



Adoption-Competent Mental Health Care Changes Lives: Become One of the Providers Who Makes It Happen

New national research confirms what families have been saying for years:

Mental health professionals trained in adoption-competent care make a dramatic difference in the outcomes and well-being of adopted children and families.

OhioKAN, in partnership with the Department of Children and Youth (DCY), is offering a new cohort of Training for Adoption Competency (TAC) to help increase the number of adoption-competent clinicians to better meet the needs of families. Families working with TAC-trained clinicians report:

- Stronger engagement in therapy
- Higher satisfaction and trust
- Significant improvements in children's emotional, behavioral, and academic functioning
- Better family communication and stronger relationships

Yet, most families still struggle to find clinicians who understand the unique needs of adoption, foster, and kinship care. Ohio needs more professionals with this specialized training — and you can be one of them!

Why This Matters

[*Perspectives on Mental Health Services from Birth and Adoptive Parents, Adoptees, and Other Members of Adoption and Kinship Networks*](#) (2025), a national survey of 500 respondents across 44 states and one U.S. territory, found that while a majority of adoptive, foster, and kinship families use mental health services, only one in five reported working with an adoption-competent clinician.¹ This indicates that many families receive care that does not fully address the unique experiences and needs associated with adoption and kinship care.

Families also said the most important factor they look for when choosing a therapist is specialized training with adoptive families.



The Impact of TAC-Trained Clinicians

A multi-state study of 300 families showed that families who worked with TAC-trained clinicians experienced:

- Nearly 3× more engagement in therapy
- Exceptional satisfaction (98.5% positive vs. 22.7% with non-TAC providers)
- Major improvements in emotional, behavioral, and academic functioning
- Stronger family relationships and communication

In short, adoption-competent training leads to dramatically better outcomes for children and families.

Closing the Gap

Demand is high — but few clinicians nationwide are adoption-competent, leaving many families without the specialized support they need.

That's exactly why the TAC program exists.

Become a Leader in Adoption-Competent Care

The TAC program equips providers with the advanced skills needed to support children and families with complex histories, identity needs, and attachment challenges.

As part of the 2026 TAC Cohort, you'll join a community of clinicians dedicated to providing exceptional, trauma-informed, adoption-competent mental health care across Ohio.

How to Apply

If you're a licensed, master's-level mental health professional in Ohio who is passionate about strengthening families, consider applying for the 2026 TAC Cohort. Training begins in January 2026. The full schedule is available in the application link. There is no cost for this training.

Apply today: <https://ohiokan.ohio.gov/tac-training/>

Questions? Contact Mindy Mauk at Mindy.Mauk@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov

By investing in this training, you're not just enhancing your clinical skills — you're helping ensure every child and family in Ohio receives the expert, compassionate care they deserve.