

Adoptive Family Support Network

(FY 2018 Appropriation Act - Public Act 107 of 2017)

March 1, 2018

Sec. 559. (1) *From the funds appropriated in part 1 for adoption support services, the department shall allocate \$250,000.00 to the Adoptive Family Support Network by December 1 of the current fiscal year to operate and expand its adoptive parent mentor program to provide a listening ear, knowledgeable guidance, and community connections to adoptive parents and children who were adopted in this state or another state.*

(2) *The Adoptive Family Support Network shall submit to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, the senate and house policy offices, and the state budget office by March 1 of the current fiscal year a report on the program described in subsection (1), including, but not limited to, the number of cases served and the number of cases in which the program prevented an out-of-home placement.*



Michigan Department of
Health & Human Services

RICK SNYDER, GOVERNOR
NICK LYON, DIRECTOR



Statewide Adoptive Parent-to-Parent Mentors

HB 4323, Sec. 559

October 1, 2017 – January 31, 2018

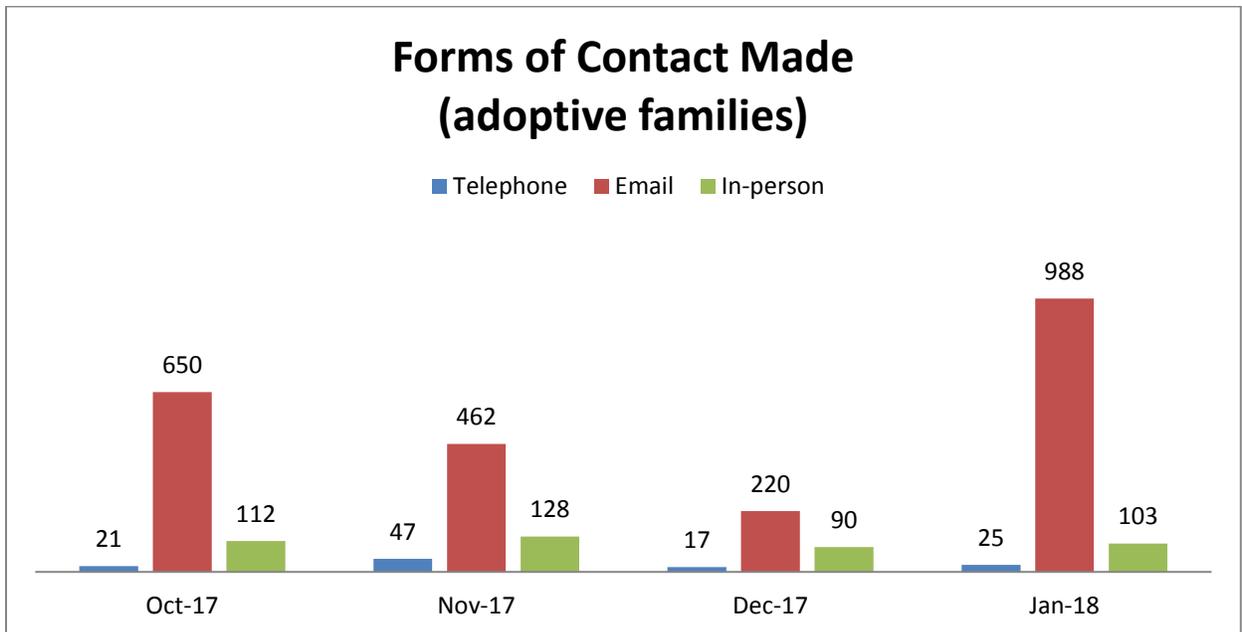
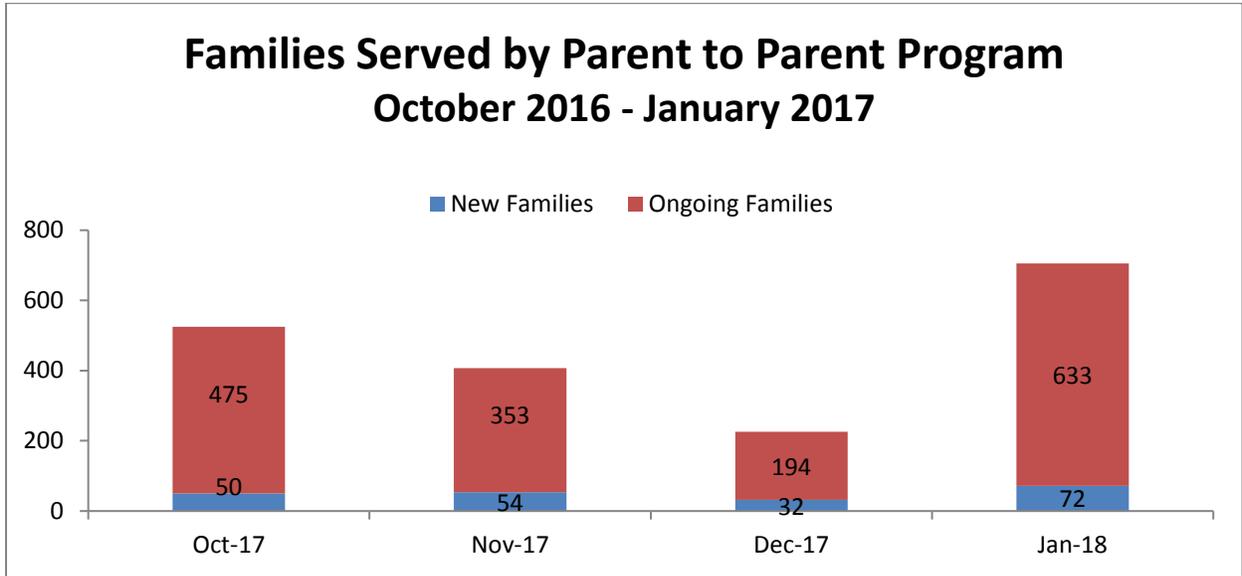
Executive Summary:

