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Foster, Adoptive, Kinship, and Birth Parent Training 2025



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.

How to register for trainings

Webinar training: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/msu-school-of-social-work-44929438833>

If questions, contact: Gina Tremonti Gembel, MSW, at the MSU School of Social Work Continuing Education office
swkce@msu.edu, 517-353-3060

DELIVERED BY



School of Social Work



Foster, Adoptive, Kinship, and Birth Parent Training

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

Self-care: How to Recognize and Take Care of Ourselves



Date/time: Monday, April 21, 2025

Program 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM (ET)

Location: ONE-HOUR WEBINAR

Presenter: Kelley Blanck, LMSW

Faculty, MSU School of Social Work

Training objectives: As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:

- Define compassion and caregiver fatigue.
- Identify when you are experiencing caregiver burnout and fatigue.
- Draft a plan for self-care.

Beginner skill level

Target audience:

- ✓ Foster Parents
- ✓ Adoptive Parents
- ✓ Kinship/Relative Parents

Description: Caregivers often face unique challenges and responsibilities, and this webinar aims to equip them with the tools they need to maintain their well-being while providing the best care for their loved ones. Self-care plays a critical role in maintaining physical, emotional, and mental health. This webinar will help caregivers recognize common stressors and challenges specific to foster, adoptive, and kinship caregiving. It is designed to support foster, adoptive, and kinship caregivers by providing them with essential self-care strategies. This training will use a mix of activities and small group interaction to discuss this topic.

Loving the Same Child: Navigating Openness in Foster Care and Adoption



Date/time: Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Program 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (ET)

Location: TWO-HOUR WEBINAR

Presenter: Katie Page Sander, LMSW

Executive Director, Hands Across The Water

Training objectives: As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:

- Define openness and identify at least three benefits of openness for children in foster care or who have been adopted
- Identify three ways you can, as a foster or adoptive parent, support openness in your home.

Beginner, intermediate, and advanced skill levels

Target audience:

- ✓ Foster Parents
- ✓ Adoptive Parents
- ✓ Kinship/Relative Parents

Description: For children separated from loved ones throughout their journey in foster care and for children placed for adoption, their caretakers' commitment to openness is a key factor to their healthy identity development. What does openness mean, and how can it look different for different families and circumstances? Concrete ideas for celebrating children's important connections as well as open discussion about unique challenges and concerns for foster and adoptive parents will be explored. This webinar will utilize small and large group discussion.



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Being Your Child's Best Advocate: Tools and Strategies



Date/time: Monday, April 28, 2025
Program 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM (ET)

Location: ONE-HOUR WEBINAR

Presenter: Kelley Blanck, LMSW
Instructor/Faculty at MSU School of Social Work

- Training objectives:** As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:
- Explain what advocacy is, the different types, and why it is important for caregiver families.
 - Identify systems that families encounter that may need advocacy support.
 - Develop specific skills and strategies for advocating in different spaces.

Beginner skill level
Target audience:
✓ Foster Parents
✓ Adoptive Parents
✓ Kinship/Relative Parents

Description: Caregivers often find that they must advocate for their children to ensure that they get the care, benefit, and support needed for success. This webinar is designed to empower caregivers with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to effectively advocate for themselves and the children in their care. Caregivers face unique challenges that often present barriers to helping and caring for their children. This webinar aims to equip foster, adopt and kinship caregivers with the tools to navigate these challenges and to elevate their voices through advocacy strategies. This webinar will use a mix of activities and small group interaction to discuss this topic.

Supporting Family Connections

Date/time: Monday, August 18, 2025
Program 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM (ET)

Location: ONE-HOUR WEBINAR

Presenters: Sarah Horton Bobo, MA
Training and Curriculum Manager, Spaulding for Children
Jessie Howell, MA
Training Consultant, National Training and Development Curriculum (NTDC)



Beginner skill level
Target audience:
✓ Foster Parents
✓ Adoptive Parents

- Training objectives:** As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:
- Identify at least three specific strategies for building parental resilience.

Description: This webinar will offer foster and adoptive parents practical strategies to build resilience, drawn from real-life lived experiences. Learn how to create a supportive network, embrace self-acceptance, and develop a strong sense of identity. Discover techniques for self-regulation and coping during stressful times, empowering you to navigate the challenges of parenting with confidence and strength. This webinar will utilize exercises and small group discussion.

On-demand training courses

Now offering FREE online courses! No registration required!

Online courses are recordings of live webinars and can be watched from the convenience of your home, office, or on the go! For each course, you will complete a post-training evaluation. **NO CONTINUING EDUCATION CLOCK HOURS (CECHs)** are offered for the online courses.

TARGET AUDIENCE	COURSE #	TRAINING TITLE
Caregivers	200-18	Trauma-informed Caregiving (Part 2): Understanding Neurodevelopment and the Stress Response System
Caregivers	208-18	Support Services for Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Children and Families
Caregivers	213-19	Doing the Difficult Work (Part 1): How to Develop Effective Relationships with Birth Families
Caregivers	218-19	When Behaviors Prevent School Success: Advocating for Your Child with Emotional or Behavior Problems
Caregivers	372	Trauma-informed Caregiving (Part 1): Becoming Trauma-Informed Parents



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Registration for child welfare online courses is no longer required!

All child welfare online courses are available here:

<https://socialwork.msu.edu/programs/continuing-ed/child-welfare-training.html>

Click on "Begin this course" under the course you would like to take. This will take you to a survey to record your attendance, and then you will be redirected to the video.

NO CECHs ARE AWARDED FOR THESE ONLINE COURSES.

Additional online trainings will become available soon!

Stay tuned, and check the website often!