

National Quality Improvement Center

QIC•AG

Adoption & Guardianship  
Support and Preservation

A Program funded through a five-year cooperative agreement with  
Department of Health and Human Services,  
Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau in partnership with:  
Spaulding for Children,  
The University of Texas at Austin,  
The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**AGES:**  
An  
intervention  
available to  
Intercountry  
and Private  
Domestic  
Adoptive  
Families in  
Wisconsin

# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- **Stefanie Eye**

*Consultant, US State Department*

- **Stephanie Wolfe**

*QIC-AG Site Consultant for Illinois,  
Wisconsin and Texas*

- **Ron Hermes and Danielle Brey**

*QIC-AG Site Manager and  
Implementation Manager for  
Wisconsin*



# AGENDA

- Overview of the QIC-AG
- Introduction to AGES
- Where AGES is Offered through QIC-AG
- Eligibility Criteria
- How to Refer a Family
- Review of Research Elements
- Questions and Answers



# OVERVIEW OF QIC-AG

# QIC-AG GOAL

QIC-AG will develop evidence-based models of support and intervention that can be replicated or adapted by other child welfare systems across the country to achieve long-term, stable permanency in adoptive and guardianship homes for waiting children as well as for children and families after adoption or guardianship has been finalized.

# QIC-AG LEADERSHIP TEAM



QIC-AG is funded through a five year cooperative agreement with Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau.

❖ Spaulding for Children



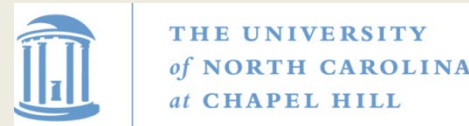
❖ University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee



❖ University of Texas at Austin



❖ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



# PARTNERSHIP

**QIC•AG** Quality Improvement Center for  
Adoption & Guardianship Support and Preservation



# INTRODUCTION TO AGES



# INTRODUCTION TO AGES

- Adoption and Guardianship Enhanced Support (AGES) is a voluntary program designed to support families who face escalating stress post-adoption or guardianship.
- AGES offers families individualized assessment of their strengths and needs, identification of child and family-specific goals, personalized assistance with identification and navigation of resources and services, and targeted advocacy.

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# PHASES OF THE AGES PROGRAM

AGES is delivered in several phases—movement through most of these phases is based on the pace set by the family.

It is anticipated most families will receive services for six months; however, families experiencing continued stressors and challenges may remain open until these stressors are diminished or mitigated.

The phases for AGES include:

- **Support Initiation**
- **Assessment**
- **Support Planning**
- **Support Delivery**
- **Case Closure**



WHERE AGES IS  
OFFERED THROUGH  
THE QIC-AG

# WHERE IS AGES BEING OFFERED?

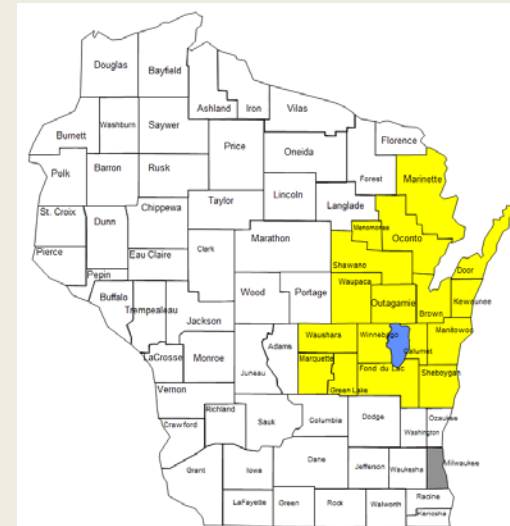
AGES is currently being offered in the Northeastern region of the state:

