

# Helpful Resources for More Information





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This section includes various resources that you may want to access for additional help as you navigate through the child welfare system. Included in this section are descriptions and contact information for the following:

- the organizations that worked together to develop *A Family's Guide to the Child Welfare System* (called sponsoring organizations)
- national parent or family organizations
- national organizations that focus on child welfare issues
- other resources

## Family Guide: Sponsoring Organizations

The following organizations worked together collaboratively to produce this *Family Guide*. If you have questions or thoughts about the Guide, please contact any of the persons listed below.

### **Child Welfare League of America**

440 First Street, NW, Suite 310  
Washington, DC 20001-2085  
Phone: 202-638-2952  
Fax: 202-638-4004  
Web site: [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)  
Contact name: Julie Collins (202-639-4932; [jcollins@cwla.org](mailto:jcollins@cwla.org))

CWLA is an association of more than 1,100 public and private nonprofit agencies, including a family-run organization, that assist over 3.5 million abused and neglected children and their families each year with a wide range of services. CWLA is committed to engaging people everywhere in promoting the well-being of children, youth, and their families and protecting every child from harm. CWLA strives to advance national standards of excellence and sound public policies on behalf of the abused, neglected, and vulnerable children served by our public and nonprofit member agencies.

### **Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health**

1101 King Street, Suite 420  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703-684-7710  
Fax: 703-836-1040  
E-mail: [ffcmh@ffcmh.org](mailto:ffcmh@ffcmh.org)  
Web site: [www.ffcmh.org](http://www.ffcmh.org)  
Contact name: Barbara Huff (703-684-7710; [bhuff@ffcmh.org](mailto:bhuff@ffcmh.org))

This national parent-run organization emerged in 1989 from the grassroots efforts of many individual family members and supportive professionals committed to improving services and supports for children and youth with mental health needs and their families. The Federation offers effective family-driven advocacy to ensure that children's mental health remains a highly visible, national priority. It offers leadership and resources to a nationwide network of family-run organizations, including more than 120 statewide family organizations, local chapters, and other family-run organizations. The Federation provides an opportunity for family members to work with professionals and other interested citizens to improve services for their children with emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders. The Federation represents children, youth, and families from diverse cultures and backgrounds. All families have a voice in the Federation.

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### **National Indian Child Welfare Association**

5100 SW Macadam Avenue, Suite 300

Portland, OR 97239

Phone: 503-222-4044

Fax: 503-222-4007

E-mail: [info@nicwa.org](mailto:info@nicwa.org)

Web site: [www.nicwa.org](http://www.nicwa.org)

Contact name: Terry Cross

The National Indian Child Welfare Association, Inc. (NICWA) is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of Indian children and their families. NICWA accomplishes this goal by offering training and technical assistance on Indian child welfare services, making available information regarding the needs and problems of Indian children, helping improve community-based services, and analyzing legislation and policies affecting services for Indian children.

### **National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health**

Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development

3307 M Street, NW, Suite 401

Washington, DC 20007

Phone: 202-687-5000

Fax: 202-687-1954

Web site: <http://gucchd.georgetown.edu>

Contact name: Jan McCarthy (202-687-5062; [jrm33@georgetown.edu](mailto:jrm33@georgetown.edu))

The National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health (TA Center) is part of the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, a division of Georgetown University Medical Center. Since 1984, the TA Center has been working in partnership with state and community leaders and families to promote culturally appropriate services and positive outcomes for children and adolescents who have, or are at risk for, mental health problems and their families. The Center's mission is to assist states and communities in building systems of care approaches to service delivery that are child and family centered, culturally competent, community based, and coordinated across different child-serving systems. The TA Center also is involved in numerous activities to improve services for children and families in the child welfare system.

### **Technical Assistance Partnership for Child and Family Mental Health**

American Institutes for Research  
1000 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20007-3835  
Phone: 202-342-5600  
Fax: 202-944-5454  
E-mail: [tapartnership@air.org](mailto:tapartnership@air.org)  
Web site: [www.air.org/tapartnership](http://www.air.org/tapartnership)  
Contact name: Anita Marshall (202-298-2634; [amarshall@air.org](mailto:amarshall@air.org))

The Technical Assistance Partnership (TA Partnership) is a partnership among the American Institutes for Research and the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. The TA Partnership provides technical assistance to grant communities funded by the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families Program. The goal of the TA Partnership is to assist these communities in their efforts to successfully develop and implement local systems of care for children with severe emotional disturbance and their families.

## **National Parent and Family Organizations**

These are national organizations that are run by families or specifically designed to serve families. They are available to provide support and information. Interested family members can join these organizations, or organizations like them, to help other parents.

