

ADOPTION INCENTIVE

ANNUAL REPORT

Department of Children and Families

Office of Child and Family Well-Being

November 15, 2026

Kathryn Williams	Ron DeSantis
Interim Secretary	Governor

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Executive Summary

The Adoption Incentive Program uses measurable performance standards to promote permanency, stability, and well-being for children in foster care who cannot be reunited with their families.

Section 409.1662(2)(a), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires the Department of Children and Families (Department) to conduct a baseline assessment of Community-Based Care (CBC) Lead Agencies and their subcontracted providers in eight adoption-related performance areas. This report presents the most recent five years of available data.

Section 409.1662(4), F.S., also requires the Department to report to the Governor and Legislature on negotiated adoption targets, outcomes achieved, and incentive payments made to each CBC Lead Agency during the previous state fiscal year. The report must also describe enhancements made by each agency and its subcontracted providers to achieve negotiated outcomes.

No funding was allocated for adoption incentive payments as specified in s. 409.1662, F.S. in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025–26. The last time funding was allocated specifically for adoption incentive payments per s. 409.1662, F.S., was in SFY 2018-19. If funding is allocated for SFY 2026–27, the Department will identify and negotiate adoption performance measures with each CBC Lead Agency.

Key findings for SFY 2025–26 include:

- **Adoption disruptions:** CBC Lead Agencies reported 81 preventable adoption disruptions statewide. Thirteen of the 18 agencies reported five or fewer.
- **Family feedback:** The Annual Adoption Survey received 1,413 responses. Respondents identified timely home studies, transparency during the adoption process, and post-adoption services and supports as strengths.
- **Adoption dissolutions:** Reported dissolutions declined from 90 to 83. These dissolutions involve adoptions finalized across multiple years among a population of more than 45,000 children and should not be compared solely with adoptions finalized in SFY 2025–26.

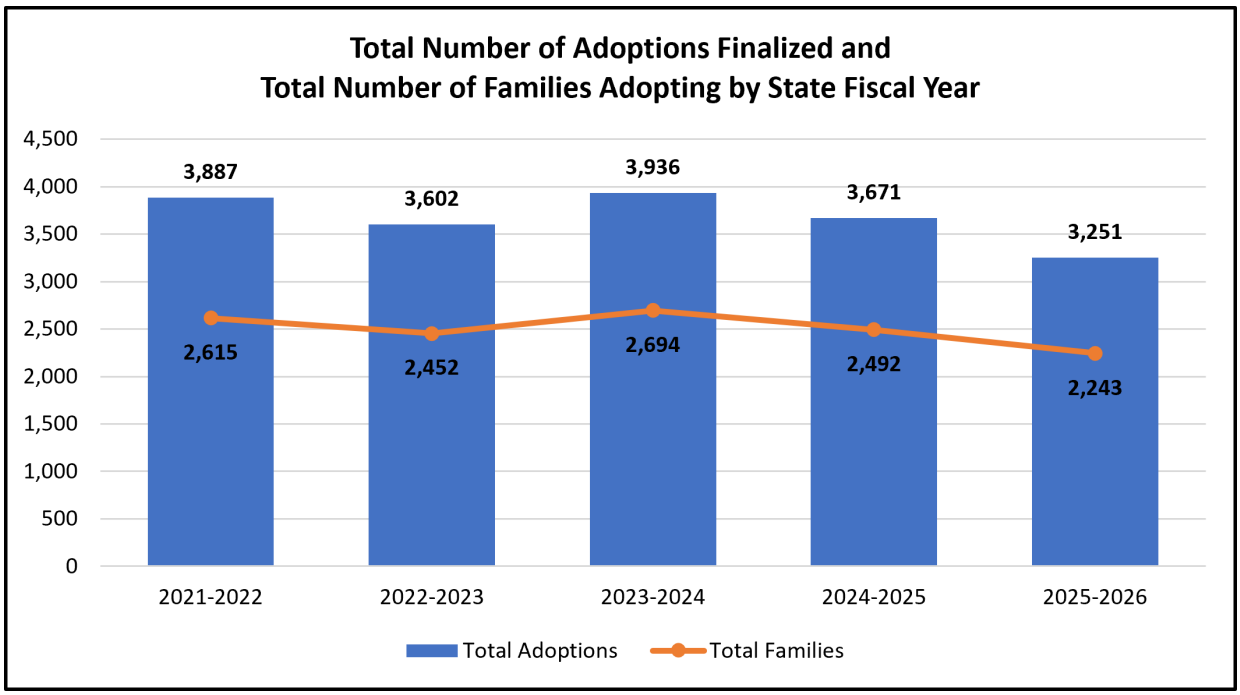
Comprehensive Baseline Assessment

Pursuant to s. 409.1662(2)(a), F.S., the Department assessed the eight required adoption performance areas using the most recent five years of available data. Data for this report were extracted from the Child Welfare Information System.

SFY 2025-26 Adoption Baseline Assessment

The number of families attempting to adopt children from foster care and the number of families completing the adoption process

The chart below shows the number of children whose adoptions were finalized through the Department and the number of families who adopted at least one child during each fiscal year of the five-year assessment period. Detailed CBC Lead Agency performance data are provided in Appendix A.

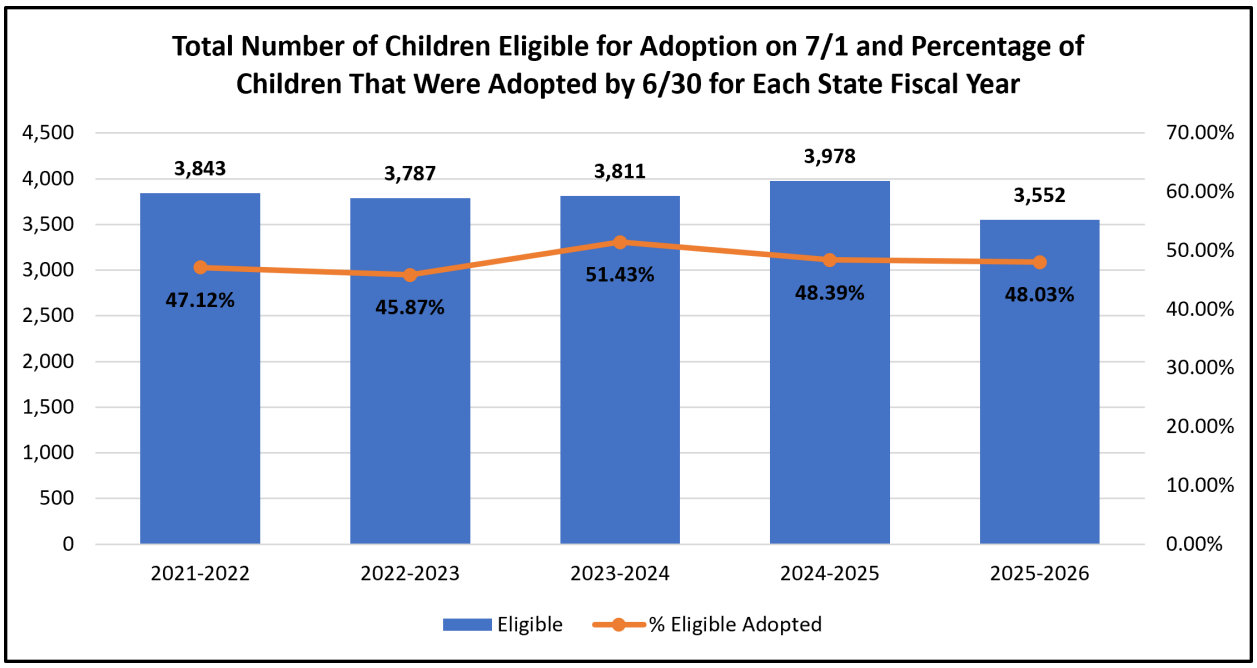


Note: *Historical figures may differ slightly from prior reports due to routine data cleanup and validation to improve accuracy.*

The number of children eligible for adoption and the number of children whose adoptions were finalized

The chart below shows the number of children eligible for adoption on July 1 of each state fiscal year and how many of those children were adopted by June 30 of that fiscal year.

