

ABOUT TAC

Training for Adoption Competency (TAC) is an accredited post-Master's curriculum designed by C.A.S.E. with the assistance of a National Advisory Board of adoption experts. C.A.S.E. received accreditation of its Training for Adoption Competency from the Institute of Credentialing Excellence (ICE) in November 2020. This makes TAC part of an elite group of certificate programs dedicated to public protection and excellence in practice.



AT A GLANCE

Wayfinder Family partners with The Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) and is the only TAC-certified site in California. TAC is a comprehensive, evidence-based training designed exclusively for licensed mental health professionals, providing clinical knowledge and skills needed to effectively serve the adoption and kinship network to:

- adopted children and youth
- adults with an adoption history
- children preparing for adoption
- birth parents and extended family members
- prospective adoptive parents
- adoptive families

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- Master's degree (or higher) in social work, a counseling field or other related discipline
- Current professional license **or** registered as an associate, applicants under clinical supervision in preparation for professional licensing will also be accepted
- Experience or genuine interest in working with adopted persons, prospective adoptive parents, birth parents and birth family members, adoptive families and kinship families in clinical settings

BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS

- TAC builds the clinical skills therapists need to address the issues of grief and loss, disrupted attachments, multiple moves, experienced by children with foster care/adoption/guardianship experiences, including the additional challenges of isolation, broken attachments, loss of visitation and connections created by COVID
- Specific training on trauma and brain neurobiology, treatment strategies to help children, birth and adopted parents cope with grief and loss, treatment modalities and interventions to support birth parents and extended family members and much more
- Rated by California Evidence-based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare
- Integrated 6 months of case consultation with national experts
- Graduates of TAC receive a certificate of completion and national recognition through posting on the C.A.S.E. website and directory of Adoption Competent Professionals
- Option to take accreditation exam valued at \$40 to be **listed as an accredited clinician**.

CEUs:

This training series qualifies for up to **60 hours** of continuing education units (CEU) for Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Clinical Social Workers in California as required by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (CAMFT Provider #66256)

TRAINING COST - \$1800

Trainers:

Sasha McGowan, LCSW

Sasha McGowan is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, who has worked supporting youth and families in crisis for 15 years. She specializes in adoption, foster care, youth advocacy, and training new clinicians and child welfare social workers entering the field. Sasha is a therapist serving adopted youth and their parents. She has completed Training for Adoption Competency therapy and is a Certified Nurtured Heart Approach® Trainer. Sasha is also an adoptive mom of five children, two of whom are now young adults in college.

Debra McJimsey, MFT

Debra has gained extensive experience in working with foster/adoptive and kinship families through her work with Lilliput Families and her private practice as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She has provided focused training to families and to other clinicians in the areas of parent education, trauma informed care, family and conjoint therapy models, and self-empowerment techniques such as those presented in the WISE-up program.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Develop clinical skills in working with adopted children and youth and adoptive families on issues of loss, grief, separation, identity formation and attachment
- Develop clinical skills in working with adopted children and youth and adoptive families on issues related to the impact of genetics and past experiences on adjustment and the psychological well-being of adopted children
- Understand how trauma impacts adopted children and tools and techniques to support recovery from adverse beginnings
- Understand the issues that impact identity formation for adopted youth and young adults
- Develop assessment and intervention skills with diverse types of adoptive families and with birth families
- Learn the developmental stages of adoptive families and the process of adoptive family formation and integration
- Develop skills in working with adopted children, youth and adults, adoptive families, and birth families on issues of adoption openness and ongoing connections
- Develop an understanding of the racial, ethnic, and cultural issues in adoption and how to work with transracial and transcultural families
- Identify and utilize evidence-based and evidence-informed practices and interventions with individuals affected by adoption
- Learn how to work effectively with service systems and the community on behalf of adoptive families
- Reinforce and strengthen the learning process through the case consultation process, resulting in strong transfer of learning to practice

REFUND POLICY:

If unable to attend, registered participants must cancel at least 30 days in advance of cohort start date to receive a full refund. No refunds will be given for non-attendance of a particular module or modules.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Step 1: Complete online application via the link below

[2025-2026 TAC Enrollment \(wayfinderfamily.org\)](https://wayfinderfamily.org/2025-2026-TAC-Enrollment)

Step 2: Receive confirmation and admission to the training cohort.

Submit Payment

Step 3: Begin enrollment process.

For more information and questions:

Contact: LFTacTraining@wayfinderfamily.org

Phone: 916-923-5444

Visit us at:

[Wayfinder Trainings for Professionals](https://wayfinderfamily.org/trainings-for-professionals)



Virtual Training Dates (live, via zoom)

September 2025 – March 2026

Module 1 September 2025 - self-study

Adoption History, Law & Process

Module 2 – October 7, 2025

Adoption Competency

Theory and Philosophy

Module 3 – October 21, 2025

Mental Health Needs

Module 4 – November 4, 2025

Separation, Loss, and Grief

Module 5 – November 18, 2025

Trauma & Brain Neurobiology

Module 6 – December 2, 2025

Attachment

Module 7 – December 16, 2025

Identity Formation/Adolescence

Module 8 – January 6, 2026

Adoption Preparation

Module 9 – January 20, 2026

Clinical Issues with Birth

and Kinship Families

Module 10 – February 3, 2026

Openness in Adoption

Module 11 – February 17, 2026

Race and Ethnicity in Adoption

Module 12 – March 3, 2026

Therapeutic Parenting

Cohort Study Group – March 17, 2026

Test Day – March 31st 2026