



Western Ohio
Regional Training Center

ASSESSOR TIER II – JANUARY 2025

Title	CAPS Locator #	Date & Time	Trainer	Location
Diversity Competence in Permanency Planning – part 1	17775	Monday Jan 6 th 9:30AM – 1:00PM	Val Larkin	Zoom
Diversity Competence in Permanency Planning – part 2	17775	Tuesday Jan 7 th 9:30AM – 1:00PM	Val Larkin	Zoom
Achieving Permanency through Interagency Collaboration	17773	Friday Jan 10 th 10:00AM – 3:00PM	Maureen Hefferman	Zoom
Gathering and Documenting Background Information	17772	Monday Jan 13 th 9:30AM – 12:45PM	Maureen Hefferman	Zoom
Diversity Competence in Permanency Planning – part 1	18485	Thursday Jan 16 th 9:00AM – 12:30PM	Val Larkin	Zoom
Diversity Competence in Permanency Planning – part 2	18485	Friday Jan 17 th 9:00AM – 12:30PM	Val Larkin	Zoom
Openness in Adoption – part 1	17774	Thursday Jan 23 rd 9:30AM – 12:45PM	Jayne Schooler	Zoom



Western Ohio
Regional Training Center

Openness in Adoption – part 2	17774	Friday Jan 24 th 9:30AM – 12:45PM	Jayne Schooler	Zoom
Achieving Permanency through Interagency Collaboration	18706	Wednesday Jan 29 th 10:00AM – 3:00PM	Val Larkin	Zoom
February 2025				
Gathering and Documenting Background Information	18474	Wednesday Feb 5 th 1:00PM – 4:15PM	Jayne Schooler	Zoom
Openness in Adoption – part 1	18475	Tuesday Feb 25 th 1:00PM – 4:15PM	Jayne Schooler	Zoom
Openness in Adoption – part 2	18475	Wednesday Feb 26 th 1:00PM – 4:15PM	Jayne Schooler	Zoom



Training Descriptions

Achieving Permanency Through Interagency Collaboration

This interactive training is designed to explore the importance of permanency for all youth placed in out-of-home care and introduces the practice of Youth Centered Permanency Roundtables (YCPRTs). YCPRTs are structured case consultations focusing specifically on "busting barriers" in order to find legal permanency and increase permanent connections for youth.

Openness in Adoption

This training covers the importance of openness in adoption practice. Learners will explore the impact of openness on the members of the adoption constellation. Learners will also discuss the role and responsibilities of an assessor, as well as strategies and techniques used in working with birth and adoptive families, and children and youth involved in adoption.

Gathering and Documenting

In this workshop, participants will learn why resource families and children need information, as well as what information is needed. The importance of honesty in disclosure of information to adoptive and resource families will be discussed, as well as the ethical and legal consequences of withholding information. Participants will learn creative, effective strategies for family search and engagement to gather complete information. Some guidelines regarding documentation of collected information will be shared. Participants will also learn how and when to share information effectively with resource parents. Finally, techniques to help resource parents communicate information in a helpful way to their children will be presented.

Diversity Competence in Permanency Planning

This training identifies the role diversity plays in permanency planning and enhances the worker's diversity competence in serving both children and families. The training outlines the tenets of both the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act, assuring workers can make placement decisions that meet the needs of children while complying with federal law and state administrative rules.

TIER II January 2025

Title	CAPS Locator #	Date & Time	Trainer	Location
The Impact of Placement	16316	Tuesday Jan 7 th 10:00AM – 12:00PM	Andrea Yearego	Zoom
Engagement with Children	17568	Thursday Jan 9 th 9:00AM – 12:15PM	Jayne Schooler	Zoom
Adoption Readiness	17651	Tuesday Jan 14 th 9:00AM -11:30AM	Val Larkin	Zoom
Supporting Resource and Adoptive Families	16335	Thursday Jan 16 th 12:00PM – 3:30PM	Lisha West	Zoom
Completing the Homestudy	17654	Friday Jan 17 th 9:00AM – 12:45PM	Jayne Schooler	Zoom
Matching Process	17655	Tuesday Jan 21 st 9:00AM – 11:30AM	Val Larkin	Zoom
Pre-Finalization	17670	Monday Jan 27 th 9:00AM – 11:30AM	Val Larkin	Zoom
Supporting Well-Being	15603	Tuesday Jan 28 th 1:00PM – 4:00PM	Andrea Yeargo	Zoom

