

Adoptive Family Support Network

(FY2017 Appropriation Act - Public Act 268 of 2016)

March 1, 2016

Sec. 559. (1) From the funds appropriated in part 1 for adoption support services, the department shall allocate \$250,000.00 to the Adoptive Family Support Network by December 1 of the current fiscal year to operate and expand its adoptive parent mentor program to provide a listening ear, knowledgeable guidance, and community connections to adoptive parents and children who were adopted in this state or another state.

(2) The Adoptive Family Support Network shall submit to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, the senate and house policy offices, and the state budget office by March 1 of the current fiscal year a report on the program described in subsection (1), including, but not limited to, the number of cases served and the number of cases in which the program prevented an out-of-home placement.



Michigan Department of
Health & Human Services

RICK SNYDER, GOVERNOR
NICK LYON, DIRECTOR



AFSN

AdoptiveFamilySupportNetwork
A service of D.A. Blodgett - St. John's



Parent to Parent Program

1-855-MICH-P2P

Providing a listening ear,
knowledgeable guidance and
community connections for
adoptive families.

616.458.7945 | www.afsn.org

Adoptive Family Support Network's Statewide Parent to Parent Program

FY 2015-2016 Summary

Senate Bill 133/DHHS Contract # APS-15-41002

AFSN Statewide Parent to Parent Program

Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Executive Summary

- **Total number of unduplicated families served by program:** 1661
(A 4% increase in families served from FY 2014-2015, and 2.7 times greater than initial contractual goal for FY 2014-2015, which was 624 total unduplicated families)
- **Total number of family contacts made (phone, email, in-person):** 8503
- **Total number of service contact hours to families:** 2748.5 hours
- **Number of children impacted:** 4688
- **Regional impact:** Families from 70 of 83 Michigan counties served
- **Family stability:** 99% of adopted children under 18 remained living in the home for at least six months after their family received support through AFSN.
- **Types of adoptive families served (some families are represented in more than one category):** 74% Foster/Adopt, 6% Infant Domestic, 12% International, 8% Kinship/Guardianship, 7% Pre-adopt/In process of adopting
- **Total number of community contacts made (social workers, community organizations, faith communities, schools, therapists, etc.):** 880
- **Number of parent-lead, in-person support groups lead by AFSN staff and volunteer parent leaders:** 21 total groups (Arenac, Bay, Benzie, Genesee, Ingham, Clinton, Eaton, Isabella, Kalamazoo, Kent (3), Lapeer, Monroe, Muskegon, Livingston, Ottawa, Roscommon, Washtenaw, Wayne, Wexford)
- **Total number of community collaborative meetings, events, fun family events, trainings, and support groups attended by AFSN staff and parent leaders:**
352 events serving 57 counties
- **Families participating in active online support group through facebook:**
1486 (43% increase since last fiscal year)
- **Website hits (statewide event calendar/support group listing):** 5,730 total hits from 283 different cities in Michigan