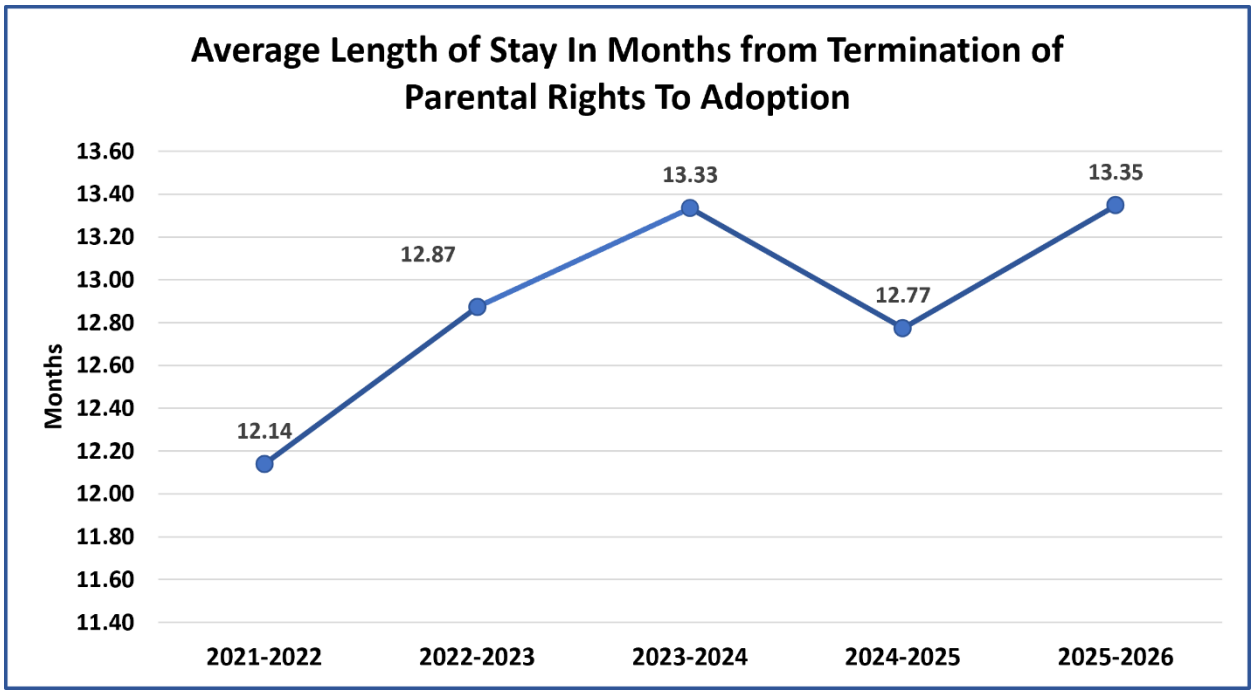
As fewer children exit out-of-home care overall, those who remain eligible for adoption increasingly have complex physical, mental health, and behavioral needs. Detailed CBC Lead Agency performance data are provided in Appendix B.



Note: *Historical figures may differ slightly from prior reports due to routine data cleanup and validation to improve accuracy.*

The length of time eligible children waited for adoption

Children become eligible for adoption once all applicable parental rights have been terminated. The chart below shows the average time from termination of parental rights (TPR) to adoption finalization for children whose adoptions were finalized in each fiscal year of the five-year assessment period. Detailed CBC Lead Agency performance data are provided in Appendix C.



Note: *Historical figures may differ slightly from prior reports due to routine data cleanup and validation to improve accuracy.*

The number of adoptions that resulted in disruption or dissolution and the subset of those disrupted adoptions that were preventable by the Lead Agency or the subcontracted provider

Adoption Disruptions

An adoption disruption occurs when a child is removed from a pre-adoptive placement before the adoption is finalized. Lead Agencies and their subcontracted providers are responsible for preparing children and prospective adoptive families and providing services to support a successful adoption. A disruption is considered preventable when a family withdraws its intent to adopt and appropriate support or services could have prevented that outcome.

The chart below shows total adoption disruptions and the subset considered preventable by the CBC Lead Agency or subcontracted provider. In SFY 2025–26, Lead Agencies reported 81 preventable disruptions statewide.

Number of Total and Preventable Disruptions			
Primary Agency	**Number of Preventable Disruptions**	**Total Disruptions**	**Percent Preventable**
ChildNet-Broward	5	7	71.43%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	0	0	0.00%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	4	4	100.00%
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	0	1	0.00%
Citrus Health Network	1	2	50.00%
Communities Connected for Kids	0	3	0.00%
Community Partnership for Children	1	1	100.00%
FSS Suncoast	2	5	40.00%
Family Integrity Program	0	1	0.00%
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	7	8	87.50%
Family Support Services of North Fla	6	12	50.00%
Heartland for Children	4	5	80.00%
Kids Central, Inc.	5	18	27.78%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	0	0	0.00%
NWF Health Network - East	16	22	72.73%
NWF Health Network - West	17	28	60.71%
Partnership for Strong Families	7	9	77.78%
Safe Children Coalition	6	9	66.67%
Statewide	**81**	**135**	**60.00%**

Adoption Dissolutions

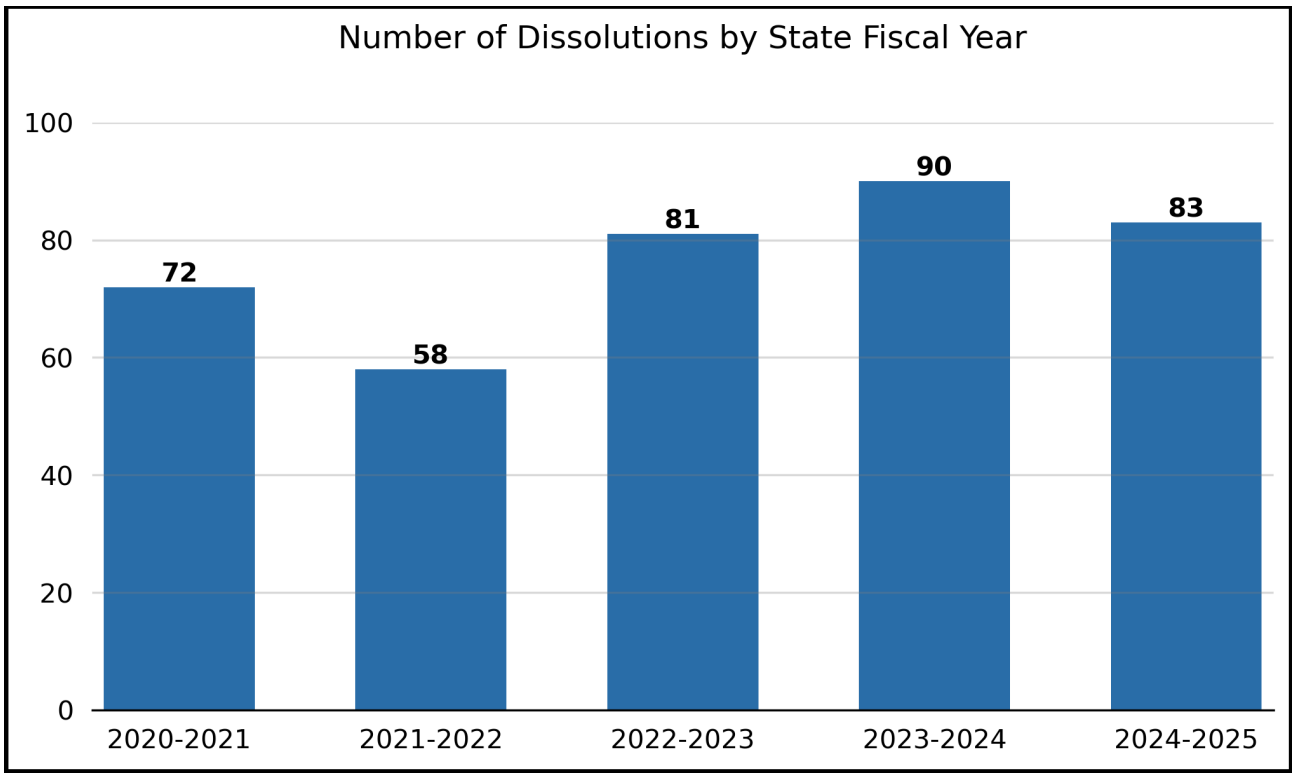
An adoption dissolution occurs when a child returns to out-of-home care and the adoptive parents' parental rights are terminated. Lead Agencies track dissolutions manually and report them to the Department.

