

# Advancing Practice for Permanency and Well-Being!



Through NTI, Mental Health Professionals will be better equipped to address challenges that compromise well-being & family stability.

## Invest Your Time to Enhance Practice

The National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI) has developed two free, state-of-the-art, standardized, web-based trainings to build the capacity of Child Welfare and Mental Health Professionals to more effectively support children, youth, and their foster, adoptive, and guardianship families.

NTI for Mental Health Professionals is comprised of 10 modules approximately 25-30 hours in length. CEUs may be available through your state or licensing board. The training provides:

- Tools to enhance clinical skills and practice
- Assessment and therapeutic strategies to address behavioral challenges
- A shared language to foster interdisciplinary collaboration between Child Welfare and Mental Health Professionals

## Therapists can put NTI to work - right away!

In a recent pilot study, NTI training participants reported knowledge gains and satisfaction after every module:

- Greater self-efficacy while working with guardianship and adoption cases.
- Enhanced understanding of the impact of trauma on children and their guardianship or adoptive families, and increased understanding of adoption journey issues.
- High levels of satisfaction with all components of the training, including the interactive delivery of up-to-date information from experts via multi-media formats.

NTI was funded through a cooperative agreement (#90C01121) between the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services and the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.).



## Why is *Specialized* Training Needed for Mental Health Professionals?

Many children who are adopted or in guardianship experience elevated risks for developmental, health, emotional, and behavioral challenges because of traumatic life experiences and compromised beginnings. These effects can follow them throughout their life journey.



NTI aims to improve the outcomes and enhance permanency and well-being with emphasis on a coordinated systems

approach. Through NTI, Mental Health Professionals will be better equipped to counteract the challenges that compromise well-being and family stability.

Learn more and contact NTI at [www.adoptionssupport.org](http://www.adoptionssupport.org) / [nti](http://nti)

## Why do most Mental Health Professionals *need additional training* to meet the complex clinical needs of adoptive families?

- In a national survey conducted by the Center for Adoption Support and Education of nearly 500 adoptees or adoptive parents, only 25% could find adoption-competent therapists <sup>1</sup>
- Adoptive parents cite competent mental health services as one of their greatest unmet needs, too frequently reporting practices that are ineffective or even harmful to their families. <sup>2</sup>
- A survey of directors of clinical training programs in marriage and family therapy, social work or counseling found only about 5-16 percent offered adoption-specific course work. <sup>3</sup>



1. Atkinson, et al., 2013.
2. McCrae, Barth, & Guo, 2010
3. Weir, Fife, Whiting and Blazewick (2008)

American Academy of Pediatricians has identified mental health as the *greatest unmet* need of children in foster care (2014).\*

“The value of NTI to clinicians is having a comprehensive training and body of knowledge all in one place. I've never seen anything like it! There are very few therapists who have this in-depth training.”

Clinician and Adoptive Parent

“I feel the information offered through NTI is vitally important in our field, whether you specialize in this population or not. It should be top of everyone's training list. The resources and training have been vitally important in my work.”

NTI Participant

“While I have worked in the adoption field for over twenty years, this training provided an excellent compilation of knowledge and resources that will assist me in better preparing prospective adoptive parents and in better supporting adoptive families and youth.”

NTI Participant

## Next Steps

**#1** Learn more about the NTI training and pilot:

[www.adoptionsupport.org/nti](http://www.adoptionsupport.org/nti)

**#2** Share your needs & be notified of training access:

[www.adoptionsupport.org/national-info4nti](http://www.adoptionsupport.org/national-info4nti)



## Why Mental Health Professionals

Need **nti** Training



**Building Competencies and Skills  
to Enhance Permanency and Well-Being**

*Facts + Considerations*



**National Adoption Competency  
Mental Health Training Initiative**

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