Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support

a resource guide for adoptive and guardianship families in Wisconsin
"I just don't feel so alone."

However you have experienced adoption or guardianship, our program is here to provide you with the support, education and information you need to keep moving forward. It is our hope that you too will know through the highs and lows of this journey that you are not alone. In this guide, you will find many resources and places to start, and I encourage you to reach out to us at 1-833-WIS-APSP or info@wisapsp.org for an initial conversation with one of our support specialists. We would be honored to get you started in the right direction.

Christy Reppe
Adoption & Permanency Support Coordinator
Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support Program
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In July of 2019, Wisconsin’s Post Adoption Resource Centers came together under one statewide program, Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support. The program is committed to providing quality support, information and education to all of Wisconsin’s adoptive and guardianship families, birth families, and adult adoptees. Our program is built on collaboration with individuals, professionals, organizations and community members throughout Wisconsin who are impacted by adoption & guardianship.

Services offered include:

- 24/7 toll-free talk or text line providing immediate access to supportive specialists who can provide information and referrals
- Online or in-person support opportunities
- Short-term in-home support offered through the GIFTS Program
- Educational workshops and conferences for foster, adoptive or guardianship families
- Online directories of mental health professionals and local support groups by region
- Quarterly e-newsletter
- Lending libraries at each statewide location with extensive collections of books and DVDs
- Consultation, training and educational resources available for professionals
- Facebook page with multiple online support groups

The program is funded by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Children & Families and managed by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse.
Office locations for the program are shown on the map below. Each location includes a lending library.

To set up an appointment to visit your local office, please contact us at:
1-833-WIS-APSP or info@wisapsp.org
Events

One of our favorite ways to connect with families is through regional and statewide events. Both in-person and online events are always on our calendar.

Visit [www.wisapsp.org/calendar](http://www.wisapsp.org/calendar) to see what events are happening near you. You will find family fun events, educational workshops or webinars, support groups and conferences.
"The knowledge gained here helps me and my extended family by giving us the tools, language and resources to deal with our circumstances."

-WISAPSP PARTICIPANT
Visit our website, www.wisapsp.org, to find a full mental health professionals directory representing professionals all across the state who have experience and training working with issues most important to adoptive & guardianship families.
Adoptive, Foster, Kinship, and Guardianship Families
Birth Families
Adult Adoptees

The Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support Program maintains a list of statewide support groups designed for:
- Adoptive, Foster, Kinship, and Guardianship Families
- Birth Families
- Adult Adoptees

VISIT OUR WEBSITE, WWW.WISAPSP.ORG, TO FIND THE COMPLETE SUPPORT GROUP DIRECTORY.
The GIFTS Program is a short-term, in-home support program for post-adoptive or guardianship families with a higher level of need to support permanency. It is a strengths-focused, trauma-informed program.

If a family is determined to be eligible for the program, a GIFTS Case Manager will work closely with that family for up to 12 months to assist in:

- Finding resources
- Navigating cross-system needs
- Identifying family strengths and goals
- Offering consistent support and advocacy

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE GIFTS PROGRAM OR DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY, FILL OUT OUR FIRST STEP FORM AT WWW.WISAPSP.ORG/FIRSTSTEPFORM.
“This has been my primary source of support to take care of myself as a parent. I am so grateful.”

-WISAPSP PARTICIPANT
ABC for Health

ABC for Health is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special needs, to health care benefits and services.

www.safetyweb.org / 608-261-6939

Adoptive Family Travel

Adoptive Family Travel works with adoptees and their families to design heritage journeys to their birth countries, visit the sites, and provide opportunities for unique, authentic experiences.

www.adoptivefamilytravel.com / 866-359-0995

The Coalition for Children, Youth, & Families

The Coalition for Children, Youth & Families is a statewide information and support organization. They operate the Wisconsin Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center, a valuable guide to any new or current foster family, families considering adopting a child whom they are currently fostering, and foster care licensing staff.

www.coalitionforcyf.org / 414-475-1246
The Child Development Center at Children's Wisconsin is dedicated to the care of children, from infancy through adolescence, with developmental challenges. We provide services directly or in collaboration with other pediatric specialists to provide high-quality, family-centered care, education, prevention, research, and advocacy.


International Adoption Clinic – Milwaukee

Based in the Child Development Center, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin's International Adoption Clinic offers services to families adopting children from outside the United States.