The chart below shows dissolutions reported during each state fiscal year among children adopted in Florida who receive adoption assistance. These figures reflect adoptions finalized across multiple years and should not be compared solely with adoptions finalized during the reporting year.

Although many children are adopted in early childhood, dissolutions occur more often during adolescence, when developmental and behavioral challenges may emerge or intensify. Reported contributing factors for the 83 dissolutions in SFY 2025–26 included:

- **Behavioral and mental health needs:** 48 cases involved behavioral health needs and 15 involved mental health conditions, together accounting for 63 dissolutions.
- **Safety concerns in the adoptive home:** Eight cases involved physical abuse, three involved inadequate supervision, and three involved mental abuse by an adoptive parent.
- **Adoptive parent circumstances:** Two cases involved a parent's medical condition, and four involved difficulty providing care due to circumstances such as housing or the parent's age.

These findings highlight the need for thorough preparation of prospective adoptive parents, early and ongoing behavioral and mental health services, and continued post-adoption support to promote family stability and child safety.



Note: Dissolutions are tracked a year behind.

The time taken to complete each phase of the adoption process

The adoption process consists of two phases:

- **Removal to termination of parental rights (TPR):** Begins when a child is removed from their biological and/or legal parents and ends when both parents' parental rights have been terminated.
- **TPR to adoption finalization:** Begins at termination of parental rights and ends when the adoption is finalized.

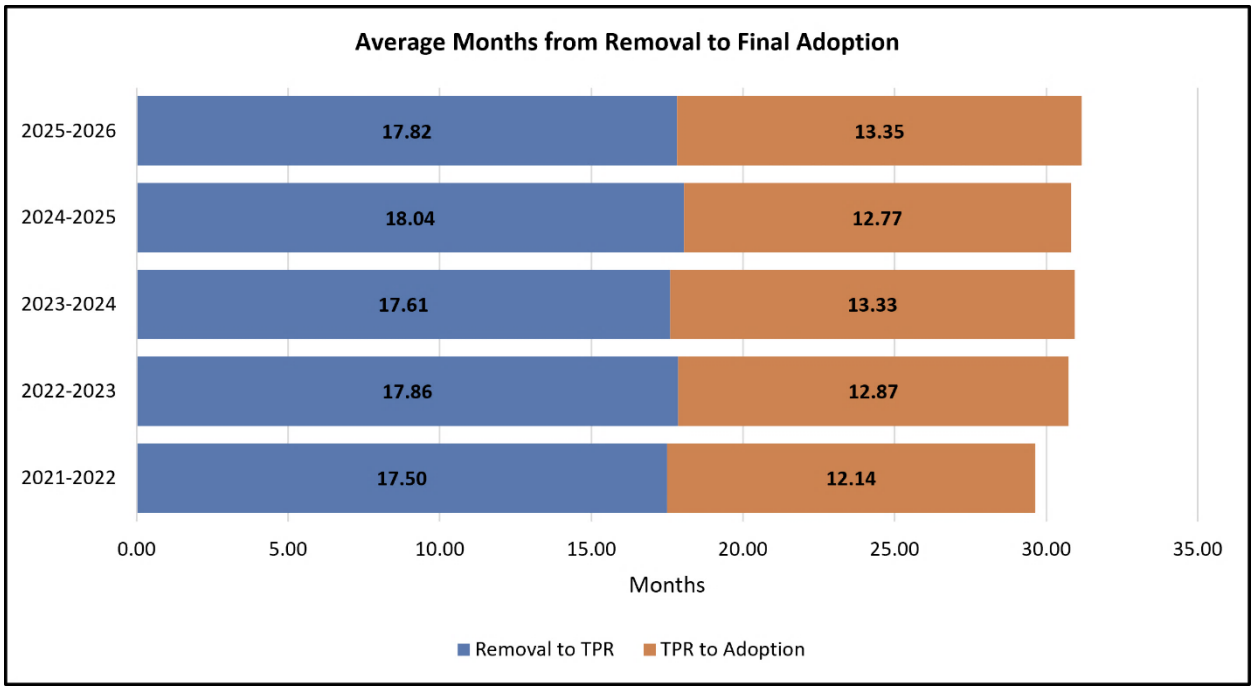
The chart below shows the time required to complete each phase and the total time from removal to adoption finalization over the past five state fiscal years.

The time from removal to TPR decreased compared with the previous year. Children's Legal Services (CLS) attributes this improvement in part to increased workforce stability, enhanced attorney training, and greater court availability:

- **Workforce stability:** Reduced staff turnover compared with the previous two years has helped teams maintain continuity and focus on timely permanency.
- **Attorney training:** CLS developed 15 training modules covering the legal grounds for TPR, least restrictive means, and manifest best interest factors. These modules and a permanency hearing and best practices workshop are now part of new attorney onboarding, strengthening preparation for contested TPR trials and permanency hearings.
- **Court availability:** Lower overall caseloads have increased court availability for TPR trials, reducing scheduling delays.

Detailed CBC Lead Agency performance data are provided in Appendix C.

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Note: *Historical figures may differ slightly from prior reports due to routine data cleanup and validation to improve accuracy.*

The expenditures made to recruit adoptive homes and a description of any initiatives to improve adoption performance or streamline the adoption

CBC Lead Agencies and their subcontracted providers recruit adoptive families through foster and adoptive parent support groups, community fairs, churches, local media, and social media.
For SFY 2025–26, nine CBC Lead Agencies provided complete recruitment activity data. Reported expenditures for adoption-related activities totaled $25,873, compared with $4,808 in the previous fiscal year. These figures reflect reported expenditures and may not capture all statewide recruitment costs.

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Expenditures for Adoption Related Activities - July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Region/Lead Agency	# Child Specific Activities	Child Specific Expenditures	# General Activities	General Expenditures	# Targeted Activities	Targeted Expenditures	# Other Activities	Other Expenditures	Total Events	Total Expenditures
Northwest Region	**66**	**$0**	**53**	**$5**	**7**	**$346**	**12**	**$50**	**138**	**$401**
NWF Health Network-East	0	$0	0	$0	1	$90	1	$0	2	$90
NWF Health Network-West	66	$0	53	$5	6	$256	11	$50	136	$311
Northeast Region	**1**	**$1,260**	**9**	**$5,447**	**5**	**$3,905**	**0**	**$0**	**12**	**$10,612**
Family Support Services	1	$1,260	7	$4,140	5	$3,905	0	$0	10	$9,305
Kids First of Florida Inc	0	$0	2	$1,307	0	$0	0	$0	2	$1,307
Central Region	**6**	**$0**	**23**	**$1,206**	**4**	**$399**	**0**	**$0**	**31**	**$1,605**
Family Partnerships Central FL	5	$0	14	$0	2	$0	0	$0	22	$0
Heartland For Children, Inc.	0	$0	8	$1,155	2	$399	0	$0	8	$1,554
Kids Central, Inc.	0	$0	1	$51	0	0	0	$0	0	$51
Suncoast Region	**1**	**$0**	**6**	**$3,034**	**1**	**$142**	**0**	**$0**	**8**	**$3,175**
FSSSUNCOAST	0	0	6	3033.89	1	141.52	0	0	7	3175.41
Southeast Region	**0**	**0**	**5**	**2300**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**7780.1**	**4**	**10080.1**
ChildNet Inc	0	0	4	2300	0	0	3	7780.1	3	10080.1
Communities Connected for Kids	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Statewide	**74**	**1260**	**96**	**11991.84**	**17**	**4791.46**	**15**	**7830.15**	**193**	**25873.45**

Source: OCWDRU Report #1222 - Adoption Recruitment Activities Summary

To improve adoption performance, Lead Agencies are expanding recruitment for children awaiting adoption and strengthening the process for identifying potential matches. Safe Children's Coalition and Kids First of Florida illustrate how virtual recruitment and in-person matching events help prospective adoptive families learn about children and explore potential matches.

