

What is Adoption Consortium?



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Adoption consortium is a service that assists caseworkers in identifying adoptive homes for youth in need of permanency. This service also provides potential adoptive families an opportunity to hear about youth in need of a permanent home, ask questions, and present themselves to the caseworkers as a potential match.

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This one-time per month meeting takes approximately three hours and is an opportunity for the caseworker to present youth for whom they are recruiting. The presentation time for a caseworker to discuss their youth is approximately **5 to 10 minutes**. There are participants from WASHINGTON STATE private agencies, OUT OF STATE ADOPTION AGENCIES, as well as other Washington State Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) caseworkers across the state who may have ideas of potential adoptive placements for your child.

The last portion of the consortium provides time for potential adoptive parents to present themselves to caseworkers, or they may have a private agency staff member present on their behalf. There are so many amazing families out there!

Who Can Participate?

- Caseworkers are able to present any youth or sibling group in need of a permanent adoptive home. Youth do not need to be legally free but must be eligible to be featured on nwae.org.
- Any licensed or adoptive family currently approved for placement. This includes families licensed or home studied through a private agency. Please note that although families with approved adoption only home studies may participate, a placement of a Washington state foster child cannot occur until the family is licensed as a foster parent.

How Do I Participate?

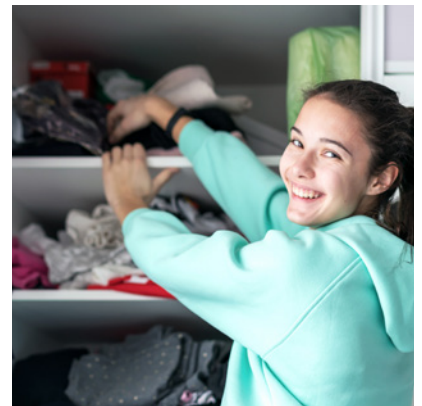
You can participate right from your desk! Zoom is utilized for all meeting participants. You can use Zoom from your computer, tablet, phone app, or have the ability to call in by phone.



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

How Should I Prepare?

- If you are the caseworker for a youth seeking permanency, you can email the Northwest Adoption Exchange (NWAE) at nwae@nwresource.org or fill out this form at <https://airtable.com/shrl1d4NUzggrGZvl> to get on the schedule to present.
 - Please use the youth registration form as a guide for your strength-based conversation with an NWAE staff member. The registration form includes the ability to upload a recent photo, which you're encouraged to do. If youth have an In-Depth Profile on nwae.org, an excerpt will be presented during your conversation.
 - If you are unable to attend the consortium but want your youth presented, please ensure someone who knows the youth is able to attend and present on your behalf.
 - We know you are busy and your time is valuable but you are encouraged to attend the entire consortium in order to connect with families throughout. You'll also have the opportunity to learn more about families in the second part of the consortium. If you are unable to stay the whole time, please try to join about 10 minutes earlier than your scheduled time to ensure there are minimal delays to the agenda.
- If you are an adoptive family excited to attend consortium to hear more about youth, reach out to NWAE at nwae@nwresource.org for details and potentially register your family to introduce yourselves through a conversation with NWAE staff. Families and family caseworkers are welcome to attend regardless of being presented.
 - To have a conversation with someone from NWAE about your family during consortium, please fill out this reservation form at <https://airtable.com/shr0CLNdZYK8rfJOR>.
 - If your family has a video profile on nwae.org, it can be shown in lieu of a conversation.
 - Families are encouraged to attend the first portion to hear more about youth seeking permanency and ask any questions you may have. To participate in more than one consortium, please fill out the above registration form before each third Tuesday of the month.
 - Families are encouraged to attend as much of consortium as they are able. If your family is being presented, please try to sign on at least 10 minutes earlier than your scheduled time to ensure minimal delays to the agenda.



When Is Consortium Held And What Else Is There To Know?

- Adoption consortium is held virtually via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month, from 9:30 a.m. to noon PST.
- Families will need to confirm they have a current and approved home-study before participation.
- Families and workers who wish to be added to NWAE's monthly listserv can send an email request to nwae@nwresource.org.

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