Strengthening Family Recruitment by Offering Post-Placement Support

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Housekeeping

• This webinar will be 90 minutes long and will include time for questions via the questions window.
• We will record this webinar. We will share the recording with you and post it on professionals.adoptuskids.org.
• Your line will be muted throughout the webinar.
• The webinar will include poll questions and opportunities for you to share information via the chat function, including if you are having technical difficulties.
• Please evaluate the session after the webinar. You will receive an email from AdoptUSKids.

About AdoptUSKids

Our mission:
• Raise public awareness about the need for foster and adoptive families for children in the public child welfare system
• Assist states, territories, and tribes to recruit, engage, develop, and support foster and adoptive families

Goals for this webinar

• Discuss how offering and highlighting post-placement support services can improve the effectiveness of recruitment efforts, ultimately improving safety, permanency, and well-being for children
• Demonstrate how support services connect to common recruitment needs
• Provide strategies to incorporate post-placement support services into your recruitment efforts

Context for our conversation

• Systems consistently challenged to recruit and maintain a sufficient pool of foster and adoptive parents
• Need families for children with complex needs, for older youth, for sibling groups
• Adoption Call to Action encourages states and partners to reduce number of children waiting for adoption
Prospective foster and adoptive parent questions

- What are the children's needs? How will I meet them?
- Do I have the right skills/knowledge? How do I build the skills I don't yet have?
- How do I get help when I need it? Will seeking help be seen as a failure?
- Will I be on my own when something serious comes up?

Type into “Questions”

What other questions or concerns do prospective parents have as they consider fostering or adopting?

How support improves recruitment efforts

- Helps bring in new families: Well-supported families facilitate word-of-mouth recruitment
- Helps keep families engaged: Prospective parents are encouraged to move forward when they know what support they can expect
- Helps families see support as normal: Families are aware of and connected to support before they need it

Maintaining existing families

- Supporting foster families and stabilizing adoptive and kinship/guardianship families
- Losing families that we’ve recruited is bad for children
- Losing families is also a loss of limited resources

Connecting recruitment needs to post-placement support

Need: permanent families for older youth

Related supports:
- Peer support for teens and their parents
- Mentoring
- Training and support specific to kin
- Behavioral support services
- Educational support and advocacy
- Parity in guardianship support services

Connecting recruitment needs to post-placement support

Need: foster families who partner in reunification

Related supports:
- Training that builds skills like effective communication, conflict resolution
- Guidance and support around birth family visitation
- Peer support
- Enhanced support during times of transition and loss
Connecting recruitment needs to post-placement support

Need: families for children with higher needs

Related supports:
- Training on specific topics; child-specific preparation
- Crisis response and intervention
- Behavioral and mental health services
- Accessible high-end supports (i.e., intensive in-home, wraparound)
- Planned and emergency respite

Type into “Questions”

What are some other recruitment needs in your system?

Strategies to highlight available supports to prospective parents

- Lead with information about all support services, when they are available, and how to access them
- Have experienced families talk with prospective parents
- Have prospective families sit in on a support group, training session, etc.

Type into “Questions”

What ideas do you have to connect support services to your recruitment efforts in your systems?

Strategies to highlight available supports to prospective parents

- Ensure all staff are well-versed in available supports
- Be open to and encourage families’ questions about support
- Help families see the value that each form of support brings
- Keep promises

What strategies will work best for your system?

- Importance of system assessment, continuous quality improvement, and evaluation
- Data driven recruitment
- Feedback loops
- Support Services Assessment Tool
Questions?

How AdoptUSKids can help

- Tailored capacity building services
- Family support peer group for administrators or their designees
- Free resources on the AdoptUSKids hub for professionals

Stay informed about upcoming events and publications adoptuskids.org/newsletter-sign-up.

AdoptUSKids Resources

- Support Services Assessment Tool and companion guide
- Integrating Family Support from Inquiry Throughout Post-Placement
- Using Integrated Recruitment and Support to Build a Strong Pool of Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship Families
- Support Matters

Don’t miss out!

Don’t miss our next webinar or new resources. Sign up for email!
https://www.adoptuskids.org/newsletter-sign-up

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Contact consultation@adoptuskids.org to inquire about tailored capacity building services.