Safe Children's Coalition conducted a virtual adoption recruitment event that introduced prospective adoptive families to children awaiting adoption through photographs, prerecorded videos, and artwork. The presentations highlighted each child's interests, strengths, and goals, as well as the type of family and support they hoped to find. The format allowed families to learn about several children in one session while easing the pressure on children to participate directly. Interested families could follow up with the recruitment team for more information and discuss next steps.

Kids First of Florida hosts quarterly recruitment and matching events for children awaiting adoption and families with approved adoptive home studies. Events such as Game Night and Vision Board Night use games, crafts, and shared meals to help children and families get to know one another in a relaxed setting. Kids First of Florida uses family feedback to select event dates and plans to expand community participation through a back-to-school event in partnership with the Department of Children and Families and Quigley House.

The results of any specific effort to gather feedback from prospective adoptive parents, adoptive parents, children in the child welfare system, adoptees, and other stakeholders

Annual Adoption Survey

The Department and CBC Lead Agencies conducted the Annual Adoption Survey to gather feedback from prospective and adoptive parents, children in the child welfare system, adoptees, and other stakeholders. The survey addressed the overall adoption experience, service quality and timeliness, and access to post-adoption support. A total of 1,413 responses were received. The survey instrument and results are attached to this report.

Respondents identified adoption home studies, transparency during the adoption process, and post-adoption services as strengths. However, post-adoption support was also the most frequently identified area for improvement. Respondents requested stronger support from post-adoption staff, easier access to services, and improved access to mental health care and financial assistance.

The Department uses these findings to guide training for the adoption community and technical assistance to CBC Lead Agencies.

Post Communication Survey

Under s. 39.812(7)(a), F.S., CBC Lead Agencies must make a reasonable effort to contact adoptive families by telephone one year after adoption finalization. Most families contacted report no unmet service needs. When needs are identified, the Lead Agency or its subcontracted providers offer support and document services in the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS).

Families who request assistance and receive service referrals are invited to complete the Post Communication Survey, which assesses the services received and their quality. This fiscal year, 227 surveys were sent and 34 responses were received.

Respondents most often requested and received counseling, behavioral or mental health services, and help accessing Medicaid or other benefits. Reported challenges included difficulty reaching or communicating with post-adoption workers, previous negative experiences with a worker, and uncertainty about whom to contact for help.

These responses reflect the experiences of a limited group of families. Considered alongside adoption dissolution trends, they reinforce the need for accessible, ongoing post-adoption support.

Post-Adoption Services and Funding

Each CBC Lead Agency is required to have at least one full-time staff member dedicated to post-adoption services. Support may include temporary case management, coordination of medical and mental health care, and access to specialized services.

The Department receives $1,283,000 in recurring state general revenue for post-adoption services. These funds support services tailored to family needs, including behavioral analysis, individual and family counseling, equine therapy, coaching, educational advocacy, enrichment activities, respite care, babysitting, and specialized summer camps.

Department's Post Adoption Initiatives

The Department continues to strengthen post-adoption services to help families access support earlier and sustain permanency. Informed by family feedback, this work complements Lead Agency efforts and includes a partnership with a national technical assistance center and a state pilot focused on proactive family support.

Strengthening Florida's Post-Adoption System

The Department is partnering with the Children's Bureau's National Center for Enhanced Post-Adoption Support Services to assess Florida's post-permanency system and develop recommendations for improvement and long-term sustainability. This work focuses on four areas that support adoptive families and guardians statewide:

- **Data and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)**: Improve statewide reporting of adoption disruptions and dissolutions, including private domestic, intercountry, and out-of-state adoptions, as the Department transitions to a new data system. Review family surveys and cases involving dissolution or its risk to identify service gaps and guide a coordinated CQI plan.

- **Intake and Access to Support:** Assess how CBC Lead Agencies respond to requests for assistance, develop consistent statewide intake procedures, and explore proactive outreach at key points in families' lives.

- **Preparation for Permanency:** Identify standard tools, processes, and trainings to prepare kin and non-kin families for permanency and strengthen caseworker skills in assessment, permanency planning, and family support.

- **Adoption Information Center:** Review services and how families and stakeholders access and use them. Use the findings to inform the anticipated request for proposals, clarify provider expectations, and improve statewide family support.

Providing Earlier, Proactive Support

The Department has initiated a Post-Adoption Enhancement Pilot to strengthen family engagement and provide proactive support before challenges become crises. Key Components include:

- Engaging families before adoption finalization.
- Providing proactive post-adoption outreach and follow-up.
- Offering behavioral assessments and support before and after adoption.
- Connecting families with experienced adoptive parents for peer mentorship.
- Gathering parent feedback through surveys and ongoing communication.
- Enhancing support groups and educational resources.
- Expanding adoption competency training.

Additional proposed improvements include establishing minimum standards for CBC Lead Agency

post-adoption newsletters and webpages, creating opportunities to share best practices, and strengthening coordination with Managed Care Organizations. Proposed coordination includes adding service links to Department and Lead Agency websites, developing a release-of-information process to enable proactive outreach to consenting families enrolled in Sunshine Health, and requiring adoption specialists to discuss available Sunshine Health adoption supports before finalization.

The use of evidence-based, evidence-informed, promising, and innovative practices in recruitment, orientation, and preparation of appropriate adoptive families, matching children with families, supporting children during the adoption process, and providing post-adoptive support

In January 2026, the Department created the Adoption and Post-Permanency Manager position to streamline operations across the adoption continuum and strengthen coordination with Lead Agencies. The position provides a central point of oversight for regional adoption specialists, helping align practices across regions. Since the position was established, enhanced subsidy approvals have become more consistent and case reviews have been completed more promptly. These improvements help Lead Agencies and other key stakeholders work within a more predictable process for case reviews and subsidy decisions.

CBC Lead Agencies use a range of promising practices to recruit and prepare adoptive families, match children with families, and provide support before and after adoption. The following examples illustrate local approaches to family engagement, caregiver training, and access to services.

Safe Children Coalition: Connecting Children and Prospective Families

Safe Children Coalition hosts in-person events where prospective adoptive families and children available for adoption can build connections. Its February Tree Trunk event includes a picnic and facilitated team-building activities at an outdoor ropes course. This informal setting allows children and families to interact naturally while staff observe communication and relationship dynamics.

Family Partnerships of Central Florida: Preparing Adoptive Families

Family Partnerships of Central Florida uses the National Training and Development Curriculum (NTDC) to prepare prospective adoptive families to support children who have experienced trauma, loss, and separation.

In SFY 2025–26, 60 families across Brevard, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties were invited to participate, and 46 completed the training. Of those completing training, 23 were community families and 23 were families preparing to adopt a specific child.

The agency also reported matching 35 children with adoptive families during the fiscal year: three in Brevard, 20 in Orange, seven in Osceola, and five in Seminole.

Community Partnership for Children (CPC): Connecting Families to Post-Adoption Services

Community Partnership for Children's Post-Adoption Specialists connect adoptive families with prevention services and adoption-competent counseling. Providers include Peyton Network, Halifax Behavioral Services' Multisystemic Therapy (MST) Program, Bays' Functional Family Therapy (FFT), and Devereux's Placement Stability Therapy (PST).

These services address family needs through intensive, in-home therapy and support. Specialists coordinate referrals to help families access services promptly and address challenges that could threaten adoption stability.

