



Wisconsin

Adoption & Permanency Support



a resource guide
for adoptive and guardianship
families in Wisconsin



1-833-WIS-APSP



@WISAPSP



INFO@WISAPSP.ORG



[WISAPSP.ORG](http://www.wisapsp.org)



"I just don't feel so alone."

However you have experienced adoption or guardianship, our program is here to provide you with the support, education and information you need to keep moving forward. It is our hope that you too will know through the highs and lows of this journey that you are not alone. In this guide, you will find many resources and places to start, and I encourage you to reach out to us at 1-833-WIS-APSP or info@wisapsp.org for an initial conversation with one of our support specialists. We would be honored to get you started in the right direction.

Christy Reppe

Christy Reppe

Adoption & Permanency Support Coordinator

Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support Program



Table of Contents



Wisconsin
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Permanency
Support

ABOUT US	4
LOCATIONS	5
EVENTS	6
MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORY	8
SUPPORT GROUP DIRECTORY	9
GIFTS PROGRAM	10
WISCONSIN RESOURCES	12
NATIONAL RESOURCES	19



About Us

In July of 2019, Wisconsin's Post Adoption Resource Centers came together under one statewide program, Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support. The program is committed to providing quality support, information and education to all of Wisconsin's adoptive and guardianship families, birth families, and adult adoptees. Our program is built on collaboration with individuals, professionals, organizations and community members throughout Wisconsin who are impacted by adoption & guardianship.

Services offered include:

- 24/7 toll-free talk or text line providing immediate access to supportive specialists who can provide information and referrals
- Online or in-person support opportunities
- Short-term in-home support offered through the GIFTS Program
- Educational workshops and conferences for foster, adoptive or guardianship families
- Online directories of mental health professionals and local support groups by region
- Quarterly e-newsletter
- Lending libraries at each statewide location with extensive collections of books and DVDs
- Consultation, training and educational resources available for professionals
- Facebook page with multiple online support groups

The program is funded by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Children & Families and managed by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse.



Locations

Office locations for the program are shown on the map below. Each location includes a lending library.



To set up an appointment to visit your local office,
please contact us at:

1-833-WIS-APSP or **info@wisapsp.org**



Events

One of our favorite ways to connect with families is through regional and statewide events. Both in-person and online events are always on our calendar.

Visit www.wisapsp.org/calendar to see what events are happening near you. You will find family fun events, educational workshops or webinars, support groups and conferences.





"The knowledge gained here helps me and my extended family by giving us the tools, language and resources to deal with our circumstances."

-WISAPSP PARTICIPANT



Mental Health Professionals Directory

Visit our website, www.wisapsp.org, to find a full mental health professionals directory representing professionals all across the state who have experience and training working with issues most important to adoptive & guardianship families.



Rocky Payne, MATCCC/SLP/HP...

NEAREST WIAPS OFFICE

Eau Claire

TELEHEALTH AVAILABLE?

Yes



Brienne Shaker, LCSW

NEAREST WIAPS OFFICE

La Crosse

TELEHEALTH AVAILABLE?

Yes



Cameron Lee Small, M.D.

NEAREST WIAPS OFFICE

Eau Claire

TELEHEALTH AVAILABLE?

Yes








Support Group Directory

The Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support Program maintains a list of statewide support groups designed for:

- Adoptive, Foster, Kinship, and Guardianship Families
- Birth Families
- Adult Adoptees

 <p>WESTERN WISCONSIN <i>Adult Adoptee Support Network</i></p>	 <p>WESTERN WISCONSIN <i>Birth Parent Support Network</i></p>	 <p>WESTERN WISCONSIN <i>Adoption Support Network</i></p>
<p>WI Adult Adoptee Support Net...</p>	<p>WI Birth Parent Support Netw...</p>	<p>WI Adoption Support Network...</p>
<p>TARGET GROUP</p> <p>Adult adoptees</p>	<p>TARGET GROUP</p> <p>Birth family</p>	<p>TARGET GROUP</p> <p>Adoptive/Guardianship parents</p>
<p>MEETING METHOD</p>	<p>MEETING METHOD</p>	<p>MEETING METHOD</p>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE,
WWW.WISAPSP.ORG, TO FIND THE
COMPLETE SUPPORT GROUP DIRECTORY.



