Helping Members Build Families Through Adoption Since 1982

Premier National Network of Adoption Professionals
About AEA

• Founded in 1982 AEA is the country’s premier national network of adoption professionals and organizations.

• AEA is the only national association focused exclusively on supporting public and private adoption professionals at all levels, including frontline workers, agency directors and statewide adoption managers, among others.

• AEA was founded by three social workers who were working in the field during the crack cocaine epidemic. Our three founding mothers began the organization to formally share or “exchange” best practices in adoption recruitment, development and support. Since then, AEA has grown to serve 400+ professional members at 45 organizations in 41 states and the District of Columbia. More on our history, can be read [here](#).
National Programs

• **ADOPTUSKIDS:** A national federally-funded project that supports child welfare systems and connects children in foster care with families. AEA has operated AdoptUSKids through a cooperative agreement with the Children’s Bureau since 2001. More on AdoptUSKids can be found here.

• **RESEARCH:** Maryland’s largest historically black college and premier research institution, Morgan State University (MSU), partners with AEA on various research projects. AEA’s first study with MSU was conducted in 2017 to assess member services. New data is being collected as a part of AEA’s Racial Equity Project launching summer 2020.
National Programs

• **I-CARE**: A national workforce development program to promote careers in adoption and share best practices. AEA launched I-CARE in 2018 with seed funding from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. More on I-CARE can be found [here](#).

• **Every Child Education Program**: A national continuing education program supported by the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation and the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation to provide a robust online learning community. AEA launched the program in 2016.
Special Projects

• **COVID-19 Series:** A national resource center of consolidated information on adoption practice adaptations in response to covid-19.

• **Racial Equity in Adoption Work Project:** A capacity-building process launching summer 2020 to include a need assessment of members, partnerships with foundations and organizations with expertise in racial equity work, formation of a leadership committee, the development of new webinar content, publications, an online community and dissemination of materials to adoption professionals throughout the country.
collaborate...learn...grow
About Our Members

• 75% Private (State Contractors) 25% Public
• Prospective Family Recruitment and Support Services
• Training and Family Preparation Services
• Adoptive Family Preservation and Post Permanency Support Services
• Child-Specific Recruitment
• Child-Focused Recruitment (Wendy’s Wonderful Kids Model)
• Family Finding
• Relational Permanency/Emancipation Services
Member Benefits

**National Conference**

An intimate gathering providing rare access to others in the adoption recruitment, retention, and support field. Adoption professionals who attend our conference cultivate relationships, and learn new techniques in the field of foster care adoption. AEA also offers a one-day student conference for leaders in adoption to network with future social workers.
Member Benefits

National CEUs and Webinars

AEA offers continuing education units from the National Association of Social Workers for all of its Learn with AEA webinars. Topics include: ethics, rural recruitment, foster parent retention, and faith-based outreach. More on our education program can be found here.
Member Benefits

Online Community and Social Link App

AEA uses technology to connect members year-round. We provide 24-7 access to an online community and app that encourages peer-to-peer support by providing a modern solution to exchange best and promising practices between members.

www.adoptea.org
Member Benefits

Child Welfare Leadership Series

Our Child Welfare leadership Series is held during AEA’s national conference and is also formatted as a webinar. The calls and sessions are facilitated by recently retired professionals or those currently in leadership positions.
Member Benefits

National Adoption Matching and Conference
AEA provides an unparalleled opportunity for members to present their waiting children and an in-person matching event at the National Conference.
Member Benefits

Peer to Peer Publication

AEA’s monthly peer-to-peer publication, “Member of the Month” highlights best practices in recruitment and retention among other topics.