

Supporting CFSR and FFPSA Goals with NTI Training

The National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI) is a **free** comprehensive, standardized, web-based training designed to support child welfare and mental health professionals who serve foster, adoptive and guardianship families. NTI provides strategies and tools to enhance the skills of professionals who in turn will be able to best support the unique needs of these families. NTI is well suited to support child welfare organizations in meeting many of the practice parameters outlined in the **Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)** as well as the **Family First Preventive Services Act (FFPSA)**.

NTI Alignment with Family First Act

The Family First and Preventive Services Act maintains an essential focus on preserving families and preventing unnecessary foster care placements. Services emphasized in the FFPSA are those which are supported with evidence as well as those which are delivered through a trauma-informed lens. NTI is perfectly aligned with these goals:

- NTI can help organizations prepare a **skilled, competent workforce**.
- The training provides **knowledge, strategies and tools** to professionals through a lens that accounts for the trauma, loss, and grief children and families have experienced.
- NTI helps workers identify **evidenced-based interventions** to use with children and families, featuring more than 10 Evidence-based Practices (EBPs) and promising practices.
- NTI shows promise in **preserving family stability and enhancing overall well-being**. NTI pilot outcomes demonstrate that 75% of child welfare professional participants report that it is very true/often true that since taking NTI “I take the time to assess the necessity of moving a child before making a decision to do so, and work toward preventing unnecessary moves.”

NTI Content Addresses Specific CFSR Goals

NTI provides an **evidence-informed, standardized and accessible web-based** training that enhances practitioners’ understanding of adoption specific experiences and needs. The following provides a sampling of NTI content that aligns with and may help organizations better achieve CFSR goals and performance outcomes:

- ✓ **Continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children**
 - *Strategies to keep children and youth connected to their birth family, significant connections, culture, and community*
 - *The importance of maintaining sibling connections for children who experienced loss and trauma*
- ✓ **Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs**
 - *Strategies for assessing child and parent needs, including parental issues that may be interfering with the ability to parent effectively*

- *Strategies to support parents' ability to provide a healing environment and support their child's healing from trauma and loss*
- *Therapeutic parenting strategies that workers can teach to parents to address challenging behaviors*
- *Strategies to support communicative openness in adoptive/guardianship families*
- ✓ **Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs**
 - *Role of the caseworker in making appropriate referrals and monitoring treatment*
 - *Normalizing help-seeking as a strength and providing questions parents can ask to determine if a therapist is adoption-competent*
 - *The essential role of parental involvement in treatment*
- ✓ **Service array and resource development**
 - *Information about evidence-based and evidence-informed treatment models and strategies that may be effective with the population*
 - *The need for post-permanency services to support ongoing and developmental needs of child and family*
 - *NTI companion curriculum for therapists to build adoption competency*
- ✓ **Foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment and retention**
 - *Tools for assessing parental readiness and information to include in parent training*

NTI Supports System Change and Collaboration with Mental Health Service Systems

Research has long demonstrated that there is a dearth of adoption-specific curriculum in the education and training of child welfare and mental health professionals. NTI seeks to fill that gap with **thorough and comprehensive training informed by extensive research**, providing a **trauma-informed model** for understanding the intricacies of the foster care, adoption, and guardianship experience and offering practical strategies to support children, youth, and families.

NTI supports **system change and improved collaboration** between child welfare and mental health systems through the aligned content and shared language of the companion curriculum, NTI Training for Mental Health Professionals. NTI is easily accessible, standardized, and **free**. Through NTI, professionals have access to new and effective ways to engage in practice, enhance permanency, and improve lives.

For more information about bringing NTI to your organization, contact NTI:

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