

ADOPTIVE FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK PARENT TO PARENT MENTORS

SB 848, Sec. 559 (PA 207 of 2018) Appropriations Report: Oct. 1, 2018 - Jan. 31, 2019

Through your support, Adoptive Family Support Network's (AFSN) Parent to Parent (P2P) Mentor Program has been providing statewide support to any Michigan adoptive family since 2015. P2P has a specialized focus on supporting adoptive families with children who may be impacted by the trauma from early childhood abuse and neglect. AFSN provides peer mentoring, support groups, education and advocacy to create a community that supports the lifelong wellbeing of adoptive families. The P2P Program's goal remains to be limiting out of home placements (residential treatment), disrupted adoptive placements and dissolved adoptions; supporting children to continue their healing at home.

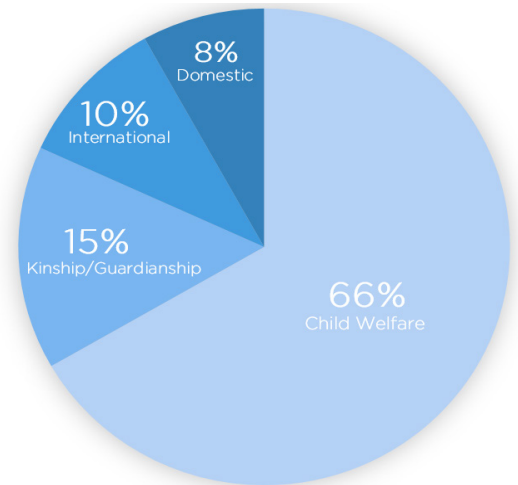
We are pleased to report that in 2018 AFSN and the Parent to Parent Mentor Program gained accreditation through the National Council on Accreditation (COA) for Counseling, Support and Education Services! COA has been a nonprofit accreditor of human services since 1977. Counseling, Support, and Education Services are community-based, prevention-focused programs and activities to help families and individuals of all ages cope with the stresses of daily living. Services emphasize personal growth, development, and situational change. This accreditation signifies that an organization or program, such as AFSN, is effectively managing its resources and providing the best possible services to all of its stakeholders.

Families utilizing Parent to Parent are provided an organic community of peer support, education and leadership training that helps keep parents strong and families intact. Parents supported in their own community have reported feeling more empowered to learn new approaches and skills needed to help abused children heal their emotional wounds. The program's staff and 96 volunteer parent mentors are located throughout Michigan and are well connected to resources in their communities. This promotes their ability to support, coach and advocate for the services families need in their communities.

IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF FY 19 (OCT. 1, 2018 - JAN. 31, 2019):

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES SERVED

- 1393 Unduplicated Michigan Adoptive Families
- 337 New Families, 1056 Families Utilizing Supports Ongoing
- 3750 individual contacts (averaging 1 hour of support per family)
- 72 (83%) Michigan Counties Served



PARENT/CLIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 98% reported all adopted children under 18 remained in their home.
- 99% reported being highly satisfied or satisfied with their P2P support.
- 97% reported feeling more able to access support and resources since connecting with AFSN.

Support
24/7/365

96
Parent Mentors
Located Across
Michigan

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TOP REASONS FAMILIES CONTACTED P2P

- Seeking support group or connection to other adoptive families
- Seeking resources to assist with their child's challenging behaviors

PROGRAM ACTIVITY FACILITATED IN PERSON

- Community Presentations - 14 community groups, schools and agencies in 13 counties (39 in FY18)
- Family Engagement Events - 13 community events with families from 21 counties (72 in FY 18)
- Support Groups & Education - 25 in person events serving families from 21 counties (54 in FY 18)

PROGRAM OUTREACH & SUPPORT MODERATED ONLINE

- Lending Library- Resources list available on our website
- Statewide Support Group Listing By County- located on our website
- AFSN Facebook Public Page- 3,486 page followers (9% increase this FY)
- P2P Statewide Facebook Village- 2629 members (6% increase from FY18)
- P2P Parent Mentor Group- 80 members
- Transracial Families Group- 591 members
- Single Adoptive Parents Group- 67 members
- Support Groups Moderated by AFSN (3)- 103 combined members
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Online Book Club- 87 members

“It is so wonderful to not feel alone, like we are the only ones living such a crazy life. People are very real and that is so helpful.”



Adoptive Family Support Network

PARENT TO PARENT

Parent to Parent (P2P) provides a listening ear, knowledgeable guidance and community connections to any adoptive family living in Michigan at no charge. Services are provided through trained staff and volunteer parent leaders living throughout Michigan with a wide variety of personal adoption experiences.

WHEN SHOULD YOU REACH OUT?

Contact us anytime 24/7 you have a question or want to connect, such as:

PEER SUPPORT Is there an adoptive parent leader or a support group near my county?

REFERRALS Can you help me find a therapist or other specialists with experience in adoptive issues?

RESOURCES Are there supports available in my community for my adoptive family? I would like to request a resource from AFSN's lending library.

ADVOCACY How do I obtain the help my child needs in school? I want to attend a P2P leadership training.

BEHAVIOR What can I do when my child is exhibiting difficult behaviors (mood swings, temper, disobedience, etc.)?

GRIEF & LOSS How can I navigate this difficult time for myself and my child?

IDENTITY How do I answer my child's questions about his/her identity at different stages or ages?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION How do I get more information about upcoming fun events and trainings for my family?



For more information, visit dabsj.org and search "P2P".



MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

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