



OhioKAN

Wisconsin: Post-Adoption Program

Research Summary

Title of Program: Post Adoption Resource Centers (PARC, Wisconsin)

Years it Operated: The PARC system has operated in Wisconsin since 2005.⁵ On July 1, 2019 PARC will be transitioning from being administered by five contracted agencies to one single agency statewide.⁵

Number of Families Served: In 2018, more than 500 adoptive families were served by Coalition for Children, Youth, and Families, a regional PARC location serving Milwaukee and the Southeast Region of Wisconsin.⁵

Cost of Program: Current annual funding for PARC is \$225,000.⁵

Funding Source: The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families administers funding for Post-Adoption Services through Title IV-E B, Part 2, state child welfare funds, and Adoption Incentive funds.¹

Description of the Program: Child Welfare Services and Programs in Wisconsin are considered a “hybrid” as both the counties and the State share child welfare administration.⁴ Wisconsin has created five regional Post Adoption Resource Centers (PARC), which provide post adoption support services to families across the state.¹ PARC programs are implemented by four contracted Catholic Charities agencies in Eau Claire, La Crosse, Madison, and Wausau, plus the Coalition for Children, Youth, and Families, and Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin.¹

Broadly, PARC services include a toll free information line, educational trainings for adoptive parents, access to support groups for both children and parents, family mentoring, lending libraries, and formalized social gatherings for adoptive families¹. Services through PARC are available to all Wisconsin families who have adopted in Wisconsin, and for adoptive families who may have adopted in another location but now reside in Wisconsin¹. –Some of the PARCs including the Coalition offer closed online support groups via Facebook. Families use it as a forum, sounding board, to share with each other, stay apprised of upcoming events/news related to post adoption, etc.

“Home to Stay” is a unique program offered at the Coalition for Children, Youth, and Families serving Milwaukee and the Southeast region of Wisconsin. “Home to Stay” is supported by Jockey International, Inc., through its Being Family corporate citizenship initiative. The program targets adoptive families who have finalized an adoption from foster care and

connects them to a post-adoption specialist from the Coalition or another of Wisconsin's Post Adoption Resource Centers.¹ Participants receive a backpack with gifts inside for both children and parents, including a teddy bear, book, and blanket.⁵ When families are receiving the backpack, the post-adoption specialist explains the role of the Post Adoption Resource Centers and offers services and supports.¹ Jockey International also funds annual parent trainings and family recreational events throughout the year.¹

Who benefits from the Program? Any adoptive family living in the state is eligible for post-adoption services through PARC in Wisconsin.¹

What services/benefits do they receive? While services can vary slightly from region to region, PARC's core offerings are: Information and Referral, toll-free warm line, educational trainings, a lending library, support groups for both parents and children, therapy and counseling, social advocacy, and formalized social gatherings for adoptive families.¹

How do they receive the benefits/services? Children and families receive services through their regional PARC location at a contracted agency.

Where are the services provided? Services are provided to families at PARC regional locations, in their homes, and at other community locations.

Sources:

1. Donaldson Adoption Institute: Profiles of Publicly Funded Post-Adoption Services:
<https://www.adoptioninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Supporting-and-Preserving-Families.pdf>
2. Wisconsin Department of Children and Families: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/adoption/resources>
3. PARC-Family Services (Green Bay, WI), program brochure, 2018:
<https://www.familyservicesnew.org/parc/>
4. Child Information Gateway State Vs. County Administration, 2018:
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/services/>
5. Phone interview with Mai Her-Lee, Coalition for Children, Youth, and Families, Program Manager, Milwaukee, May 17, 2019.