GIFTS PROGRAM

Giving Incredible Families Tools for Success

The GIFTS Program is a short-term, in-home support program for post-adoptive or guardianship families with a higher level of need to support permanency. It is a strengths-focused, trauma-informed program.

If a family is determined to be eligible for the program, a GIFTS Case Manager will work closely with that family for up to 12 months to assist in:

- Finding resources
- Navigating cross-system needs
- Identifying family strengths and goals
- Offering consistent support and advocacy

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE GIFTS PROGRAM
OR DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY,
FILL OUT OUR FIRST STEP FORM AT
WWW.WISAPSP.ORG/FIRSTSTEPFORM.



"This has been my primary source of support to take care of myself as a parent.

I am so grateful."

-WISAPSP PARTICIPANT





WISCONSIN *resources*

ABC for Health



ABC for Health is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special needs, to health care benefits and services.

www.safetyweb.org / 608-261-6939

Adoptive Family Travel



Adoptive Family Travel works with adoptees and their families to design heritage journeys to their birth countries, visit the sites, and provide opportunities for unique, authentic experiences.

www.adoptivefamilytravel.com / 866-359-0995

The Coalition for Children, Youth, & Families



The Coalition for Children, Youth & Families is a statewide information and support organization. They operate the Wisconsin Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center, a valuable guide to any new or current foster family, families considering adopting a child whom they are currently fostering, and foster care licensing staff.

www.coalitionforcyf.org / 414-475-1246

Child Development Center at Children's Wisconsin



The Child Development Center at Children's Wisconsin is dedicated to the care of children, from infancy through adolescence, with developmental challenges. We provide services directly or in collaboration with other pediatric specialists to provide high-quality, family-centered care, education, prevention, research, and advocacy.

www.childrenswi.org/medical-care/child-development-center / 877-607-5280

International Adoption Clinic – Milwaukee

Based in the Child Development Center, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin's International Adoption Clinic offers services to families adopting children from outside the United States.

www.childrenswi.org/medical-care/child-development-center/international-adoption-program / 877-607-5280

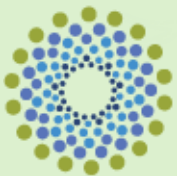
International Adoption Clinic – Twin Cities



Providing pre- and post-adoption medical guidance (including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders evaluations) plus academic research to help mitigate the long-term effects of early childhood adversity.

www.adoption.umn.edu / 612-624-1164

Respite Care Association of Wisconsin



Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) is a non-profit charitable organization with a goal to promote, support, and expand quality, statewide respite care across the lifespan.

www.respitecarewi.org / 608-222-2033

State of WI Department of Children and Families



ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Adoption assistance helps support parents raising a child with special care needs who meets the eligibility criteria for adoption assistance in Ch. DCF 50

Administrative Code. **866-666-5532**

www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/adoption/assistance

ADOPTION RECORDS SEARCH PROGRAM

The Adoption Records Search Program helps adopted persons get information about themselves and their birth relatives. Persons whose birth parents have terminated their parental rights in Wisconsin can also get information about themselves and their birth relatives.

www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/adoption/search / 608-422-6928

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PORTAL

The Kinship Navigator Portal can be used by any relative caregiver throughout the state. Caregivers will answer a set of questions specific to their situation, and based on those answers, they will be provided with information about their eligibility for various programs. **www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/kinship/navigator**

YOUTH SERVICES PAYING FOR COLLEGE

We encourage youth and the caring adults in their lives to take advantage of the programs and services listed below:

- Education and Training Voucher / Department of Children and Families Brighter Star Program
- Campus Contacts for Foster Youth
- Opening Doors to College
- Additional Resources

www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/youthservices/college

State of WI Department of Health and Human Services



Because DHS programs vary by county, we encourage you to reach out to your local county DHS office for the most accurate information. **608-266-1865**

BIRTH TO 3 PROGRAM

The Birth to 3 Program is a federally-mandated program to support families of children with delays or disabilities under the age of three.