TIER II FEBRUARY 2025

Engagement with Children	17671	Monday Feb 3 rd 1:00PM – 4:15PM	Susan Darden Kautz	Zoom
Adoption Readiness	15440	Tuesday Feb 4 th 9:00AM – 11:30AM	Mandy Weaver	Zoom
Supporting Resource and Adoptive Families	17672	Friday Feb 7 th 1:00PM – 4:30PM	Val Larkin	Zoom
The Impact of Placement	17673	Monday Feb 10 th 9:00AM – 11:00AM	Jayne Schooler	Zoom
Completing the Homestudy	16317	Friday Feb 14 th 9:00AM – 12:45PM	Andrea Yearego	Zoom
Supporting Well-Being	17675	Thursday Feb 20 th 9:00AM – 12:00PM	Susan Darden Kautz	Zoom
Matching Process	15604	Wednesday Feb 26 th 1:00PM – 3:30PM	Andrea Yearego	Zoom
Pre-Finalization	17676	Friday Feb 28 th 9:00AM – 11:30AM	Val Larkin	Zoom

TIER II MARCH 2025

Engagement with Children	17677	Friday Mar 7 th 9:00AM – 12:15PM	Susan Darden Kautz	Zoom
Supporting Resources and Adoptive Families	17678	Tuesday Mar 11 th 9:00AM – 12:30PM	Jayne Schooler	Zoom
The Impact of Placement	17679	Friday Mar 14 th 9:00AM – 11:00AM	Susan Darden Kautz	Zoom
Adoption Readiness	17680	Monday Mar 17 th 9:00AM – 11:30AM	Val Larkin	Zoom
Completing the Homestudy	17681	Thursday Mar 20 th 9:00AM – 12:45PM	Jayne Schooler	Zoom
Supporting Well-Being	17682	Friday Mar 21 st 9:00AM – 12:00PM	Jayne Schooler	Zoom
Matching Process	17683	Monday Mar 24 th 9:00AM – 11:30AM	Susan Darden Kautz	Zoom
Pre-Finalization	17684	Monday Mar 31 st 9:00AM – 11:30AM	Val Larkin	Zoom

Course Descriptions of Assessor Series 2024

Engagement with Children

An assessor must assess, support, and prepare the child while considering their safety, well-being, and permanency. This occurs partly through engagement at monthly visits and other contacts with the child. This course will discuss the principles of effective engagement, explore engagement strategies for best practices, and introduce learners to ORC and OAC related to engagement. This course is part of the Assessor series.

The Importance of Documentation

Assessors must document their activities and complete forms related to a child's strengths and needs used in permanency planning. This course addresses the reasons an assessor's documentation is important, the required specific forms, and tips and strategies to gather the information needed for quality documentation. This course will focus on the Child Study Inventory (CSI), JFS 01616 Social and Medical History, as well as the Individual Child Care Agreement (ICCA). This course is part of the Assessor series.

Impact of Placement

In this course, we will discuss the impact of placement on children in care. Assessors will be given strategies to lessen the impact of trauma on placements of all types, including living with kin, a resource, or an adoptive family. This course will also address how the assessor's best practices support the creation of placement stability, impacting the child's safety, well-being, and permanency. Evidence-based practice that respects the child's voice, perspective, and identity is part of the assessor's crucial role in achieving placement stability. This course is part of the Assessor series.

Supporting Resource and Adoptive Families

This course explores the importance of the assessor's role in providing ongoing support to resource and adoptive families, and the vital role families play in permanency planning. Assessors will gain strategies to improve the support of resource and adoptive families while considering kinship families' unique needs in these roles. Assessors will be able to apply these concepts as they support families through various transitions. This course is part of the Assessor series.

Supporting Well-Being

This course discusses the assessor's and family's responsibilities in supporting a child's well-being through purposeful support of their diverse identity, voice, connections, and rights. Respecting all facets of a child's diversity and identity creates a safe and welcoming space needed for well-being.

