In an exciting venture with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the MSU School of Social Work is pleased to present opportunities for training specific to all caregivers engaged with the Michigan child welfare system.

If you are a foster parent, adoptive parent, kinship/relative parent, or birth parent, these FREE trainings are customized to help support your needs in raising the children in your home, understanding some of the unique and sometimes challenging needs that children and their families often face in the child welfare system.

Following licensure, caregivers are required to earn six hours of training annually. These trainings can count toward those hours.

Find all program details on our website: socialwork.msu.edu/ce.
Foster, Adoptive, Kinship, and Birth Parent Training

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This training is intended for adults. Some content is not appropriate for children.

Transracial Parenting: Promoting Healthy Racial Identities in Young Children #225-22

Date/time: Wednesday, April 25, 2022 • Program 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (ET)
Location: WEBINAR
Presenter: Amanda Morgan, LMSW
Transracial Adoptive Parent

Training objectives: As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:
• Examine your current approach to developing your child’s racial identity.
• Describe at least one step you will take to further your education on race.
• Identify at least one new strategy you can use to promote the development of a healthy racial identity in your child.

Description: An important part of transracial parenting is promoting the development of a healthy racial identity in your child. This is essential to your child’s overall psychological health and well-being. While there are many resources available that are focused on teens, there are fewer on how to begin this journey while children are young. In this webinar, we will discuss how to thoughtfully examine our environment, educate ourselves and children, and implement new strategies to help develop a healthy racial identity in our young children. This webinar will utilize exercises, large group discussion, and visual displays.

Changing Expectations: Managing Grief and Loss #226-22

Date/time: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 • Program 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (ET)
Location: WEBINAR
Presenter: Jennifer R. Patrick, MA
Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE)

Training objectives: As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:
• Review common myths about grief and loss related to the foster, adoptive, and kin parent’s journey.
• Identify what grief/bereavement is and what is not (five stages of lifetime management).
• Gain tools to inform healing and proceeding with your reality.

Description: Foster, adoptive, and kinship parents enter a child’s/youth’s life already touched by loss, and they can expect to experience grief and loss throughout the process. Whether it is loss of hopes and expectations, change of goals, or grief from the actions of unhealthy children/youth in care, grief and loss are part of the life of FAK parents. Learning how to redefine grief and loss and understanding your expectations of your own healing process will help you reframe your new reality and move forward. This webinar will utilize role playing, exercises, small and large group discussion, and visual displays.
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This training is intended for adults. Some content is not appropriate for children.

Relationships & Boundaries: Increasing Foster, Adoptive, and Kin Parent Health #227-22

Date/time: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 • Program 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (ET)
Location: WEBINAR
Presenter: Jennifer R. Patrick, MA
Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE)

Training objectives: As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:
- Gain an understanding of the biology of relationships and how it impacts long-term physical and mental health.
- Identify core traits of healthy and toxic relationships.
- Identify tools/methods for setting boundaries.

Description: Foster, adoptive, and kinship parents have important work to do as they care for children who have experienced trauma. Keeping themselves healthy and energized involves knowing how to manage the people and relationships in their lives. Explore the science behind the way your relationships either improve or damage your physical and mental health. Learn about the traits of both healthy and toxic relationships while reflecting on primary and secondary relationships in your life. Get ready for refreshment, empowerment, and change! This webinar will utilize role playing, small and large group discussion, and visual displays.

Supporting Young Children’s (aged 0-5) Healthy Psychological Development by Gaining a Deeper Understanding of the Impacts of Trauma, Attachment, and Cultures #228-22

Date/time: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 • Program 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (ET)
Location: WEBINAR
Presenter: Hillary Lesniak, LMSW, IMH-E (IV)
Therapist and Reflective Consultant/Trainer

Training objectives: As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:
- Identify how trauma impacts young children and three to five strategies to respond in healthy ways.
- Support healthy attachment and bonding with your child.
- Explore culture and race and how they impact your relationship with your child.

Description: This webinar will focus on exploring how trauma, attachment and culture all impact development of young children (aged 0-5). It will provide education about trauma and young children and ways parents can respond to help heal and respond to their children. It will provide some scientific information related to how trauma impacts the brain and body and practical strategies to help reduce stress and behaviors related to a trauma. Additionally, this webinar will provide education on attachment and how to help parents connect and build strong relationships with their children and potentially help them heal previous broken attachments. Throughout this webinar, culture and race will be addressed, and participants will be encouraged to consider their own cultures, traditions, and race as well as their child’s and how to hold all in mind and respond in empathic ways. This webinar will be interactive and encourage participants to consider their own experiences and take practical strategies and think about how to apply them in their own home. This webinar will utilize small and large group discussions and visual displays.
Foster, Adoptive, Kinship, and Birth Parent Training

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Fostering Financial Literacy #229-22

Date/time: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 • Program 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (ET)
Location: WEBINAR
Presenter: Karlos Dillard
Published Author, Public Speaker, Lived Experienced Foster Care Consultant

Training objectives: As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:
• Create ideas and concrete tools to implement that guardians can teach their foster youth.
• Teach foster youth how to build their own safety nets.
• Guide guardians on how to encourage monetizing interest in hobbies and nontraditional career paths.

Description: This webinar will address a heavily overlooked aspect of fostering/guardianship, which is teaching financial literacy to foster youth. The speaker, a former foster youth and transracial adoptee, will teach from his lived experience on what he wished his foster parents/guardians would have prepared him to know about finances. You will learn how to create fun and interactive ways to educate the youth in your care about finances while having the opportunity to ask questions to a former foster youth who was in the Michigan child welfare system. This webinar will utilize exercises, small and large group discussion, and visual displays.

How to register for trainings

Webinar training: Visit https://socialwork.msu.edu/ceu/catalog.php
If questions, contact: Gina Tremonti Gembel, MSW, at the MSU School of Social Work Continuing Education office swkce@msu.edu, 517-353-3060,