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3

CARE4KIDS PROGRAM

Care4Kids is an innovative program designed to offer comprehensive and coordinated health services for children and youth in foster care.

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/care4kids

KATIE BECKETT PROGRAM

The Katie Beckett Program is a special eligibility process that allows certain children with long-term disabilities, mental illness, or complex medical needs, to obtain a ForwardHealth card.

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/kbp

CHILDREN'S LONG-TERM SUPPORT WAIVER PROGRAM

The Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program funds community supports and services for children who have substantial limitations in their daily activities and need support to remain in their home or community. **www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts**

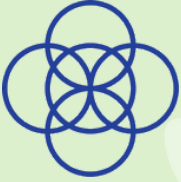
MENTAL HEALTH: CHILDREN

A collection of services to young children, youth, and young adults with mental health challenges to help them meet their goals at home, at school, and in the community.

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mh/children

- Comprehensive Community Services
- Coordinated Services Teams Initiatives
- Youth crisis stabilization facilities
- Youth day treatment

Waisman Center



Located in Madison, WI, the Waisman Center is dedicated to advancing knowledge about human development, developmental disabilities, and neurodegenerative diseases through research, training, services, and outreach.

www.waisman.wisc.edu / 608-263-1656

Well Badger Resource Center



The Well Badger Resource Center is a health information and referral service operated by the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation (WWHF), in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

www.wellbadger.org / 800-642-7837

Wisconsin Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Resource Centers



The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program collaborates with national, state and community-based partners to link children to appropriate services, close service gaps, reduce duplication and develop policies to better serve families. Visit the website for your region's contact information.

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters

Wisconsin FACETS



Our mission is to provide and broaden opportunities that enhance the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities and their families, with emphasis on support for underserved families in the community. www.wifacets.org / 877-374-0511

Wisconsin Family Ties



Wisconsin Family Ties is a statewide not-for-profit organization run by families for families to empower and support parents of children with emotional or behavioral health challenges. It provides advocacy, support groups, information and referral, and education.

Toll free for parents only: 800-422-7145

www.wifamilyties.org / 608-267-6888

Wisconsin Foster & Adoptive Parent Association



WFAPA is a peer and volunteer-based organization that supports and advocates for foster and adoptive parents by offering training and support programs. They also work to create and support different legislative measures with representatives in Madison.

www.wfapa.org

Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative



WSPEI helps build positive partnerships between families and school districts resulting in shared decision making and student's learning.

www.wspei.org / 833-879-7734

WISAPSP does not manage the websites, phone numbers, or contact information of the resources listed in this guide. Resources are subject to change by the organization to which it belongs. No resources are specifically endorsed by Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support or the State of WI Department of Children and Families. Annotations are taken from the organizations' websites. Resource information is based on information from June 2021.



*"It's never too early or too late
to reach out. We're here to help, and if
we don't know the answers, we are
happy to help you find them."*

-WISAPSP STAFF MEMBER



NATIONAL resources

Adoptees United



Adoptees United is committed to a diverse board and organization that represents the interests of all adoptees, whether domestic, intercountry, transracial, or former foster youth. www.adopteesunited.org

Adoption Families Magazine



Adoptive Families, the award-winning national adoption magazine, is the leading adoption information source for families before, during, and after adoption.

www.adoptivefamilies.com / 800-372-3300

Adoption Learning Partners



Adoption Learning Partners offers meaningful, timely, web-based educational adoption resources for professionals, parents, adopted individuals, and the families that love them.

www.adoptionlearningpartners.org / 800-566-3995

Adoption Network Cleveland



Adoption Network Cleveland is a non-profit educational, support, and advocacy organization for all those touched by adoption.