Adoption Readiness

This course describes an assessor's responsibilities in assessing and preparing children and families for adoption and supporting them through the process. We will discuss developmentally appropriate practices, listening to and respecting the child's voice, and individual needs assessment that lead to the best outcomes for the child. We will examine best practices in preparing resource families and supporting them in their transition from a temporary to a permanent family. Additionally, we will explore strategies for understanding and responding to children and families when they express resistance to adoption.

Completing the Homestudy

In this course, assessors will build on the knowledge obtained in the course Introduction to the Homestudy and learn about the elements of a complete homestudy. Required verifications and forms will be reviewed, and strategies for completion will be introduced. Assessors will explore opportunities for furthering engagement with families and assessment beyond the family interview. This course will encourage the development of critical thinking skills and incorporate guided practice scenarios to help assessors feel confident in their ability to complete the homestudy.

Matching Process

This course focuses on the role of an assessor in the pre-adoptive staffing and matching conference. It also explores tasks related to sharing information about the child with prospective adoptive families. Through discussions and examples, learners will determine best practices for supporting both families and children throughout the adoption and matching process.

Pre-Finalization

Assessors play a crucial role in preparing a child and adoptive family for permanency through transition planning. This course describes the assessor's role in transition planning to prepare and support a child and their adoptive family from the child's placement with the adoptive family through adoption finalization. We will explore strategies in the transition plan to provide support and services to prevent disruptions and promote permanency.

The Voluntary Adoption Process

This course will provide an overview of the role of an assessor, who is responsible for educating and supporting birth parents through the voluntary adoption decision-making process. The course will discuss the considerations and requirements of the permanent surrender process. The assessor's role in supporting adoptive parents in voluntary adoption practice will also be presented.

Supporting Openness and Collaboration Between Families

In this course, assessors will learn about the benefits of openness between primary and resource or adoptive families and how openness and collaboration can limit trauma to the child and the involved families. Assessors will gain insight into how they can educate resource and adoptive families about openness and support them in collaborating with primary families. This course will also provide an overview of the C.A.R.E. guide and the rights of youth in care and resource families pertaining to openness. This course is part of the Assessor series.

Supporting Trauma Informed Parenting

Assessors in all practice areas, including those working with resource and adoptive families and those primarily focused on supporting the child, must have a solid foundation in trauma and effective parenting strategies. This course presents information about the impact of trauma and how trauma symptoms may be visible in a child's behavior so that assessors will be able to effectively help resource and adoptive parents and support the safety and well-being of children. The course discusses the impact of trauma and loss, the creation of a safe environment, discipline strategies, secondary traumatic stress, and the importance of self-care. This course is part of the Assessor series.

Managing Difficult Conversations in the Homestudy

This course discusses skills and strategies necessary to manage difficult conversations in the homestudy process. Good management of these conversations starts with meaningful engagement. Assessors must also be aware of why some families may be cautious about disclosing information. Finally, assessors must identify and address their biased thinking. This course is part of the Assessor series.

Supporting Children Who are LGBTQ+

This course is designed to provide assessors with the knowledge and skills required to support children who are LGBTQ+ during the adoption and placement process. It emphasizes the importance of creating safe and affirming spaces, ensuring the child's well-being, and promoting positive outcomes. Learners will gain an understanding of the experiences of children who are LGBTQ+ in child protection, how to provide support, and how to assist resource and adoptive families in co-creating safe and affirming care to enable children who are LGBTQ+ to thrive.

Supporting Children of Color

This course will discuss the skills and knowledge assessors need to support children of color involved in the child protection system effectively. Throughout this course, assessors will explore issues of disproportionality and disparity of treatment and outcomes for children of color and examine ways to support positive racial identity development for a child who may be adopted or in care. Assessors will also discuss strategies for assessing the readiness of a resource or adoptive family to protect and affirm a child of color in their home within the parameters of MEPA and review the impact of bias on the child protection system. This course is part of the Assessor series.

Post Finalization

This course provides an overview of requirements for post-finalization adoption services and discusses what services may be available for post-finalization support. Furthermore, this course will examine issues that can lead to placement instability and explore how post-finalization support and services can help families avoid disruption and contribute to stability for the adoptee and the family.