- 17 counties

- Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago

- 3 sovereign tribal nations

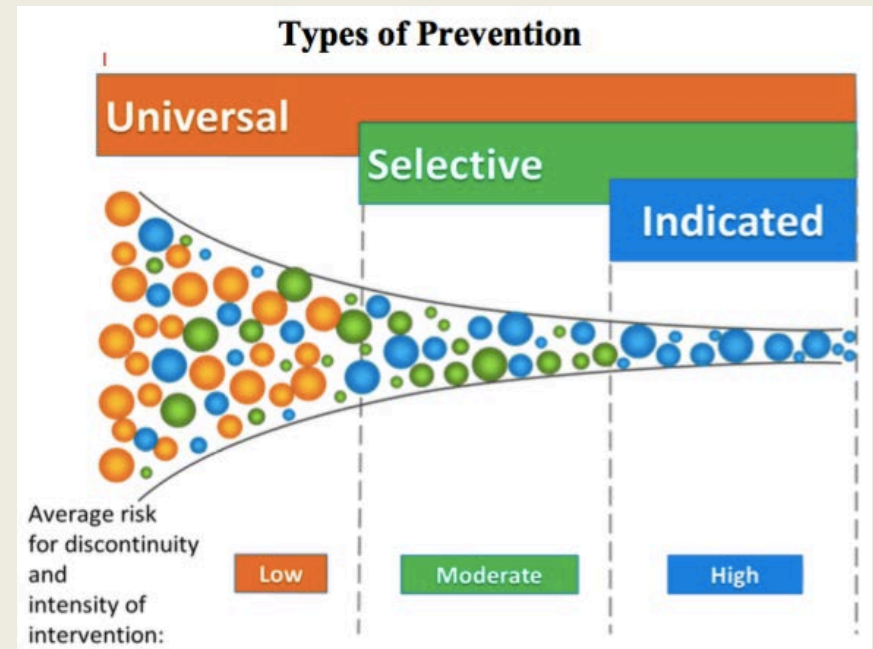
- Oneida, Menominee and Stockbridge-Munsee Native American tribes



# ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

# PRINCIPLES OF INDICATED PREVENTION

- Prevent issues from escalating into a crisis.
- Reduce tensions and stabilize behaviors and relationships.
- Provide assistance to facilitate the engagement of families in services beyond information and referral.
- Address risk factors and characteristics of children and families known to increase the likelihood of discontinuity.
- Assess for ongoing service needs.



# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Eligibility criteria
  - Lives in Northeastern Region of WI,
  - Has adopted or assumed guardianship of a child, and
  - Meets criteria based on referral questions (indicated level).



# EXCLUSIONARY CRITERIA

- Exclusionary criteria
  - Child is in out-of-home care or not living in the home,
  - Family has open child welfare case and receiving services,
  - Family has open Child Protective Services or Juvenile Justice case,
  - Licensed Foster Parent, or
  - Family has needs that exceed the scope of the AGES program, such as:
    - Family expresses that they “need the child removed”, that the child is out of control”, or that there is aggression in the home to the point that the caregiver believes others in the family are in danger.
    - Caregiver expresses no willingness to engage in the process of addressing concerns.





# HOW TO REFER A FAMILY

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- Families who are interested in AGES can reach out for help using the following existing networks in Northeastern Wisconsin:

- Northeastern Post-Adoption Resource Center: 800-998-9609
- Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center: 800-762-8063
- Department of Children and Families Central Office: 608-267-3905
- Department of Children and Families Adoption Assistance Office: 866-666-5532



# HOW TO REFER A FAMILY

- During the initial call, a series of screening questions are used to determine the degree to which the family is experiencing stress or a strained relationship with their child.
- After initial screening a referral is made to the AGES supervisor who reviews the referral, confirms program eligibility, and assigns the family to an AGES worker.



# QUALIFICATIONS OF AGES WORKERS

- Extensive knowledge of:
  - the different types and complexities of adoption and guardianships within Wisconsin;
  - social work principles, practices, and ethics;
  - the effects of trauma on childhood development and the family unit;
  - adoption competencies;
  - appropriate resources for mental health, long-term support services, child welfare, Medicaid, health issues, school related resources.



# RESEARCH ELEMENTS

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As part of the overall cooperative agreement, the QIC-AG is conducting a rigorous evaluation in each of the eight partner sites. The short-term outcomes that we hope to achieve in WI are:

- Decrease in child behavioral problems;
- Increased proportion of caregivers who feel equipped to address the needs of children in their home;
- Increased levels of social support; and
- Increased caregiver commitment.



# RESEARCH ELEMENTS

- Families must consent to participate in the study
- Families will be asked to complete satisfaction surveys throughout the program.
- Families will be invited to participate in a half-hour qualitative interview over the phone.
  - Incentive of \$25 gift card for participation



# QUESTIONS

Additional Information on the QIC-AG  
can be found at:

[www.qic-ag.org](http://www.qic-ag.org)



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