person and online support groups, parent leadership training and retreats.

Youth support: The council offers supports for youth through support groups for adopted, foster and kinship youth, and sessions for siblings of adopted, foster and kinship youth.

Family activities: The council provides activities for the entire adopted, foster and kinship family unit that allow families to make connections, pursue educational opportunities and attend skill-building sessions through family camps in 2020 and 2022, and through mini-grants to support groups.

Reel Hope Project

This organization provides two-minute profile videos of Minnesota's waiting children to help recruit adoptive families. To learn more, visit www.thereelhopeproject.org, or contact Kaycee Stanley at kaycee@thereelhopeproject.org or 218-343-9863.

For accessible formats of this publication or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to dhs.info@state.mn.us, call 651-431-4671 or use your preferred relay service.