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ADOPTION INCENTIVE

ANNUAL REPORT

Appendices A – C

Department of Children and Families

Office of Child and Family Well-Being

November 15, 2026

Appendix A

Number of Children Adopted and the Number of Families who Adopted One or More Children by State Fiscal Year										
Agency	Child Adoptions 2021-2022	Adoptive Families 2021-2022	Child Adoptions 2022-2023	Adoptive Families 2022-2023	Child Adoptions 2023-2024	Adoptive Families 2023-2024	Child Adoptions 2024-2025	Adoptive Families 2024-2025	Child Adoptions 2025-2026	Adoptive Families 2025-2026
ChildNet-Broward	194	136	200	140	177	120	163	114	124	88
ChildNet-Palm Beach	140	109	125	105	116	84	84	63	91	72
Childrens Network of SW Florida	249	172	228	164	204	148	175	125	159	106
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	199	146	269	167	417	285	314	213	360	247
Citrus Health Network	184	123	189	129	171	114	189	132	202	139
Communities Connected for Kids	178	115	98	70	102	69	120	71	101	71
Community Partnership for Children	273	170	217	151	206	144	151	106	108	77
FSS Suncoast	329	230	283	194	453	318	356	251	225	164
Family Integrity Program	51	34	50	32	39	23	24	15	20	17
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	436	295	423	289	428	294	449	309	326	233
Family Support Services of North Fla	311	194	253	152	261	170	301	191	247	163
Heartland for Children	189	125	134	99	172	122	202	125	279	172
Kids Central, Inc.	248	166	226	159	233	178	269	203	334	222
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	81	54	82	56	69	45	62	43	35	24
NWF Health Network - East	219	141	202	131	217	141	228	143	161	111
NWF Health Network - West	266	174	328	213	363	221	277	185	280	190
Partnership for Strong Families	173	118	136	98	167	111	174	111	120	87
Safe Children Coalition	162	115	158	105	141	107	131	93	79	60
Statewide Totals	**3,887**	**2,615**	**3,602**	**2,452**	**3,936**	**2,694**	**3,671**	**2,492**	**3,251**	**2,243**

Appendix B

Number of Children who were Eligible for Adoption on 7/1 who were Adopted by 6/30 and Percent of Children Adopted															
Agency	**Eligible as of 7/1/2021**	**Eligible Adopted by 6/30/2022**	**% Eligible Adopted 2021-2022**	**Eligible as of 7/1/2022**	**Eligible Adopted by 6/30/2023**	**% Eligible Adopted 2022-2023**	**Eligible as of 7/1/2023**	**Eligible Adopted by 6/30/2024**	**% Eligible Adopted 2023-2024**	**Eligible as of 7/1/2024**	**Eligible Adopted by 6/30/2025**	**% Eligible Adopted 2024-2025**	**Eligible as of 7/1/2025**	**Eligible Adopted by 6/30/2026**	**% Eligible Adopted 2025-2026**
ChildNet-Broward	172	78	45.3%	149	71	47.7%	148	62	41.9%	187	72	38.5%	158	70	44.3%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	70	27	38.6%	59	23	39.0%	78	41	52.6%	64	23	35.9%	72	28	38.9%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	200	119	59.5%	202	111	55.0%	153	90	58.8%	183	106	57.9%	159	67	42.1%
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	407	122	30.0%	449	155	34.5%	506	278	54.9%	387	183	47.3%	394	202	51.3%
Citrus Health Network	254	89	35.0%	207	84	40.6%	206	87	42.2%	174	69	39.7%	183	78	42.6%
Communities Connected for Kids	139	94	67.6%	83	40	48.2%	71	39	54.9%	88	42	47.7%	113	50	44.2%
Community Partnership for Children	234	131	56.0%	279	131	47.0%	250	134	53.6%	197	92	46.7%	121	55	45.5%
FSS Suncoast	562	237	42.2%	545	220	40.4%	588	319	54.3%	496	267	53.8%	325	136	41.8%
Family Integrity Program	10	3	30.0%	24	17	70.8%	19	11	57.9%	12	3	25.0%	6	3	50.0%
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	274	161	58.8%	310	161	51.9%	344	168	48.8%	426	217	50.9%	338	183	54.1%
Family Support Services of North Fla	143	69	48.3%	165	76	46.1%	183	74	40.4%	359	165	46.0%	335	135	40.3%
Heartland for Children	188	101	53.7%	166	75	45.2%	180	84	46.7%	202	97	48.0%	239	148	61.9%
Kids Central, Inc.	256	112	43.8%	224	89	39.7%	177	69	39.0%	281	138	49.1%	275	158	57.5%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	81	42	51.9%	58	33	56.9%	40	27	67.5%	39	16	41.0%	41	19	46.3%
NWF Health Network - East	190	111	58.4%	177	94	53.1%	174	94	54.0%	193	108	56.0%	189	94	49.7%
NWF Health Network - West	344	152	44.2%	385	225	58.4%	380	237	62.4%	319	139	43.6%	338	150	44.4%
Partnership for Strong Families	139	66	47.5%	130	34	26.2%	159	74	46.5%	210	103	49.0%	166	69	41.6%
Safe Children Coalition	180	97	53.9%	175	98	56.0%	155	72	46.5%	161	85	52.8%	100	61	61.0%
Statewide	**3,843**	**191**	**47.1%**	**3,787**	**1,737**	**45.9%**	**3,811**	**1,960**	**51.4%**	**3,978**	**1,925**	**48.4%**	**3,552**	**1,706**	**48.0%**

Note: Family Partnership of Central Florida replaced Embrace effective May 1, 2024.

Appendix C

Length of Stay In Months from Last Removal to Termination of Parental Rights and Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption															
Agency	**Removal to TPR 2021-2022**	**TPR to Adoption 2021-2022**	**Total LOS 2021-2022**	**Removal to TPR 2022-2023**	**TPR to Adoption 2022-2023**	**Total LOS 2022-2023**	**Removal to TPR 2023-2024**	**TPR to Adoption 2023-2024**	**Total LOS 2023-2024**	**Removal to TPR 2024-2025**	**TPR to Adoption 2024-2025**	**Total LOS 2024-2025**	**Removal to TPR 2025-2026**	**TPR to Adoption 2025-2026**	**Total LOS 2025-2026**
ChildNet-Broward	16.05	14.14	29.37	15.60	11.60	27.62	16.35	11.36	29.33	15.55	10.75	27.92	15.87	15.48	29.87
ChildNet-Palm Beach	17.18	9.17	27.56	17.46	10.85	27.04	14.06	9.59	24.66	13.45	7.74	21.57	15.60	7.82	23.99
Childrens Network of SW Florida	16.47	11.18	28.22	17.52	10.74	28.86	16.67	11.92	29.32	18.94	12.27	31.74	16.49	9.58	26.44
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	20.67	15.26	37.44	21.72	19.16	42.16	23.28	17.56	42.11	24.62	16.01	42.09	22.58	15.33	37.95
Citrus Health Network	17.31	14.27	31.60	17.52	11.77	29.61	17.24	11.40	29.30	15.60	12.34	28.58	17.32	10.00	27.95
Communities Connected for Kids	16.41	10.34	27.08	16.00	11.82	27.67	13.25	13.05	27.28	13.36	8.28	24.02	12.47	10.18	23.12
Community Partnership for Children	20.39	11.69	32.00	19.42	11.06	31.00	18.04	12.14	30.58	16.68	10.80	28.34	19.93	16.88	36.92
FSS Suncoast	17.69	16.93	34.98	18.91	15.06	35.76	17.81	16.38	34.75	20.83	15.74	37.60	18.97	16.08	35.44
Family Integrity Program	16.28	6.83	23.74	19.24	7.14	27.90	14.30	7.58	22.00	10.58	5.92	17.88	13.20	17.30	30.35
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	20.15	8.51	29.45	18.44	10.59	30.55	17.83	9.97	29.40	18.62	12.02	31.16	18.80	12.48	31.21
Family Support Services of North Fla	11.08	8.75	20.42	11.60	11.37	23.71	12.05	12.15	25.02	12.51	12.52	25.75	13.63	13.84	27.55
Heartland for Children	19.57	11.61	31.56	21.21	12.66	34.54	20.57	14.29	35.52	19.65	13.90	34.87	19.35	12.76	32.68
Kids Central, Inc.	18.36	14.45	33.14	19.48	15.96	35.83	21.90	15.14	38.45	21.88	12.72	35.07	22.03	13.69	36.36
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	16.72	13.33	30.59	18.39	9.37	28.45	14.99	9.88	26.32	18.98	15.24	33.42	14.71	18.09	33.23
NWF Health Network - East	20.40	9.91	30.79	19.01	12.08	31.26	17.84	11.69	29.97	18.30	10.09	29.14	14.96	14.48	27.70
NWF Health Network - West	16.51	14.63	31.58	17.17	14.61	33.09	16.36	14.11	30.86	15.07	12.28	27.90	13.25	12.04	25.80
Partnership for Strong Families	14.67	10.28	26.01	16.10	11.64	29.07	14.73	13.37	29.09	14.66	14.45	29.87	17.53	15.28	33.60
Safe Children Coalition	16.53	16.10	32.84	16.69	15.27	31.94	16.28	15.09	31.37	20.64	15.47	36.59	17.44	13.81	32.22
Statewide	**17.50**	**12.14**	**30.10**	**17.86**	**12.87**	**31.53**	**17.61**	**13.33**	**31.82**	**18.04**	**12.77**	**31.66**	**17.82**	**13.35**	**31.36**

Note: Family Partnership of Central Florida replaced Embrace effective May 1, 2024.



