Invest Time and Trust in The National Center

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Building Bridges to Improve Mental Health

Invest Time and Trust In the National Center

The National Center for Adoption Competent Mental Health Services (The National Center) works with States, Tribal Nations, and territories (STTs) to improve and enhance the collaboration between the child welfare (CW) and mental health (MH) systems and to improve mental health outcomes for children, youth, and families that experience the child welfare system. We will partner with you to enhance competency and accessibility of mental health services for children and families that encounter the child welfare system, especially those who struggle with issues of separation, loss, grief, trauma, or who are processing issues related to their behavioral health and permanency experiences. Our partnership will develop and strengthen strategies to ensure an accessible and trauma-informed service array. The National Center is funded by the Administration of Children and Families for five years. We provide free support, training, and intensive on-the-ground technical assistance (TA) to six STTs per year, providing tailored TA for 12 - 18 months to help build and strengthen collaboration between your child welfare and mental health systems.

Why Trust The National Center?

- We will co-develop change initiatives with you to enhance competency and accessibility of mental health services delivered to children, youth, and families impacted by child welfare.
- You will have access to a multi-disciplinary team of seven partner organizations coupled with a host of national subject matter experts.
- You will have access to lived-experience of foster youth and family voice to improve mental health services quality and access.
- You will have access to the National Training Initiative (NTI) evidence-informed training and support dedicated to increasing the capacity of the child welfare and mental health workforces.
- You will receive guidance on accessing free resources that can help sustain the change initiative work and maintain strong child welfare and mental health collaboration.

Benefits and Intended Outcomes of Your Time

- Improved mental health service outcomes by incorporating the voice of children, youth, and families that have lived experience with services.
- Increased collaboration between systems addressing the mental health needs of children, youth, and families.
- Enhanced confidence and competence by child welfare and mental health practitioners in developing a plan of care and treating permanency, loss and grief with children and families.
- Improved accessibility to make mental health service referrals for the right services, supports, and care at the right time.
- Connection to other National Center TA sites for long-term peer learning opportunities.
- Maximized use of funding streams to sustain child welfare competent mental health services.

We are here to help you increase the child welfare competency and accessibility of mental health services for children and families who have experienced the child welfare system.

Contact us to find out more about how we can help you!

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