



CATAWBA COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

REACH FOR SUCCESS

OVERVIEW

The National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation (QIC-AG) is a five-year project working with eight sites that will implement evidence-based interventions or develop and test promising practices which if proven effective can be replicated or adapted in other child welfare jurisdictions. Effective interventions are expected to achieve long-term, stable permanence in adoptive and guardianship homes for waiting children as well as children and families after adoption or guardianship has been finalized.

SITE OVERVIEW

Catawba County Social Services is the provider of post-permanency services to families in Catawba County, North Carolina. Through partnerships with The Duke Endowment and Casey Family Programs, Catawba developed the Success Coach model of post-permanency support services. Through support from state funding the Success Coach Service is available to all families formed through adoption, including international and private domestic adoptions. Success Coaches provide families with an array of supports including: in-home skill building, service coordination, crisis intervention and management (24/7 support) and advocacy.

PROJECT GOAL

The **Reach for Success** intervention in Catawba County will test the idea that proactive outreach to families can help to identify those families most in need of the Success Coach Service. Families will be randomly assigned to either the intervention group or the control group. Those assigned to the intervention group will be offered the Success Coach Services, and their results will be compared with those of the control group families who will receive services as usual. Notably, services as usual include the provision of the Success Coach Service to any adoptive family *who requests* the service, whereas Reach for Success will focus on active outreach to connect families with Success Coaches.

PERMANENCY CONTINUUM INTERVAL: INDICATED

The Reach for Success intervention falls in the Indicated Interval of the QIC-AG Permanency Continuum Framework. According to Springer and Phillips, *indicated prevention efforts* target families who have been identified as being at higher risk based on individual risk factors or initiation of behaviors. For the purposes of the QIC-AG, indicated prevention efforts are targeted to the subset of adoptive and guardianship families who are experiencing

heightened challenges caring for their children including those adopted through the foster care system, private domestic adoptions, and international adoptions, who may be at higher risk for post-permanency discontinuity. In Catawba County, children are living in adoptive families who are experiencing such challenges but the adoptive parents have not asked for post-adoption support. In many cases, the parents have not requested support because they are unaware of the availability of post-adoption services, are unsure of how to access services, or are not comfortable asking for assistance. When Reach for Success is implemented in Catawba County, the project team will first conduct a survey to help identify families who are experiencing post-adoption challenges so that services can then be offered to families at high risk for discontinuity.

TARGET POPULATION

Reach for Success will target the parents of children receiving adoption assistance (i.e., subsidy) in Catawba County, NC. The project will also serve children adopted through international or private domestic channels.

INTERVENTION

Reach for Success is a two-part intervention designed to provide early outreach to families at high risk for experiencing post-adoption challenges. First, a self-report survey will be administered to the parents of children in Catawba County who are receiving adoption assistance and who are not currently receiving and have not previously received Success Coach Services. Parents whose

responses suggest that they are experiencing elevated needs that could place them at increased risk for post-permanency discontinuity will be randomly assigned to an intervention or control group. Families in the intervention group will receive early outreach that includes contacting families to offer the Success Coach Service. Families in the control group will receive services as usual that include the Success Coach Services upon request by the family.

PROGRAM EVALUATION AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Catawba will use a randomized controlled trial to test if children in the target population who receive Reach for Success will have better outcomes than similar children who receive services as usual. The expected long-term outcomes include increased post-permanency stability, improved behavioral health for children, and improved child and family well-being.

SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

Short-term outcomes, unique to this site include the following:

- » increased engagement in Success Coach program



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MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the QIC-AG visit www.qic-ag.org and

- » search our Intervention and Program Catalog
- » download information about the Permanency Continuum Framework
- » explore details about the eight Partner Sites

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