

Announcement & Partnership Opportunity

The National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption/Guardianship Support and Preservation (QIC-AG) is a national project designed to promote permanency, where reunification is no longer a goal, and to improve adoption and guardianship preservation and support. It is built on the premise that child welfare agencies need to provide a continuum of services to increase permanency stability, beginning when children first enter the child welfare system and continuing after adoption or guardianship has been finalized. QIC-AG will work with 6 to 8 selected sites to develop a continuum of services that increase pre- and post-permanency stability for families, improve children's behavioral health, and advance the well-being of children and families.

The continuum of services includes the following components:

Pre-Permanency: Services and supports that engage, prepare, and connect families to services prior to finalization of adoption or guardianship. Pre-permanency services focus on increasing resiliency and ensuring permanency and placement stability. These services focus on emotional-behavioral health issues and provide caregivers with education that improves their capacity to support stable permanency once adoption or guardianship has been finalized.

Post-Adoption or Guardianship: Services and supports that increase resiliency, placement stability and the capacity of caregivers to meet the needs of children in their care. Services are targeted to the transitions and changing developmental and emotional needs associated with this population. Recognizing that services targeted at families in crisis may be too late, these services target children and families at the earliest signs of difficulty.

QIC-AG Goal

The primary goal of the QIC-AG is to develop evidence-based models of support and intervention that can be replicated or adapted in other child welfare systems to achieve long-term, stable permanency in adoptive and guardianship homes for waiting children as well as for children and families after adoption or guardianship has been finalized.

The expected long-term outcomes include:

- Increased post-permanency stability
- Improved behavioral health for children
- Improved child and family well-being

QIC-AG Target Groups

Target Group 1:

Children awaiting adoptive or guardianship placements, or children who are in identified adoptive or guardianship homes but the placement has not resulted in finalization for significant time due to the children's challenging mental health, emotional, or behavioral issues.

Target Group 2:

Children and their adoptive or guardianship families who have already finalized the adoption or guardianship and for whom stability might be threatened. This target group includes children who have obtained permanency through private guardianship or private adoptions, both domestic and international.

Site Selection

QIC-AG will select six to eight sites (state, county or tribal child welfare systems). Over the course of the cooperative agreement, QIC-AG will partner with the sites to implement and evaluate a continuum of services that support the permanency and stability of children in adoptive or guardianship homes. QIC-AG will provide sites with financial resources, intensive technical assistance and support. Through formal partnerships with 6 to 8 sites, QIC-AG will:

- Increase capacity within the selected sites by creating a sustainable continuum of services from pre-permanency to post-permanency.
- Conduct rigorous evaluation of interventions to determine what works (and does not work) and to replicate effective models of practice.
- Facilitate sustainable system change to promote and support adoption and guardianship.
- Increase general awareness of the benefits of creating a continuum of services that extends from pre- to post-permanency.

Timetable for Site Selection

- Between November and January QIC-AG will identify sites through intensive assessment and preliminary research.
- In early spring, QIC-AG will begin preliminary conversations with identified sites to discuss potential collaboration and to gather information.
- Based upon preliminary conversations, sites will be identified to participate in the full assessment process, which will focus on obtaining foundational knowledge of each site's continuum of care and readiness to participate in this initiative.
- In late spring or summer 2015, sites will be selected and binding work agreements completed.

See contact information below to inquire about participating as a partnership site.

Partners

QIC-AG is a program of Spaulding for Children in partnership with The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Project Timeframe

October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2019

Project Website

<http://spaulding.org/qic-ag>

Funded/Sponsored by

QIC-AG is funded through a Cooperative Agreement with the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children & Families, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Contact Information

For additional information or to express interest in being considered as a site, contact Melinda Lis at mlis@spaulding.org or (773) 848-6880.



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