



NATIONAL CENTER FOR ENHANCED
Post-Adoption Support

THE OREGON IMPACT STORY

How targeted technical assistance with the National Center for Enhanced Post-Adoption Support helped Oregon build a stronger, more coordinated post-permanency system for adoptive and guardianship families.

AT-A-GLANCE



Developed a centralized intake and triage process

to identify adoptive and guardianship families' levels of need and guide connections to appropriate services.



Implemented a tiered response approach

based on families' levels of need that connects them to the appropriate level of support.



Implemented a pre-finalization training, *Light Up the Journey*,

which provides families with vital information on available services and supports.



Strengthened Oregon's

ability to evaluate and continuously improve post-permanency services.



The Impact

Technical assistance helped the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and its statewide partners move from a collection of valuable but largely independent post-permanency services to a more connected, family-centered continuum of support. While ORPARC already served as a resource and entry point for adoptive and guardianship families, the partnership expanded its role across the permanency continuum by strengthening intake and triage based on families' levels of need and establishing ORPARC as the provider for the newly implemented pre-permanency training, *Light Up the Journey*. This training connects families to support before permanency is finalized.

The work strengthened collaboration across Oregon's post-permanency system and created greater continuity for families as they move between services. Lived experience informed the work throughout, helping ensure that the evolving system reflected the needs and experiences of adoptive and guardianship families.

Practical tools and implementation support developed through the partnership included:

- A centralized intake and triage process to identify families' levels of need and guide connections to appropriate services
- A pre-permanency training, *Light Up the Journey*, along with implementation resources
- Tiered crisis intervention workflows and adoption- and guardianship-competent clinical assessment enhancements

“Technical Assistance was the catalyst Oregon needed to enhance coordination of post-permanency services with our partner ORPARC, anchored by the voices of those with lived experience. The result is a stronger, more sustainable foundation for supporting adoptive and guardianship youth and families statewide.”

*Kim Keller, Oregon Department of Human Services,
Child Welfare Program Permanency Manager*

- Pre- and Post-Service Assessment Questions (P-SAQ)
- An ODHS Post-Permanency Program Manual and statewide implementation resources
- A strategic sustainability and expansion roadmap to guide future growth

As a Result of Technical Assistance

- **Established a centralized pathway that keeps adoptive and guardianship families connected to support.** ORPARC serves as the central hub, with consistent intake and navigation processes, warm hand-offs across partners, and follow-up that maintains families' connection to support as their needs change.
- **Integrated pre- and post-permanency supports into a single continuum of care.** Families are now introduced to ORPARC before permanency through *Light Up the Journey* training, strengthening preparation and earlier engagement.

- **Implemented a tiered response approach based on families' levels of need.** Standardized intake and assessment processes help identify the level of support families need and guide referrals to appropriate services, while shared communication processes promote continuity across providers.
- **Strengthened adoption- and guardianship-competent clinical support for families.** Crisis intervention assessments and practices were enhanced to better recognize permanency-related needs, while improvements to Oregon's therapist directory will help families identify clinicians with adoption-competency training.
- **Strengthened Oregon's ability to evaluate and continuously improve post-permanency services.** Enhanced data collection and outcome tracking now provides information to monitor family needs, measure service outcomes, and support continuous quality improvement and future decision-making.
- **Prepared Oregon to make informed decisions about future statewide expansion.** Technical assistance provided the planning, cost estimates, and implementation strategies needed to support leadership discussions, funding advocacy, and long-term growth of post-permanency services.
- **Sustained family voice beyond technical assistance.** Individuals with lived experience helped shape the work done through the technical assistance and ODHS secured ongoing support for its Lived Experience Group so those perspectives continue informing system improvement.

Why This Work Mattered

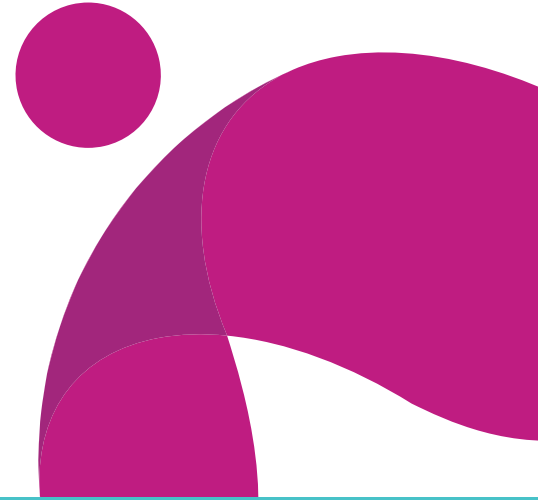
Oregon had valuable post-permanency services and established pathways for adoptive and guardianship families to access support. However, there was not a consistent statewide process for identifying families' levels of need, connecting them to the appropriate level of support, or ensuring continuity across services. The process was tweaked so that families could be connected to supports earlier. The use of data was strengthened so that a better understanding of family needs could be captured along with outcomes. Ultimately this will help to inform ongoing program improvement.



The technical assistance partnership focused on helping Oregon build on and strengthen its existing post-permanency services to create a more connected, sustainable system of support with the capacity for statewide expansion. Oregon's goals for technical assistance were to:

1. Strengthen coordination and connections across post-permanency services to create a more seamless experience for adoptive and guardianship families.
2. Strengthen preparation and support for families before permanency and create earlier connections to post-permanency resources.
3. Enhance adoption- and guardianship-competent crisis intervention and clinical supports for families with higher levels of need.

4. Identify opportunities and strategies to expand post-permanency services statewide.
5. Strengthen the infrastructure needed to support continuous quality improvement and long-term sustainability.



Looking Ahead

ODHS will use the Post-Permanency Program Manual developed through this technical assistance to support expansion of crisis intervention services as funding becomes available. Enhanced data will help guide program improvement, while planning and cost projections will inform funding decisions and future expansion of post-permanency services. *Light Up the Journey* will become a required pre-permanency training, strengthening families' early connection to ORPARC and knowledge of available supports.

ODHS will also maintain its updated adoption-competent therapist directory. The state will sustain its Lived Experience Group through a partner organization, helping ensure families that lived experience continues to inform the system as it grows. Together, these efforts position Oregon to expand a more connected, family-informed continuum of post-permanency support statewide.

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