International Adoption Clinic – Twin Cities

Providing pre- and post-adoption medical guidance (including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders evaluations) plus academic research to help mitigate the long-term effects of early childhood adversity.

www.adoption.umn.edu / 612-624-1164

Respite Care Association of Wisconsin

Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) is a non-profit charitable organization with a goal to promote, support, and expand quality, statewide respite care across the lifespan.

www.respitecarewi.org / 608-222-2033
**ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
Adoption assistance helps support parents raising a child with special care needs who meets the eligibility criteria for adoption assistance in Ch. DCF 50 Administrative Code. 866-666-5532
www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/adoption/assistance

**ADOPTION RECORDS SEARCH PROGRAM**
The Adoption Records Search Program helps adopted persons get information about themselves and their birth relatives. Persons whose birth parents have terminated their parental rights in Wisconsin can also get information about themselves and their birth relatives.
www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/adoption/search / 608-422-6928

**KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PORTAL**
The Kinship Navigator Portal can be used by any relative caregiver throughout the state. Caregivers will answer a set of questions specific to their situation, and based on those answers, they will be provided with information about their eligibility for various programs. www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/kinship/navigator

**YOUTH SERVICES PAYING FOR COLLEGE**
We encourage youth and the caring adults in their lives to take advantage of the programs and services listed below:
- Education and Training Voucher / Department of Children and Families Brighter Star Program
- Campus Contacts for Foster Youth
- Opening Doors to College
- Additional Resources
www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/youthservices/college
Because DHS programs vary by county, we encourage you to reach out to your local county DHS office for the most accurate information. **608-266-1865**

**BIRTH TO 3 PROGRAM**
The Birth to 3 Program is a federally-mandated program to support families of children with delays or disabilities under the age of three. [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3)

**CARE4KIDS PROGRAM**
Care4Kids is an innovative program designed to offer comprehensive and coordinated health services for children and youth in foster care. [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/care4kids](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/care4kids)

**KATIE BECKETT PROGRAM**
The Katie Beckett Program is a special eligibility process that allows certain children with long-term disabilities, mental illness, or complex medical needs, to obtain a ForwardHealth card. [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/kbp](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/kbp)

**CHILDREN’S LONG-TERM SUPPORT WAIVER PROGRAM**
The Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program funds community supports and services for children who have substantial limitations in their daily activities and need support to remain in their home or community. [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts)

**MENTAL HEALTH: CHILDREN**
A collection of services to young children, youth, and young adults with mental health challenges to help them meet their goals at home, at school, and in the community. [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mh/children](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mh/children)

- Comprehensive Community Services
- Coordinated Services Teams Initiatives
- Youth crisis stabilization facilities
- Youth day treatment
Waisman Center

Located in Madison, WI, the Waisman Center is dedicated to advancing knowledge about human development, developmental disabilities, and neurodegenerative diseases through research, training, services, and outreach.

www.waisman.wisc.edu / 608-263-1656

Well Badger Resource Center

The Well Badger Resource Center is a health information and referral service operated by the Wisconsin Women’s Health Foundation (WWHF), in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

www.wellbadger.org / 800-642-7837

Wisconsin Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Resource Centers

The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program collaborates with national, state and community-based partners to link children to appropriate services, close service gaps, reduce duplication and develop policies to better serve families. Visit the website for your region's contact information.

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters

Wisconsin FACETs

Our mission is to provide and broaden opportunities that enhance the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities and their families, with emphasis on support for underserved families in the community.

www.wifacets.org / 877-374-0511
Wisconsin Family Ties

Wisconsin Family Ties is a statewide not-for-profit organization run by families for families to empower and support parents of children with emotional or behavioral health challenges. It provides advocacy, support groups, information and referral, and education.
Toll free for parents only: 800-422-7145
www.wifamilyties.org / 608-267-6888

Wisconsin Foster & Adoptive Parent Association

WFAPA is a peer and volunteer-based organization that supports and advocates for foster and adoptive parents by offering training and support programs. They also work to create and support different legislative measures with representatives in Madison.
www wfapa.org

Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative

WSPEI helps build positive partnerships between families and school districts resulting in shared decision making and student's learning.
www.wspei.org / 833-879-7734

WISAPSP does not manage the websites, phone numbers, or contact information of the resources listed in this guide. Resources are subject to change by the organization to which it belongs. No resources are specifically endorsed by Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support or the State of WI Department of Children and Families. Annotations are taken from the organizations' websites. Resource information is based on information from June 2021.
"It's never too early or too late to reach out. We're here to help, and if we don't know the answers, we are happy to help you find them."

