

Children and Family Services, Adoption Services



Adoption of children from foster care

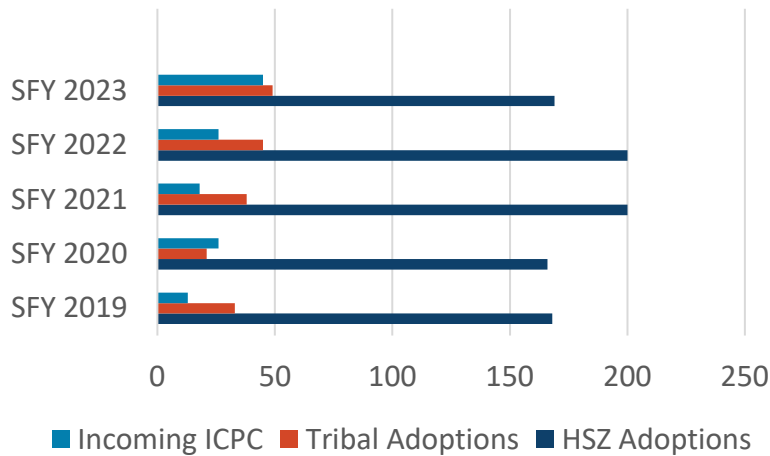
North Dakota services children in foster care whose case plan is adoption and the families who will adopt these children through the AASK program, a contracted program with Catholic Charities ND (CCND). CCND has an MOU with the All About U Adoptions to supplement the program serving non-traditional families and to provide additional services to those geographical areas with the longest wait for services. The AASK program, by their contract, serves children in the custody of Human Service Zones and out of state custody children being adopted in North Dakota. At the request of a ND Tribal Nation, the AASK program will also serve children in tribal custody who have an adoption plan and those families who are identified to adopt the child.

Waiting Children – Children in public agency custody with a TPR and Goal of Adoption

The number of children with a termination of parental rights has fallen over the three years as indicated below, as has the number of those children with a primary goal of adoption. The number of adoptions however has continued to steadily climb.

It should be noted that of the children for whom there is a TPR and who have a goal of adoption, most will be placed for adoption with a relative and/or their caregiving foster care provider. A small percentage each year are placed with newly recruited families. At any given time, there are usually between 20 and 30 children whom the adoption program is recruiting a new family to provide permanency.

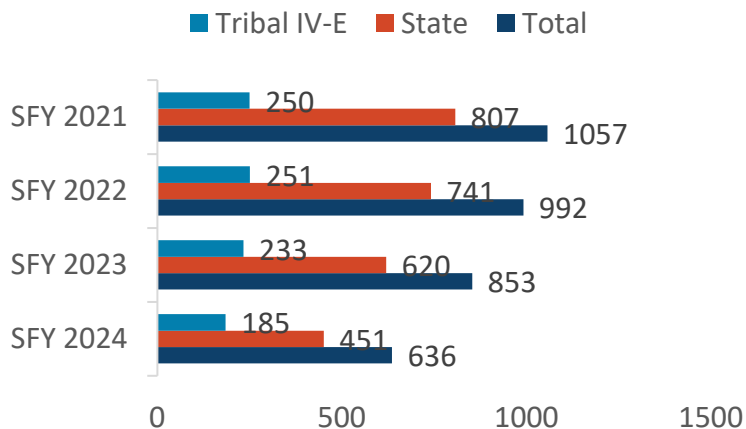
Public Agency Adoption Finalizations



This chart shows the number of adoptions completed by the AASK program for state fiscal years 20189 through 2023, those of children in state, tribal and out of state agency custody.

Data Provided by AASK in 2023 Agency Report

Children in Foster Care with TPR and Goal of Adoption



This chart shows the overall decrease of the number of children in foster care with a TPR and goal of adoption.

Data from COGNOS report: TPR/Goal of adoption

Adoption assistance

Adoption assistance (subsidy) is designed to provide adoptive families of any economic level with needed social services, and medical and financial support to care for children considered difficult to place. Adoption assistance can take the form of a monthly payment (subsidy) to meet the special and ordinary needs of the child, Medical Assistance as a backup to the adoptive family's private health insurance, and reimbursement for non-recurring adoption expenses (up to \$2000/child). Adoption assistance payments are negotiated for children who are adopted from the public agency, who are determined to be "special need" for the purposes of adoption assistance. These payments are negotiated through the Children and Family Services Foster Care Sub Adopt Unit (CFSFCSA Unit).

Other types of adoption

CFS is involved in other types of adoption to varying degrees, including by providing technical assistance to licensed child placing agency and attorneys, responding to legal documents filed in all types of adoption, tracking documentation for private agency and other adoptions and the permanent retention of adoption documents. Additionally, CFS coordinates adoption search/ disclosure services. Other types of adoption include:

- Private infant adoptions,
- Identified relinquishment and adoption as specified in NDCC 14-15.1,
- Private relative adoptions,
- Stepparent adoptions and
- International adoptions.

Post adoption services

The staff of the ND Post Adopt Network can support families by answering questions, advocating for the family, and connecting families with a strong network of people who understand the unique circumstances that come with parenting a child through adoption. Services provided through the Network include:

- Post Finalization Welcome
- Outreach to Families
- Inquiry/Service Request Calls
- Short Term Services
- Information and Referral
- Educational Opportunities
- Support Groups
- Parent-to-Parent Mentorship
- Planned Activities
- Camps/Retreats
- Respite Grants
- Assessment
- Supportive Services

Over the last fiscal year (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024), the North Dakota Post Adopt Network was busy providing many services across the state:

- Served over 630 families
- Hosted over 90 groups and events with 2,543 participants! These events and groups included:
 - Camp Experiences (Camp Connect and Winter Retreat)
 - Mom's Retreat
 - Dad's Retreat
 - Monthly Events (Parents' Night Out, Kids' Night Out, and Family Night)
 - Recruitment/Awareness Events
 - Parent Support Groups
- Hosted Post Adoption trainings with 86 professionals in attendance
 - Provided 7 parental educational trainings on various topics

Children and Family Services Section

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