Statewide Parent to Parent Program Report

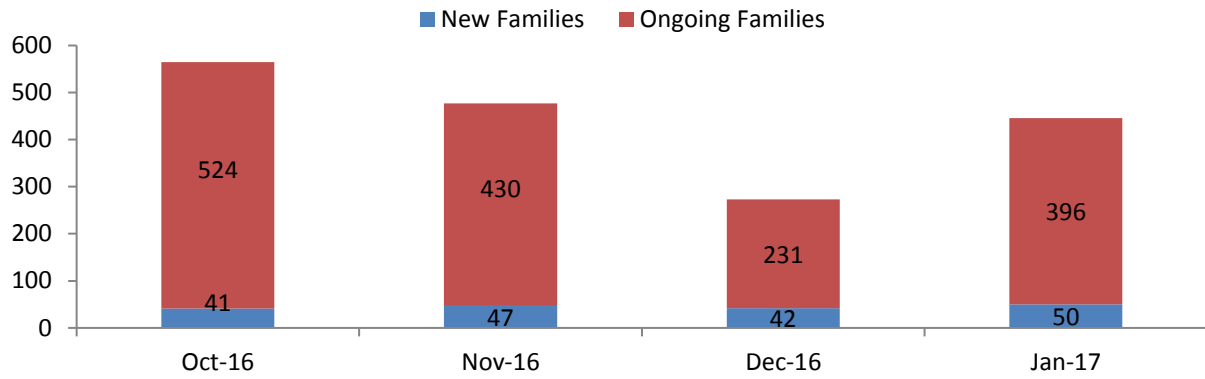
APS15-41002

October 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017

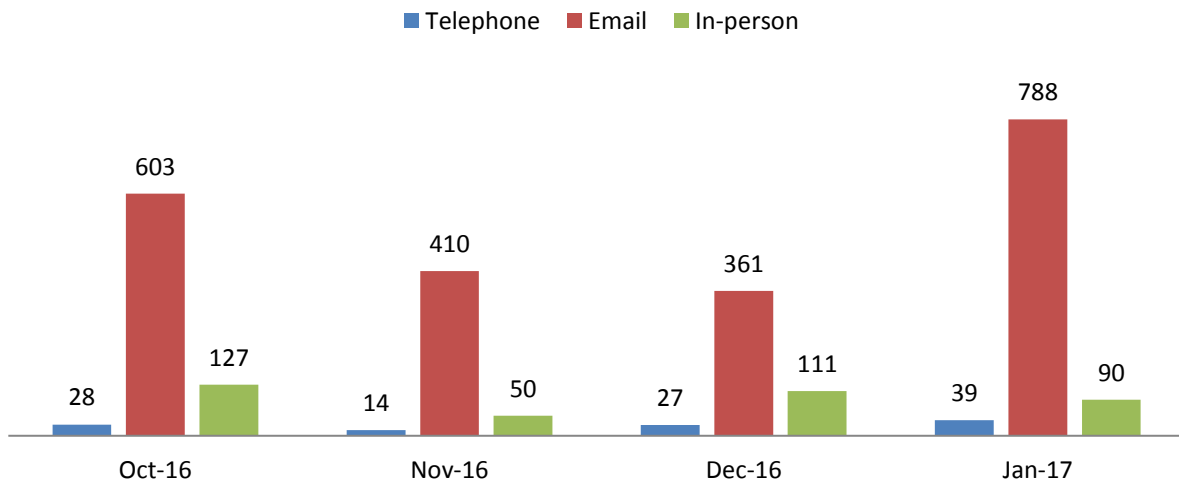
Executive Summary:

- In the first four months of the contract cycle, AFSN's Statewide Parent to Parent Program has served 838 unduplicated adoptive families in the state of Michigan.
- 2616 total contacts were made with adoptive families in the first four months, averaging 1 hour total contact per family.
- 70 % of the families seeking services from AFSN are families who have adopted at least one child from the child welfare system, the remaining 30% families have adopted internationally, privately, and through kinship adoptions outside of the child welfare system are also seeking crucial support services. These families are often isolated and lack access to needed services and support groups due to program eligibility requirements, while AFSN assists ALL adoptive families.
- The three most common reasons given by families for connecting with AFSN's Parent to Parent Program are; interest in support groups/connection to other adoptive families, attendance at parent and family networking events, and families seeking resources to assist them with their child's challenging behaviors (including referrals for adoption competent therapists, school advocacy and respite).
- Despite AFSN's reduction from ten to five Adoptive Parent Consultants for FY 2016-2017, Adoptive Parent Consultants (staff and volunteer) are facilitating 26 different in-person monthly adoptive parent support groups serving families in 14 different counties.
- 26 adoptive parent leaders completed an 18 hour leadership certification program between May and July 2016. As a result of that training, AFSN was able to expand services throughout the state despite a 30% budget reduction for the current fiscal year.
- In the first quarter, 98% of families surveyed had all of their adopted children under the age of eighteen remaining in the home after receiving services from AFSN.
- 99% of first quarter survey respondents were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the support they received from AFSN's Parent to Parent Program.
- 99% of first quarter survey respondents "agreed" or "strongly agreed" with the statement; "I feel more able to access needed support and resources for my family since connecting with AFSN."