www.adoptionnetwork.org / 216-325-1000

Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition: New York



AFFCNY unites foster, adoptive and kinship care families, giving them a voice and providing support, information and advocacy.

www.affcny.org / 888-354-1342

American Adoption Congress



Represents those whose lives are touched by adoption or other loss of family continuity. We provide education for our members and professional communities about the lifelong process of adoption.

www.americanadoptioncongress.org

202-483-3399

Center for Adoption Support and Education



C.A.S.E. offers mental health services and educational resources for all members of the adoption and foster community. We are committed to nurturing, inspiring and empowering children, teens, their families and the professionals who support them.

www.adoptionssupport.org / 301-476-8525

Child Welfare Information Gateway



Child Welfare Information Gateway promotes the safety, permanency, and well-being of children, youth, and families by connecting child welfare, adoption, and related professionals as well as the public to information, resources, and tools covering topics on child welfare, child abuse and neglect, out-of-home care, adoption, and more.

www.childwelfare.gov / 800-394-3366

Creating a Family



Creating a Family is the national adoption & infertility education organization with a goal to strengthen families through education and support for infertility patients, adoptive parents, and allied professionals.

www.creatingafamily.org

Dave Thomas Foundation



The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is the only public nonprofit charity in the United States that is focused exclusively on foster care adoption.

www.davethomasfoundation.org / 800-ASK-DTFA

Empowered To Connect



Empowered To Connect offers resources for adoptive and foster parents to help them develop strong and life-changing connections with their kids. Based on Dr. Karyn Purvis' work and research at TCU's Child Development Center.

www.empoweredtoconnect.org

Foster Parent College



The Foster Parent College provides innovative, research-based, interactive online courses for foster, adoptive, and kinship parents.

www.fosterparentcollege.com / 800-777-6636

Mentalhealth.gov



MentalHealth.gov provides one-stop access to U.S. government mental health and mental health problems information.

www.mentalhealth.gov

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)



NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

www.nami.org / 800-950-6264

National Association of Adoptees & Parents



The National Association of Adoptees and Parents (NAAP) is an educational organization that is dedicated to enhancing the lives of adoptees.

www.naapunited.org

National Center on Adoption and Permanency



NCAP's multidisciplinary team provides research and expertise that enables public and private agencies, organizational leaders, advocacy groups and other professionals to empower, strengthen and support all families.

www.nationalcenteronadoptionandpermanency.net
617-903-0553

National Child Traumatic Stress Network



The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) brings a singular and comprehensive focus to childhood trauma. NCTSN's collaboration of frontline providers, researchers, and families is committed to raising the standard of care while increasing access to services.

www.nctsn.org / 310-235-2633

National Council For Adoption



National Council For Adoption's mission is to meet the diverse needs of children, birth parents, adopted individuals, adoptive families, and all those touched by adoption through global advocacy, education, research, legislative action, and collaboration.

www.adoptioncouncil.org / 703-299-6633

North American Council on Adoptable Children



NACAC promotes and supports permanent families for children and youth in the U.S. and Canada who have been in care—especially those in foster care and those with special needs.

www.nacac.org / 651-644-3036

On Your Feet Foundation



Founded in 2001 by adoption professionals, adoptive parents and a birthparent, On Your Feet's founders focused on helping clients build a better life by giving them the tools they need.

www.onyourfeetfoundation.org / 224-858-6933

Rudd Adoption Research Institute



The mission of the Rudd Adoption Research Program is to advance knowledge about the psychology of adoption through original research; mentor the next generation of adoption-competent researchers; engage with community partners to incubate and evaluate innovative programs that have potential for national impact; and provide research-based information to influence practice and policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels.

www.umass.edu/ruddchair / 413-545-0547



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families



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"with you for the lifelong journey"

THIS BOOKLET IS PROPERTY OF THE WISCONSIN ADOPTION & PERMANENCY SUPPORT PROGRAM.
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