ANNUAL ADOPTION SURVEY

July 2025 – June 2026

Department of Children and Families

Office of Child and Family Well-Being

November 15, 2026

Kathryn Williams	Ron DeSantis
Interim Secretary	Governor

Introduction

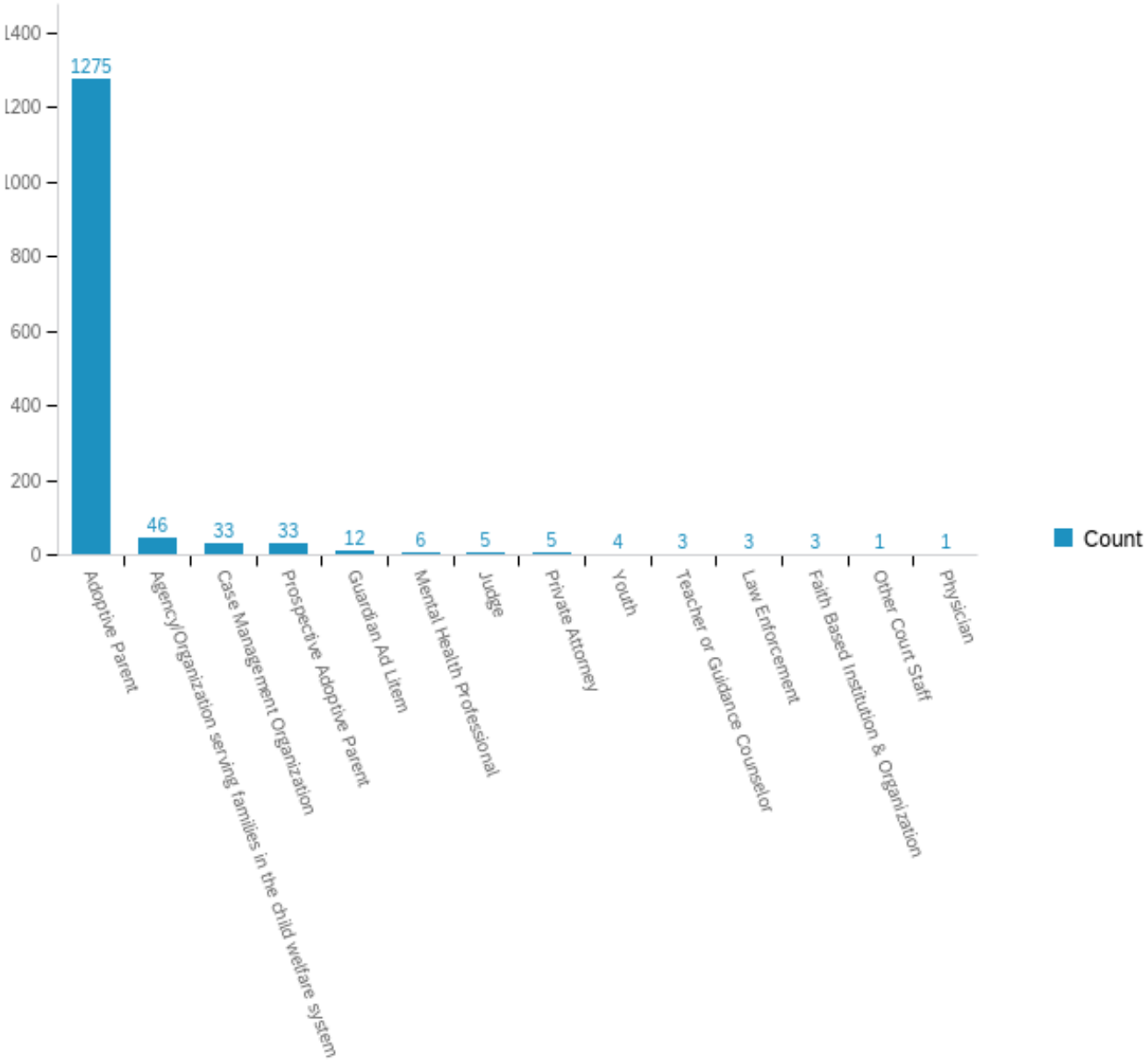
In an effort to improve adoption services, the Department of Children and Families (Department), in conjunction with Community Based Care Lead Agencies, are conducting an Annual Adoption Survey to gather feedback from adoptive parents, adoptees and other stakeholders.

The Department is soliciting your feedback through this Annual Adoption Survey. Your perspectives, input and support are critical to the continued health of the child welfare system.

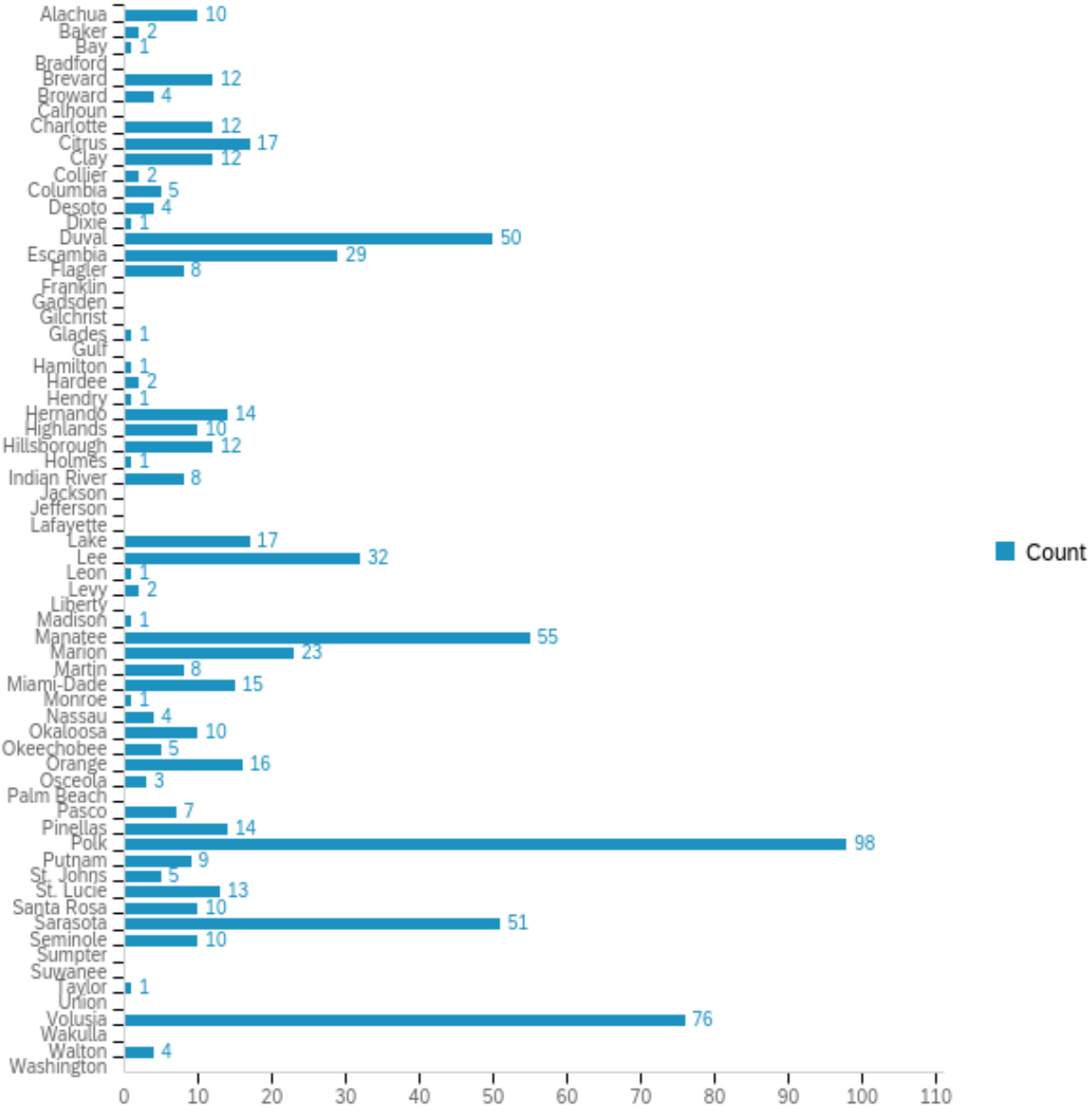
The Annual Adoption Survey should take approximately **7 minutes** to complete. Responses to this survey are anonymous.