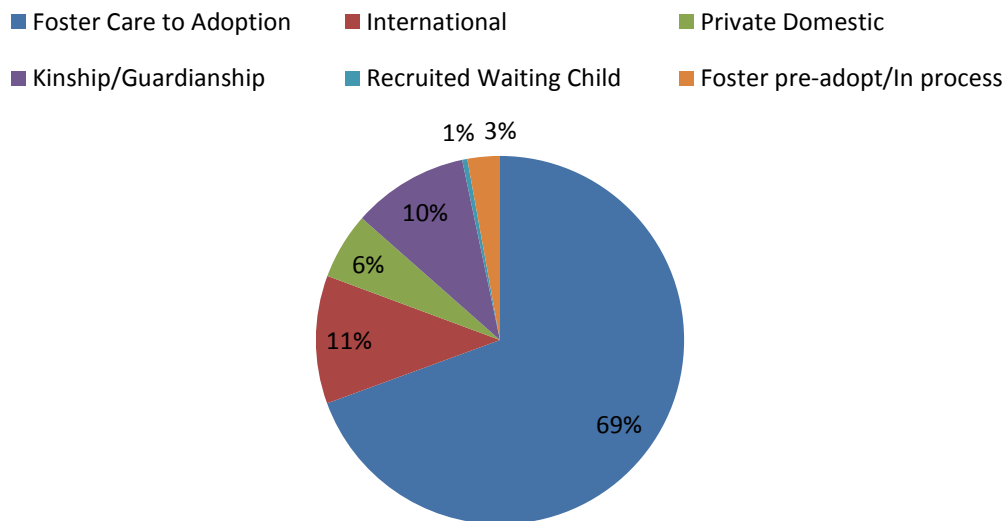
Families Served by Parent to Parent Program October 2016 - January 2017



Forms of Contact Made (adoptive families)



Type of Adoptive Families Served (may include more than one type of adoption)



Program Outreach and Events:

During this reporting period, Parent to Parent Program staff have attended and/or made presentations about AFSN's services to **23** different community groups, agencies and schools in **18** counties.

Additionally, Parent to Parent Program Staff have organized and hosted **13** family fun/networking events and attended **12** community events with participants from **25** different counties. These events provide opportunities for families in surrounding areas to connect to one another.

Finally, Parent to Parent Staff facilitated **26** in-person support groups and educational forums serving families from **14** counties.

Website Usage:

www.afsn.org had 5,911 visits from 2224 users from October 2016 through January 2017, 64% of which were new to the site. 23% of the website traffic came through referrals from other websites, including state and national adoption support agencies, Michigan's Post Adoption Resource Centers and family resource guides, MARE and MSU School of Social Work. Website traffic came from 38 countries, 41 states and 209 cities in Michigan, showing the wide reach of AFSN's networks and demand for post adoption information.

Social Media Presence:

AFSN has a strong facebook presence, with 2,571 “likes” for the agency. AFSN’s facebook pages feature trainings, events, program announcements and educational resources, as well as encouragement and mutual support of adoptive families. “Friends” of the AFSN facebook pages come from over 150 cities in Michigan.

AFSN operates and moderates 13 closed/secret online support communities for adoptive families with 2,040 total support group members. These groups include online support for Parent to Parent Statewide Adoptive Families 1635, Cedar Springs Parents 31, Parent to Parent Leaders 79, Adoptive Intentional Parent Book Club 135, Transracial Adoptive Families 564, LGBTQ adoptive families 41, Adoptive families who completed the Advanced Parenting for Challenging Children educational series 92, Singles in Support 77, Raising Healthy Families 54, Adoptive Dads 93, Special Needs Adoptive Families 47 and Mid-East Michigan AFSN Families 46

AFSN also has staff serving as contributors/administrators to other groups not initially started by AFSN. Those groups include; West Michigan Families Who Adopt- 374, Michigan Area Adoption Support Group- 504, Michigan Foster Care/Adoption- 2,637 Southeast Michigan Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Social Group 106.