### **Family Support America**

20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 1100  
Chicago, IL 60606  
Phone: 312-338-0900  
Fax: 312-338-1522  
E-mail: [info@familysupportamerica.org](mailto:info@familysupportamerica.org)  
Web site: [www.familysupportamerica.org](http://www.familysupportamerica.org)

Family Support America promotes family support practice as the movement to strengthen and support families by identifying and connecting individuals and organizations that have contact with families; by providing technical assistance, training and education, conferences, and publications; and by promoting the voice of families.

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### **Family Voices**

3411 Candelaria NE, Suite M  
Albuquerque, NM 87107  
Phone: 505-872-4774  
Fax: 505-872-4780  
Web site: [www.familyvoices.org](http://www.familyvoices.org)

Family Voices is a national grassroots network of families and friends speaking on behalf of all children with or at risk for special health care needs. Family Voices has chapters across the country. Family Voices has a volunteer coordinator in every state, 10 regional coordinators, and a small staff working in several locations around the country. The Web site has a list of state chapters and provides links to other organizations in each state.

### **Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health**

(See information in the previous section on sponsoring organizations.)

### **National Foster Parent Association**

7512 Stanich Avenue, Suite 6  
Gig Harbor, WA 98335  
Phone: 253-853-4000 or 800-557-5238  
Fax: 253-853-4001  
E-mail: [Info@NFPAinc.org](mailto:Info@NFPAinc.org)  
Web site: [www.nfpainc.org](http://www.nfpainc.org)

This national nonprofit volunteer organization was created to support foster parents, agency representatives, and community people working together to improve the foster care system; to promote communication among foster parents, agencies, and organizations; and to recruit and retain foster parents.

### **Parents Anonymous® Inc.**

675 West Foothill Blvd., Suite 220  
Claremont, CA 91711-3475  
Phone: 909-621-6184  
Fax: 909-625-6304  
Web site: [www.parentsanonymous.org](http://www.parentsanonymous.org)

Parents Anonymous® builds upon the strengths of parents to ensure that children live and grow in safe, nurturing homes by offering families help today and hope for the future. As the nation's child abuse prevention organization, Parents Anonymous® Inc. is a community of parents, organizations and volunteers committed to the following:

- strengthening families and building strong communities
- achieving meaningful parent leadership and shared leadership
- leading the field of child abuse and neglect

To ensure the accessibility of Parents Anonymous® programs to all community members, whether they are married, single, divorced, teen parents, grandparents, or step-parents, Parents Anonymous® groups meet in settings such as local community centers, churches, schools, housing projects, shelters, and prisons. Parents Anonymous® also operates local 24-hour hotlines to provide an immediate response to parents seeking help.

### **Parent Training and Information (PTI) Centers**

See <http://www.taalliance.org/PTIs.htm> for a list of centers in each state or call 1-888-248-0822.

Each state has at least one parent-run organization to help parents learn more about the needs of their children with disabilities. PTIs provide information to parents of infants, toddlers, school-aged children, and young adults with disabilities. They also work with professionals around a child's needs. They can also help parents learn how to participate in planning processes for their child's education. The centers have a lot of information about programs, services, and resources in individual states.

## **National Organizations Focusing on Child Welfare Issues**

This section includes organizations that have a focus on child welfare issues and on providing resources to improve service delivery to children, youth, and their families. Many of them can provide information and referral for individual families and for families who are caring for children of their relatives.

### **Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support**

1808 Eye Street, NW, Fifth floor  
Washington, DC 20006  
Phone: 202-467-4441 or 1-888-295-6727  
Fax: 202-467-4499  
Web site: [www.casey.org/cnc](http://www.casey.org/cnc)

Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support provides comprehensive information about policies, programs, and practices for retaining, recruiting, and supporting foster, adoptive, and kinship care families.

### **Child Welfare League of America**

(See description in the section on sponsoring organizations.)

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### **Children's Defense Fund**

25 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: 202-628-8787  
Fax: 202-662-3550  
Web site: [cdfinfo@childrensdefense.org](mailto:cdfinfo@childrensdefense.org)

Children's Defense Fund (CDF) began in 1973 and is a private, nonprofit organization supported by foundations, corporations grants, and individual donations. It provides a strong effective voice for all the children of American who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves. It pays particular attention to the needs of children who are poor and from minority cultures and of children with disabilities. CDF has offices throughout the United States and has many helpful resources on its Web site.

### **Connect for Kids**

The Benton Foundation  
950 18th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
Fax: 202-638-5771  
Web site: [www.connectforkids.org](http://www.connectforkids.org)

Connect for Kids, an award-winning project of the Benton Foundation, offers a public space on the Internet for adults—parents, grandparents, educators, policy makers, and others—who want to make their communities work for kids. Connect for Kids strives to help people do the following:

- get better informed about children's status in the community, state, and nation
- give time or money to improve the lives of kids
- learn tools and techniques to address a specific interest related to children
- get connected to groups that can act on behalf of kids
- exercise responsible citizenship with children in mind

The Web site includes links to each state and the District of Columbia. These state links offer information about organizations within each state that focus on child abuse and neglect, foster care, and adoption, plus more.