Adoptive Family Support Network (AFSN) Parent-to-Parent Mentor Program is available statewide 24/7 to support all families and all adoptions, with a specialized focus on families who have adopted from the foster care system and international orphanages. Families are supported by a community of love through training and education. This support helps parents learn the skills needed to help abused children heal their emotional wounds. Parent mentors work alongside the adoptive parents and are there to support, coach and energize other parents. AFSN provides peer mentoring, support groups and education to support the lifelong wellbeing of adoptive families. In the first four months of FY18:

- The Parent to Parent Program served **1158** unduplicated Michigan adoptive families.
- **2931** contacts, averaging **1** hour of contact per adoptive family
- **65%** of families seeking services adopted from the child welfare system.
- **35%** of families adopted internationally, privately, and through kinship adoptions outside the child welfare system and are also seeking crucial support services. These families are often isolated and lack access to needed services and support groups due to program eligibility requirements, while AFSN assists ALL families.
- The top two reasons families are connecting with AFSN's Parent to Parent Program are:
 1. Interest in support groups/connection to other adoptive families
 2. Seeking resources to assist them with their child's challenging behaviors
- **84** Adoptive Parent Leaders have been trained in AFSN's 18 hour leadership certification program since 2015.
 1. These leaders (staff and volunteer) held **25** different in-person monthly adoptive parent support groups serving families from **22** different counties.
- **98%** of families surveyed had all of their adopted children under the age of eighteen remaining in the home after receiving services from AFSN.
- **100%** of first quarter survey respondents were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the support they received from AFSN's Parent to Parent Program.



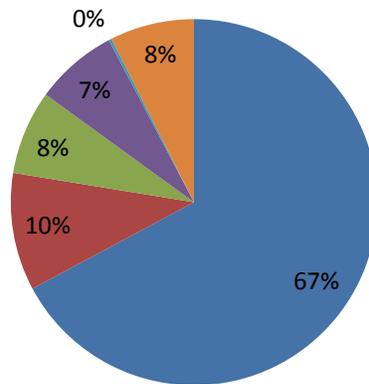
- **99%** of first quarter survey respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the statement; “I feel more able to access needed support and resources for my family since connecting with AFSN.





Type of Adoptive Families Served (may include more than one type of adoption)

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ■ Foster Care to Adoption | ■ International | ■ Private Domestic |
| ■ Kinship/Guardianship | ■ Recruited Waiting Child | ■ Foster pre-adopt/In process |



Program Outreach and Events:

- Presentations & Outreach- **14** community groups, agencies and schools in **13** counties
- Family Networking Events- **13** community events with participants from **21** counties
- Support Groups & Education- **25** in person activities with participants from **22** counties

Website Usage:

AFSN's website has had **1,962** views in the past four months from **1,115** individuals. The website houses a statewide listing of support groups that can be searched by county and is updated every quarter. Website traffic comes through referrals from other websites, including state and national adoption support agencies, Michigan's Post Adoption Resource Centers and family resource guides, MARE and MSU School of Social Work. Website traffic came from more than 200 cities across Michigan, showing the wide reach of AFSN's networks and demand for post adoption information.

Social Media Presence & Outreach:



AFSN has a strong Facebook presence, with 3,117 (546 person increase this FY) page followers. This page features trainings, events, program announcements and educational resources, as well as encouragement and mutual support of adoptive families. “Friends” of the AFSN Facebook page come from over 150 cities in Michigan.

AFSN operates and moderates 10 closed/secret online support communities for adoptive families with 3,277 total support group members. Examples of these groups include online support for:

- Parent to Parent Statewide Adoptive Families 2202 (667 person increase this FY)
- Parent to Parent Leadership Member Group 75
- FASD: Trying Differently Rather Than Harder Book Club 113
- Transracial Adoptive Families 630 (64 person increase)
- Single Adoptive Parents in Support 76
- Raising Healthy Families 54
- Adoptive Dads 93
- Special Needs Adoptive Families 47

AFSN also has staff serving as contributors/administrators to other groups not initially started by AFSN. Those groups include; West Michigan Families Who Adopt- 421, Michigan Area Adoption Support Group- 641, Michigan Foster Care/Adoption- 4036, Southeast Michigan Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Social Group 157.