

News You Can Use

From the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition

Winter 2008

Illinois Edition



Children's Home and Aid's Adoption Preservation and Subsidized Guardianship Services

Difficulties can arise any time after an adoption takes place. These difficulties could include: attachment problems, behavioral problems, family adjustment challenges, adolescent identity concerns, mental health issues, and school problems. Children's Home and Aid provides services to adoptive families who are experiencing adoption-related difficulties. Services can include in-home and office based assessments and counseling.

All therapists have a Master's degree and receive on-going training in adoption related issues, including attachment work. Mental health advocacy services are available to adoptive families receiving counseling services through the program. Support groups and educational groups for children and parents are also available to provide families contact with others who may have similar feelings and circumstances. The following counties are served by Children's Home and Aid: Bond, Clinton, Jersey, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington, and portions of Calhoun and Macoupin.

There is also an expanded respite program for families which includes regular weekly respite opportunities with a respite worker and other case-by-case respite opportunities. Services are funded by DCFS. Persons in need of services or interested in further information can call Jan Gann at 618.452.8900 x147.

Adoption Tax Credits

The information below is not to be construed as legal advice. It is always advisable to consult a tax professional with individual questions.

Federal Tax Credit

Beginning in 2003, families adopting a child with special needs from foster care were able to access a federal adoption tax credit without needing to document expenses. For tax year 2007, the tax credit is over \$11,390 per child and parents have this year and up to the next five years in which to claim the credit.

How do I know if my child is considered to have special needs according to the IRS?

The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) interprets the instructions for Form 8839 (the Adoption Tax Credit form) this way: If you receive adoption subsidy (assistance) for your child, the state that provides the subsidy has determined that your child has special needs. Your adoption subsidy agreement (or application and agreement) is the evidence that the state has determined your child to have special needs. These instructions (found at www.irs.gov/instructions/i8839/ch02.html#d0e284) state:

A child is considered special needs if all three of the following statements are true:

1. The child was a citizen or resident of the United States or its possessions at the time the adoption process began.
2. A state (including the District of Columbia) has determined that the child cannot or should not be returned to his or her parents' home.
3. The state has determined that the child will not be adopted unless assistance is provided to the adoptive parents. Factors used by states to make this determination include:
 - A. The child's ethnic background and age,
 - B. Whether the child is a member of a minority or sibling group, and
 - C. Whether the child has a medical condition or a physical, mental, or emotional handicap.

If you check the box in column (d), indicating the child has special needs, be sure to keep evidence of the state's determination in your records.

For more information or questions, visit www.nacac.org/postadopt/taxcredit.html or contact the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) at 651.644.3036 or adoption.assistance@nacac.org.

Upcoming Foster Parent In-Service Training

DCFS Office of Training has many opportunities coming up for you to receive your in-service training hours. You can also view the training schedule via their website: http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/library/com_communications_train.shtml. Click on "Foster caregiver in-service training" and "Class description for foster caregiver in-service training" for details regarding upcoming classes. To register, call DCFS Office of Training at 877.800.3393. If you have any additional questions about in-service training, please contact your licensing representative.

- **Attachment and the Teen Family Foster Care** (6hrs); Catholic Social Services, 8601 West Main, Belleville, IL 62223; March 6 and 13, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- **Module #12: Understanding and Promoting Pre-teen and Teen Development** (6hrs); DCFS Office, 10251 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL 62008; February 5 and 12, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
- **Child Trauma** (4hrs), Ramada Inn, 6900 N. Illinois St., Fairview Heights, IL 62208; March 29, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00p.m.
- **Module #4: Sexual Development of Children & Responding to Child Sexual Abuse** (9hrs); DCFS Office, 10251 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL 62008; April 1, 8 and 15, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.



314.FOSTER.3 • 800.FOSTER.3

www.foster-adopt.org



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition is a not-for-profit agency which strives to create permanency in every foster child's life by recruiting and supporting foster/adoptive homes in the St. Louis metropolitan community.

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KidStore Happenings

The KidStore, a resale shop open exclusively to foster/adopt, relative caregivers, caseworkers and GALs/CASAs, announces that they have an abundance of gently-used infant car seats.

**Hours: 1st and 3rd Wednesday
All Saturdays
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Located 5 Min. from Poplar St. Bridge

Directions: From Illinois, cross the Poplar Street Bridge. Take the 2nd exit to I-55/I-44. Take I-44 West to Grand, Exit 288. Take the exit, then turn left on Grand and travel south. Take the first right onto Shaw. Turn left on 39th, left on Flora, and left on Spring. It is located at 2109 South Spring, on the second floor of Tyler Presbyterian Church. Our entrance and parking are at the back of the church.

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FACC 2008 Training Extravaganzas: 7.5 Training Hours!

Thanks to the Daughters of Charity Healthcare Foundation of St. Louis, FACC will host the next Training Extravaganza on **Saturday, March 1st, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** with theme **Family Strengthening through Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.)**. The Extravaganza is an all-day training that allows foster/adoptive/relative caregivers to receive 7.5 in-service training hours in one day, and you can bring the kids, too. In order for you and your child(ren) to participate, **you must agree to attend all workshops, complete the registration form, return it, and receive verification from FACC that you are registered.** Space is limited to 200 adults and 100 children. Because childcare fills up in the first few days, we will use a lottery method to process registration.

For more information, please contact Kimberly Like at 800.FOSTER.3 x35, or kimberlylike@foster-adopt.org. No phone registration accepted. You may also download registration form by visiting www.foster-adopt.org.

:: Save the Dates for FACC 2008 Training Extravaganzas ::
March 1st • May 31st • August 2nd • October 18th

PLEASE PRINT

	Child's First Name	Age
Date: _____	_____	_____
Name: _____	_____	_____
Name: _____	_____	_____
Address: _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Day Phone #: _____	_____	_____
Home #: _____	_____	_____
E-Mail Address: _____	_____	_____

Send registration form to: FACC, ATTN: Training Extravaganza, 111 N. 7th Street, Suite 402, St. Louis, MO 63101 or fax it to 314-241-0715. No phone registration accepted.