Thank you in advance for your response.

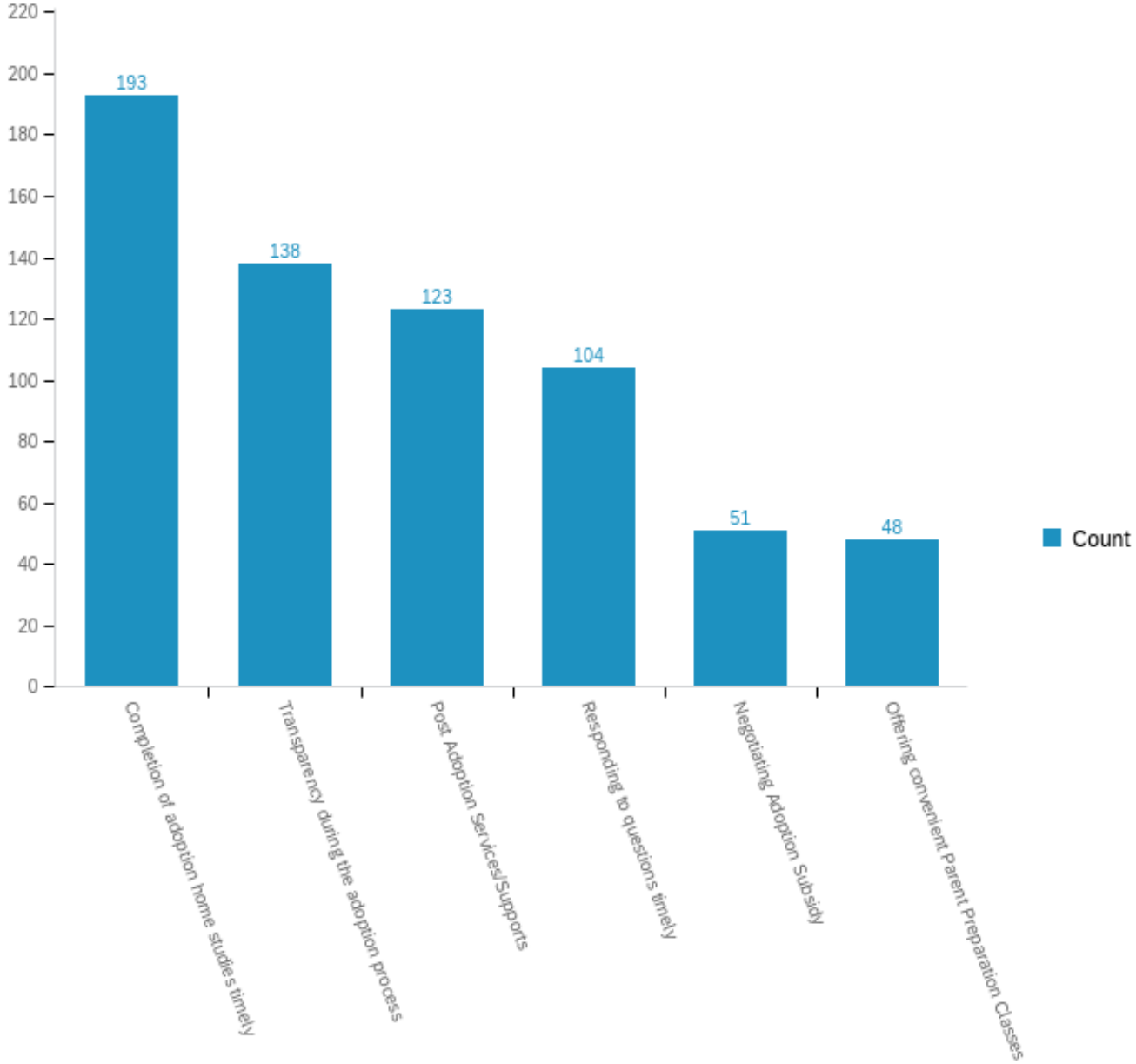
1 - Please select your primary involvement in the adoption process, if any:



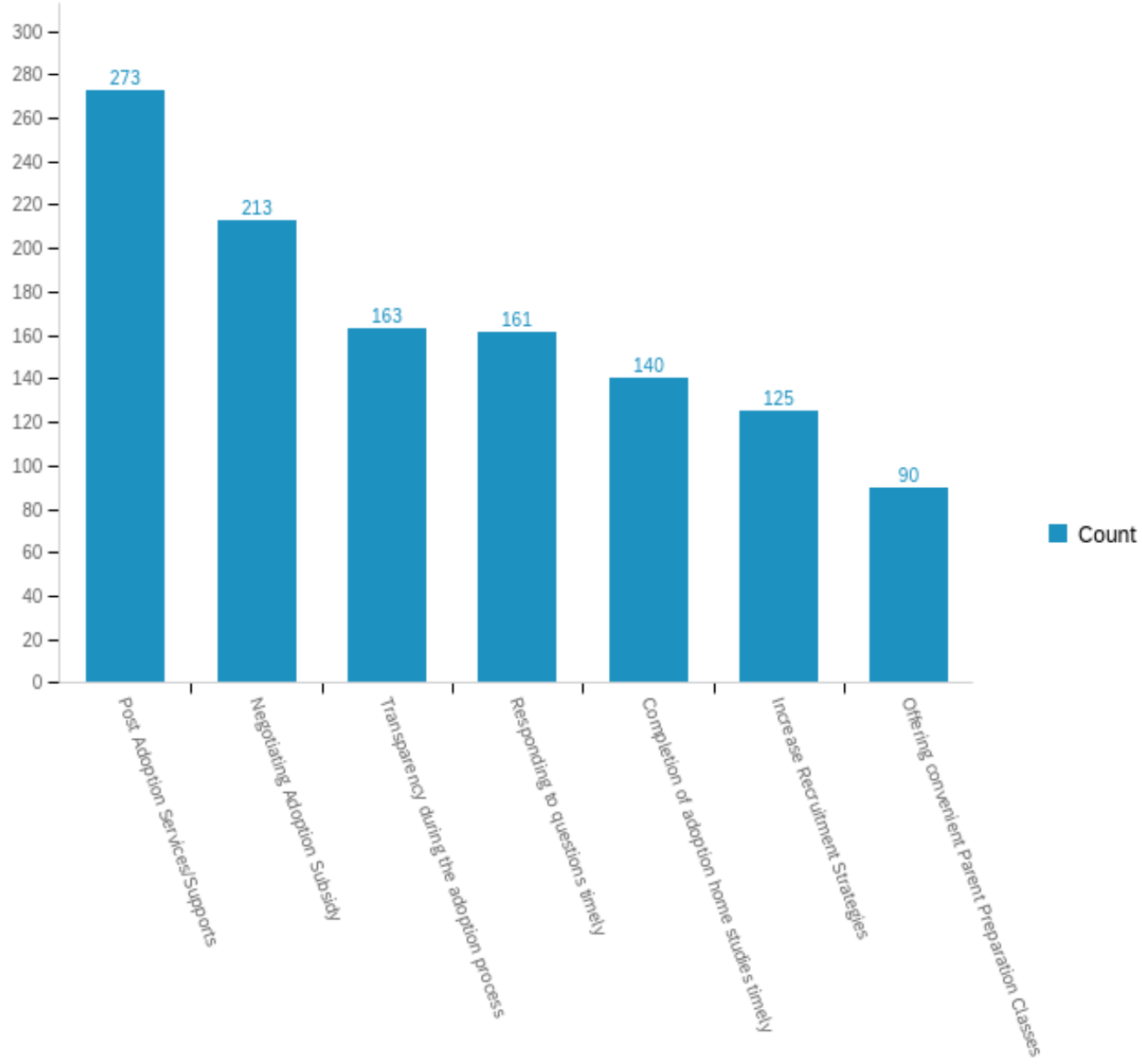
2 - What is the primary county you work in or worked with during your adoption process?



