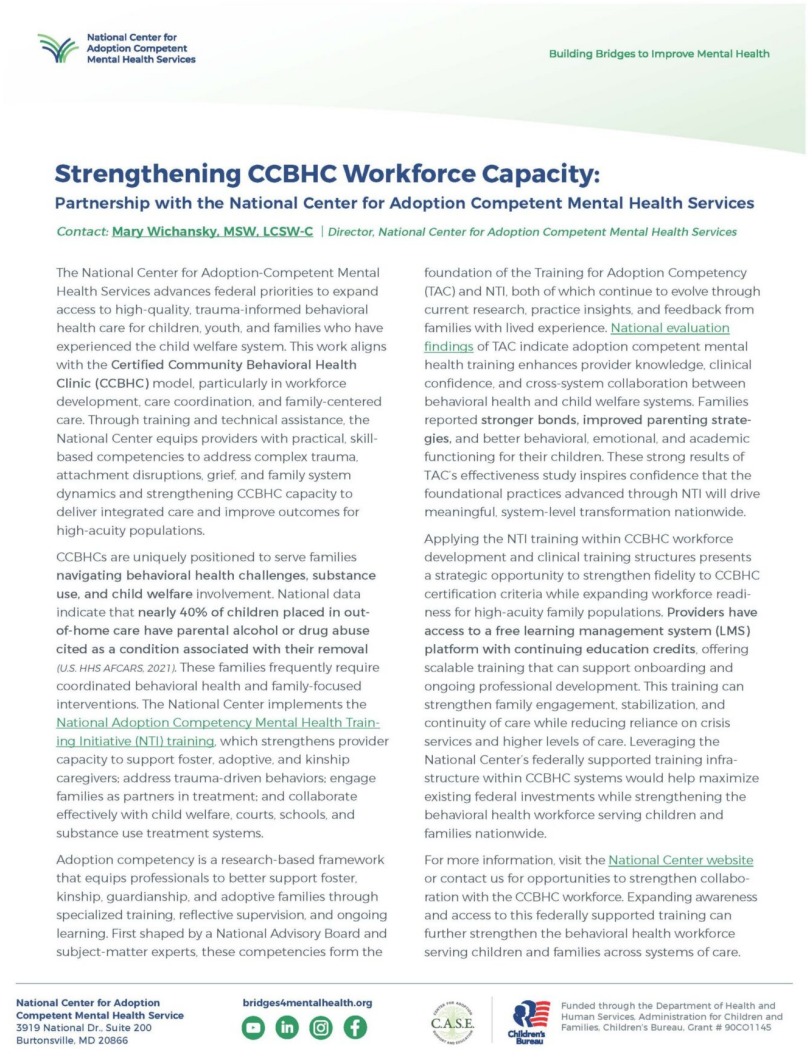
Strengthening CCBHC Workforce Capacity:Partnership with the National Center for Adoption Competent Mental Health Services

Access to Mental Health Services · https://bridges4mentalhealth.org/hub/access-to-mental-health-services/strengthening-ccbhc-workforce-capacitypartnership-with-the-national-center-for-adoption-competent-mental-health-services/

The National Center for Adoption-Competent Mental Health Services strengthens behavioral health care for children and families impacted by the child welfare system by providing trauma-informed training and technical assistance aligned with the CCBHC model. Through initiatives like NTI, it builds provider capacity to address complex family needs, improve cross-system collaboration, and enhance outcomes for high-acuity populations.



National Center for Adoption Competent Mental Health Services

Building Bridges to Improve Mental Health

Strengthening CCBHC Workforce Capacity:

Partnership with the National Center for Adoption Competent Mental Health Services

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The National Center for Adoption-Competent Mental Health Services advances federal priorities to expand access to high-quality, trauma-informed behavioral health care for children, youth, and families who have experienced the child welfare system. This work aligns with the **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC)** model, particularly in workforce development, care coordination, and family-centered care. Through training and technical assistance, the National Center equips providers with practical, skill-based competencies to address complex trauma, attachment disruptions, grief, and family system dynamics and strengthening CCBHC capacity to deliver integrated care and improve outcomes for high-acuity populations.

CCBHCs are uniquely positioned to serve families **navigating behavioral health challenges, substance use, and child welfare** involvement. National data indicate that **nearly 40% of children placed in out-of-home care have parental alcohol or drug abuse cited as a condition associated with their removal** *(U.S. HHS AFCARS, 2021)*. These families frequently require coordinated behavioral health and family-focused interventions. The National Center implements the National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI) training, which strengthens provider capacity to support foster, adoptive, and kinship caregivers; address trauma-driven behaviors; engage families as partners in treatment; and collaborate effectively with child welfare, courts, schools, and substance use treatment systems.

Adoption competency is a research-based framework that equips professionals to better support foster, kinship, guardianship, and adoptive families through specialized training, reflective supervision, and ongoing learning. First shaped by a National Advisory Board and subject-matter experts, these competencies form the foundation of the Training for Adoption Competency (TAC) and NTI, both of which continue to evolve through current research, practice insights, and feedback from families with lived experience. National evaluation findings of TAC indicate adoption competent mental health training enhances provider knowledge, clinical confidence, and cross-system collaboration between behavioral health and child welfare systems. Families reported **stronger bonds, improved parenting strategies**, and better behavioral, emotional, and academic functioning for their children. These strong results of TAC's effectiveness study inspires confidence that the foundational practices advanced through NTI will drive meaningful, system-level transformation nationwide.

Applying the NTI training within CCBHC workforce development and clinical training structures presents a strategic opportunity to strengthen fidelity to CCBHC certification criteria while expanding workforce readiness for high-acuity family populations. **Providers have access to a free learning management system (LMS) platform with continuing education credits**, offering scalable training that can support onboarding and ongoing professional development. This training can strengthen family engagement, stabilization, and continuity of care while reducing reliance on crisis services and higher levels of care. Leveraging the National Center's federally supported training infrastructure within CCBHC systems would help maximize existing federal investments while strengthening the behavioral health workforce serving children and families nationwide.

For more information, visit the National Center website or contact us for opportunities to strengthen collaboration with the CCBHC workforce. Expanding awareness and access to this federally supported training can further strengthen the behavioral health workforce serving children and families across systems of care.

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