

How NTI Supports “A Home for Every Child”



**National Adoption Competency
Mental Health Training Initiative**

Advancing Practice for Permanency & Well-Being

A Home for Every Child, launched by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in 2025 is designed to ensure that every child in foster care has safe, stable and loving families. The National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI) is a free web-based training developed by C.A.S.E. and funded by ACF to **build the capacity of the child welfare and mental health workforce to address the mental health challenges of youth and their foster, adoptive and kinship families.**

We know that challenging and often misunderstood behavior resulting from experiences of loss, trauma, and separation from family contribute to placement disruptions and delays in permanency. A workforce trained to address these challenges will help reduce initial placements into care, reduce lengthy stays in care, and prepare children for permanency and caregivers to parent effectively.

“A Home for Every Child” Goals:

- Increase foster home availability – boost the number of foster families
- Prioritize kinship care – actively recruit and improve support for kin caregivers
- Strengthen prevention efforts – support keeping families together and reduce entries to care
- Improve retention of caregivers – focus on retaining/supporting existing foster parents

NTI Training Strategies:

- NTI provides the core competencies needed to support children experiencing foster care, kinship care, and adoption. This includes the ability of staff to adequately assess the competencies of prospective resource parents – ensuring that those recruited have the best chance to be successful.
- NTI prepares staff with a deeper understanding of and guidance for how to best support the many unique challenges faced by kinship caregivers including issues of loyalty, challenges in maintaining boundaries, experiences of loss, and lack of training that often come with unplanned placements.
- NTI is focused on addressing the mental health challenges of youth experiencing foster care, kinship care, and adoption. These challenges are often the reasons underlying the behaviors that lead to placement instability, disruption, and dissolution. NTI helps child welfare and mental health professionals recognize warning signs and provides knowledge, tools, and strategies to promote healing from loss, trauma, and attachment disruptions.
- NTI provides staff with the knowledge, skills, and strategies to assess parent competencies as well as provide therapeutic parenting strategies and tools, strengthen partnership, and create shared understanding parents and caregivers need to have the best chance to be successful long-term.

The National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative is led by the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.). For more information, please visit www.adoptionssupport.org/nti.