### **Foster Family-Based Treatment Association**

1415 Queen Anne Road  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
Phone: 800-414-FFTA (3382)  
Web site: [www.ffta.org/index.html](http://www.ffta.org/index.html)

This association is committed to enhancing the lives of children within families through strengthening family-based organizations working in treatment foster care. Membership with FFTA provides members with position papers published through FFTA, the FFTA FOCUS newsletter and Agency Memorandum update to keep them informed on developments and trends in treatment foster care, access to technical assistance, participation in on-line discussion groups, networking opportunities with other professionals, and discounts to professional events and products.

### **National Adoption Information Clearinghouse**

330 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20447  
Phone: (888) 251-0075 or 703-352-3488  
Fax: 703-385-3206  
E-mail: [naic@calib.com](mailto:naic@calib.com)  
Web site: [www.calib.com/naic](http://www.calib.com/naic)

The National Adoption Information Clearinghouse was established by Congress in 1987 to provide free information on all aspects of adoption. The mission of the Clearinghouse is to connect professionals and concerned citizens to timely and well-balanced information on programs, research, legislation, and statistics regarding the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families.

### **National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA)**

American Public Human Services Association  
810 First Street, NE, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20002  
Phone: 202-682-0100  
Fax: 202-289-6555  
Web site: [www.aphsa.org](http://www.aphsa.org)

NAPCWA is affiliated with the American Public Human Services Association. Created in 1983, it works to enhance and improve public policy and administration of services for children, youth, and families. As the only organization devoted solely to representing administrators of state and local public child welfare agencies, NAPCWA brings an informed view of the problems facing families today to the formulation of child welfare policy.

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### **National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information**

330 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20447  
Phone: 800-394-3366 or 703-385-7565  
Fax: 703-385-3206  
E-mail: [nccanch@calib.com](mailto:nccanch@calib.com)  
Web site: [www.calib.com/nccanch](http://www.calib.com/nccanch)

The Clearinghouse is a national resource for families, professionals, and others seeking information on child abuse and neglect and on child welfare. It has many helpful resources and links.

### **National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY)**

P.O. Box 1492  
Washington, DC 20013  
Phone: 1-800-695-0285 (Voice/TTY) (Call weekdays 9:30 AM–6:30 PM EST.  
There is voice mail to leave a message.)  
E-mail: [nichyc@aed.org](mailto:nichyc@aed.org)  
Web site: [www.nichcy.org](http://www.nichcy.org)

NICHCY serves as a national information and referral center about disabilities for families and professionals, especially on issues for children and youth from birth to age 22. NICHCY has bilingual information specialists who can answer specific questions from parents in both English and Spanish. The Web site has “State Resource Sheets” listing groups and agencies that can help you find information and services for children.

### **National Resource Center for Community-Based Family Resource and Support Programs (FRIENDS)**

Chapel Hill Training Outreach Project  
800 Eastowne Drive, Suite 105  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
Phone: 800-888-7970  
Fax: 919-968-8879  
Web site: [www.friendsnrc.org/friends.htm](http://www.friendsnrc.org/friends.htm)

The National Resource Center for Community-Based Family Resource and Support Programs (FRIENDS) provides training and technical assistance to agencies implementing the Community-Based Family Resource and Support grant programs. FRIENDS offers a range of services designed to help states, tribal organizations, and local programs develop community-based family resource programs and networks throughout the United States.

## Other Resources

### **Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department for Health and Human Services**

Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 509F  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202  
Phone: 1-800-368-1019 or 1-800-537-7697 (TDD)  
E-mail: OCRMAIL@hhs.gov  
Web site: hhs.gov/cvr

The office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) enforces federal laws that prohibit discrimination by health care and human service providers that receive funds from HHS. If you believe that someone who receives funds from HHS has discriminated against you because of your race, color, national origin, disability, age, and, in some cases, sex or religion, you may file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights OCR. You may call 202-619-0403 or go to the OCR Web site to learn how to file a complaint.

### **State-specific Laws on the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997**

These Web sites offer summaries of state legislation enacted in response to the Adoption and Safe Family Act of 1997 and other resources (maintained by the National Conference of State Legislatures). A public user can look up topics such as adoption across state lines, termination of special rights, and health insurance for children with special needs. Go to the following Web site for more information:

Web site: <http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/cf/asfasearch.htm>

Web site: <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/cyf/ASFA97.htm>

### **United Way of America**

North Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703-836-7112  
Web site: [www.unitedway.org](http://www.unitedway.org)

United Way of America is a national organization dedicated to leading the United Way movement in every community across America. The United Way movement includes approximately 1,400 community-based United Way organizations. Each has an information and referral function that can help you find services and supports in your own community. Each United Way organization is independent of others and governed by local volunteers.