



## OhioKAN

### New York: Post-Adoption Program

#### Research Summary

**Title of Program:** New York State Post-Adoption Services

**Years of Operation:** 2016-current

**Number of Families Served:** New York State has not yet published overall figures for families utilizing post-adoption support services across upstate New York (New York City is an independent entity). The example below is for the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York (AFFCNY), one of 14 Regional Permanency Resource Centers. It serves 19 New York counties that make up one-third of the state.<sup>4</sup> Currently, AFFCNY serves 250 adoptive, foster, and guardianship families.<sup>5</sup>

**Cost of Program:** Current annual funding for Post-Adoption Services in New York is \$4M.<sup>5</sup>

**Funding Source:** Funding for Post Adoption Services in New York State is administered through the state Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). The State administers federal funds from Title IV-E eligibility savings that accrued from delinking with TANF funding.<sup>5</sup>

**Description of the Program:** Child welfare services and programs in New York State are administered by counties under supervision by the state.<sup>4</sup> Throughout New York, 14 Regional Permanency Resource Centers (RPRC) serve post-adoptive and post-guardianship families to prevent adoption disruptions/dissolutions and to support families throughout their development<sup>2</sup>. RPRC services are open to all adoptive families who have finalized an adoption in New York whether publicly, privately, or internationally.<sup>2</sup> Post-guardianship services through the RPRC also extend to families in New York who have legal guardianship of a minor, whether or not they have a KinGAP agreement.<sup>2</sup> The KinGAP (Kinship Guardianship Assistance) program provides a mechanism for foster children to be permanently placed with relatives who have been the child's foster parent for six months or longer.<sup>6</sup> In addition to the RPRC, 11 non-profit agencies offer post-adoption support services in New York; this combination is able to cover the entire state.<sup>5</sup>

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) website offers up-to-date crisis and hotline numbers, resources/information website listings, information about the Regional Permanency Resource Centers, and a link to local OCFS social services offices throughout the state.<sup>2</sup> While there are state guidelines for what services counties need to provide to families, services in specific areas can differ.<sup>2</sup> The Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York (AFFCNY) website lists post-adoption support services for each county in New York state as well as a directory of the Regional Permanency Resource Centers.<sup>5</sup>

The Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York (AFFCNY) was founded in 1975 and it has led statewide advocacy efforts on behalf of adoptive and foster families throughout its history. For example in 2010, AFFCNY conducted a statewide survey of adoptive families service needs post-adoption.<sup>5</sup> AFFCNY was instrumental in planning a statewide regional structure for post-adoption services, the Regional Permanency Resource Centers, which began implementation in November 2016.<sup>5</sup> The regional model is based upon an Employee Assistance Program and is not affiliated with child welfare (although AFFCNY has staff members in their affiliate county child welfare agencies one day a week to help refer adoptive families to their services).<sup>5</sup> Importantly, AFFCNY is a parent-led organization, so staff bring not only professional expertise, but also lived adoption experience to their work<sup>5</sup>.

Eight major components comprise the post-adoption support services offered through AFFCNY:

1. Adoptive families are offered family and individual counseling services.<sup>1</sup>
2. Families have the option of more intensive case management services as they need.<sup>5</sup>
3. Adoptive parents have access to educational trainings, including a trauma-informed parenting course.<sup>5</sup>
4. Adoptive families can utilize school support services that help build a supportive educational experience for adopted and guardianship children<sup>1</sup>.
5. Adoptive families are offered information and referral with hands-on support with linkage to other community supports.<sup>1</sup>
6. AFFCNY facilitates parent and children/teen support groups, including an adult adoptee support group.<sup>5</sup>
7. AFFCNY organizes social events annually for families.<sup>5</sup>
8. AFFCNY staffs a 24/7 information line for adoptive families statewide.<sup>5</sup>

**Who benefits from the program?** Post-adoptive and post-guardianship families and youth in 19 counties are eligible for services with AFFCNY.

**What services/benefits do they receive?** Post Adoption Support Services through AFFCNY include, home-based family and individual counseling, parent training, educational advocacy, I&R to community resources, support groups for both parents and youth, access to a 24/7 information line, and social events.<sup>5</sup>

**How do they receive the benefits/services?** Families received services both in-home and in the community through AFFCNY

**Where are the services provided?** Services were provided by human services workers in-home and in the community (e.g. schools, mental health agency, and other locations).

#### **Sources:**

1. Office of Children and Family Services, government website, 2019: [https://ocfs.ny.gov/adopt/post\\_adoption/](https://ocfs.ny.gov/adopt/post_adoption/)
2. Governor's Office Brief: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-157-million-post-adoption-services>
3. State vs. County Administration in Child Welfare Brief, 2018 <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/services/>
4. AFFCNY Post-Adoption Services, 2016: <https://affcny.org/adoption/post-adoption-services/>
5. Interview conducted by Roxana Bell with Richard Heyl de Ortiz, Executive Director of Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York, AFFCNY, May 14, 2019.
6. Kin-GAP information page, Office of Children and Family Services, 2019 <https://ocfs.ny.gov/kinship/kingap.asp>