-WISAPSP STAFF MEMBER
Adoptees United

Adoptees United is committed to a diverse board and organization that represents the interests of all adoptees, whether domestic, intercountry, transracial, or former foster youth. www.adopteesunited.org

Adoption Families Magazine

Adoptive Families, the award-winning national adoption magazine, is the leading adoption information source for families before, during, and after adoption.
www.adoptivefamilies.com / 800-372-3300

Adoption Learning Partners

Adoption Learning Partners offers meaningful, timely, web-based educational adoption resources for professionals, parents, adopted individuals, and the families that love them.
www.adoptionlearningpartners.org / 800-566-3995

Adoption Network Cleveland

Adoption Network Cleveland is a non-profit educational, support, and advocacy organization for all those touched by adoption.
www.adoptionnetwork.org / 216-325-1000
Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition: New York

AFFCNY unites foster, adoptive and kinship care families, giving them a voice and providing support, information and advocacy.

www.affcny.org / 888-354-1342

American Adoption Congress

Represents those whose lives are touched by adoption or other loss of family continuity. We provide education for our members and professional communities about the lifelong process of adoption.

www.americanadoptioncongress.org

202-483-3399

Center for Adoption Support and Education

C.A.S.E. offers mental health services and educational resources for all members of the adoption and foster community. We are committed to nurturing, inspiring and empowering children, teens, their families and the professionals who support them.

www.adoptionsupport.org / 301-476-8525

Child Welfare Information Gateway

Child Welfare Information Gateway promotes the safety, permanency, and well-being of children, youth, and families by connecting child welfare, adoption, and related professionals as well as the public to information, resources, and tools covering topics on child welfare, child abuse and neglect, out-of-home care, adoption, and more.

www.childwelfare.gov / 800-394-3366
Creating a Family

Creating a Family is the national adoption & infertility education organization with a goal to strengthen families through education and support for infertility patients, adoptive parents, and allied professionals.

www.creatingafamily.org

Dave Thomas Foundation

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is the only public nonprofit charity in the United States that is focused exclusively on foster care adoption.

www.davethomasfoundation.org / 800-ASK-DTFA

Empowered To Connect

Empowered To Connect offers resources for adoptive and foster parents to help them develop strong and life-changing connections with their kids. Based on Dr. Karyn Purvis’ work and research at TCU’s Child Development Center.

www.empoweredtoconnect.org

Foster Parent College

The Foster Parent College provides innovative, research-based, interactive online courses for foster, adoptive, and kinship parents.

www.fosterparentcollege.com / 800-777-6636

Mentalhealth.gov

MentalHealth.gov provides one-stop access to U.S. government mental health and mental health problems information.

www.mentalhealth.gov
**National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)**

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

[www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org) / 800-950-6264

**National Association of Adoptees & Parents**

The National Association of Adoptees and Parents (NAAP) is an educational organization that is dedicated to enhancing the lives of adoptees.

[www.naapunited.org](http://www.naapunited.org)

**National Center on Adoption and Permanancy**

NCAP's multidisciplinary team provides research and expertise that enables public and private agencies, organizational leaders, advocacy groups and other professionals to empower, strengthen and support all families.

[www.nationalcenteronadoptionandpermanency.net](http://www.nationalcenteronadoptionandpermanency.net)

617-903-0553

**National Child Traumatic Stress Network**

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) brings a singular and comprehensive focus to childhood trauma. NCTSN's collaboration of frontline providers, researchers, and families is committed to raising the standard of care while increasing access to services.

[www.nctsn.org](http://www.nctsn.org) / 310-235-2633
The mission of the Rudd Adoption Research Program is to advance knowledge about the psychology of adoption through original research; mentor the next generation of adoption-competent researchers; engage with community partners to incubate and evaluate innovative programs that have potential for national impact; and provide research-based information to influence practice and policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels.

www.umass.edu/ruddchair / 413-545-0547

National Council For Adoption

National Council For Adoption's mission is to meet the diverse needs of children, birth parents, adopted individuals, adoptive families, and all those touched by adoption through global advocacy, education, research, legislative action, and collaboration.

www.adoptioncouncil.org / 703-299-6633

North American Council on Adoptable Children

NACAC promotes and supports permanent families for children and youth in the U.S. and Canada who have been in care—especially those in foster care and those with special needs.

www.nacac.org / 651-644-3036

On Your Feet Foundation

Founded in 2001 by adoption professionals, adoptive parents and a birthparent, On Your Feet's founders focused on helping clients build a better life by giving them the tools they need.

www.onyourfeetfoundation.org / 224-858-6933

Rudd Adoption Research Institute

The mission of the Rudd Adoption Research Program is to advance knowledge about the psychology of adoption through original research; mentor the next generation of adoption-competent researchers; engage with community partners to incubate and evaluate innovative programs that have potential for national impact; and provide research-based information to influence practice and policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels.

www.umass.edu/ruddchair / 413-545-0547
with you for the lifelong journey