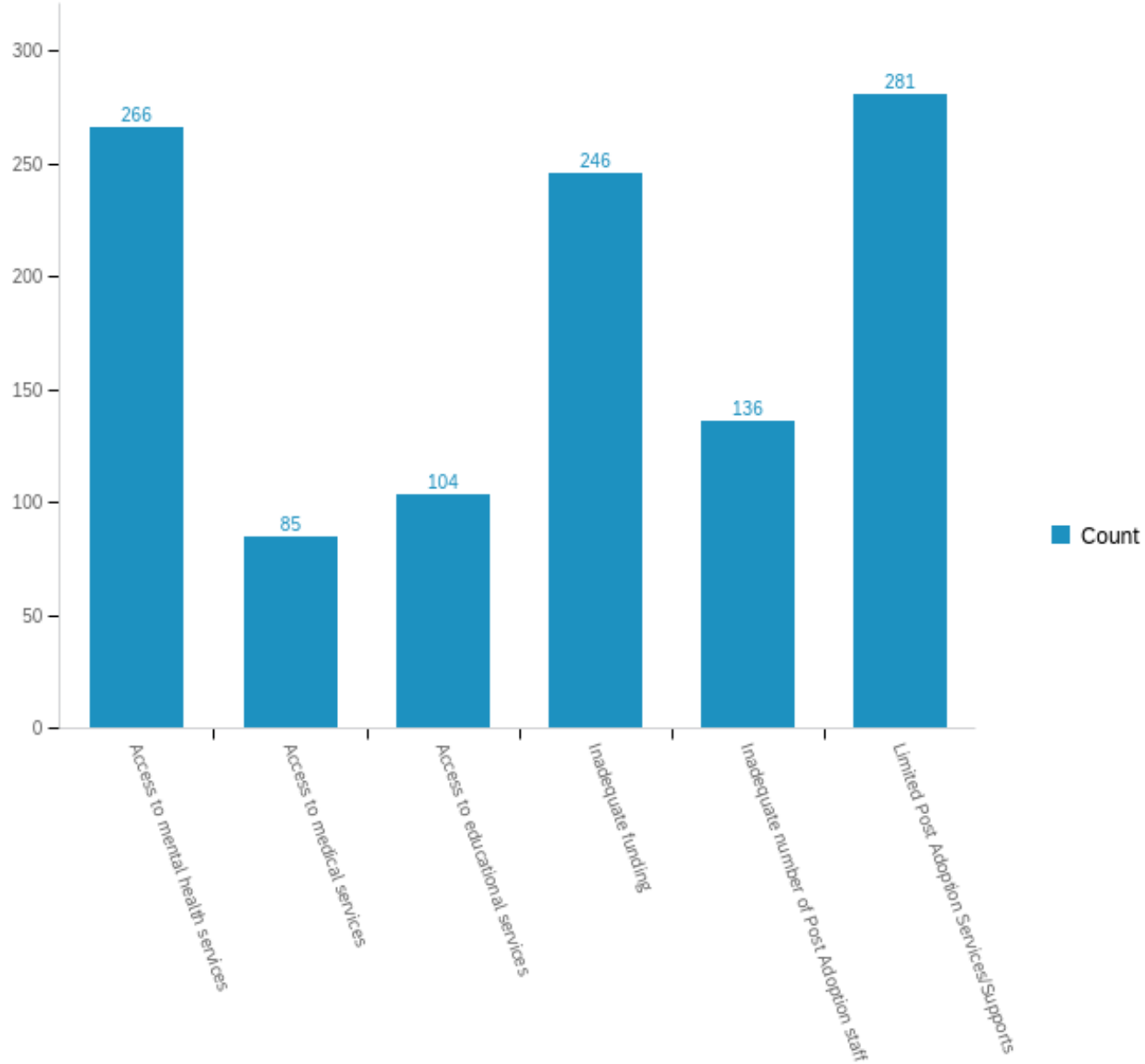
3 - What area(s) does your lead Community Based Care Lead Agency and/or Case Management Organization Agency excel in? Please select all that apply.



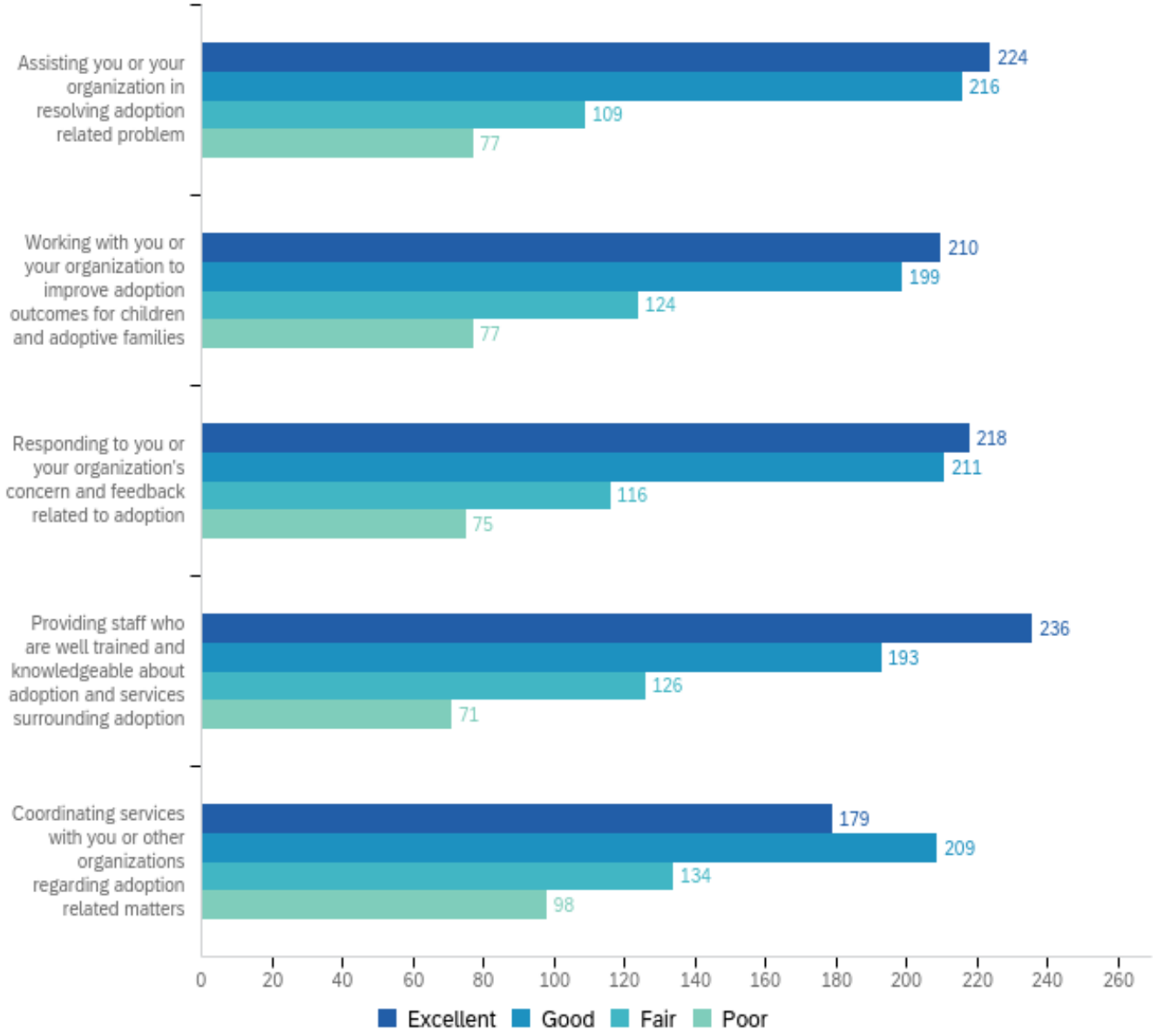
4 - What area(s) does your lead Community Based Care Lead Agency and/or Case Management Organization Agency need to improve in? Please select all that apply.



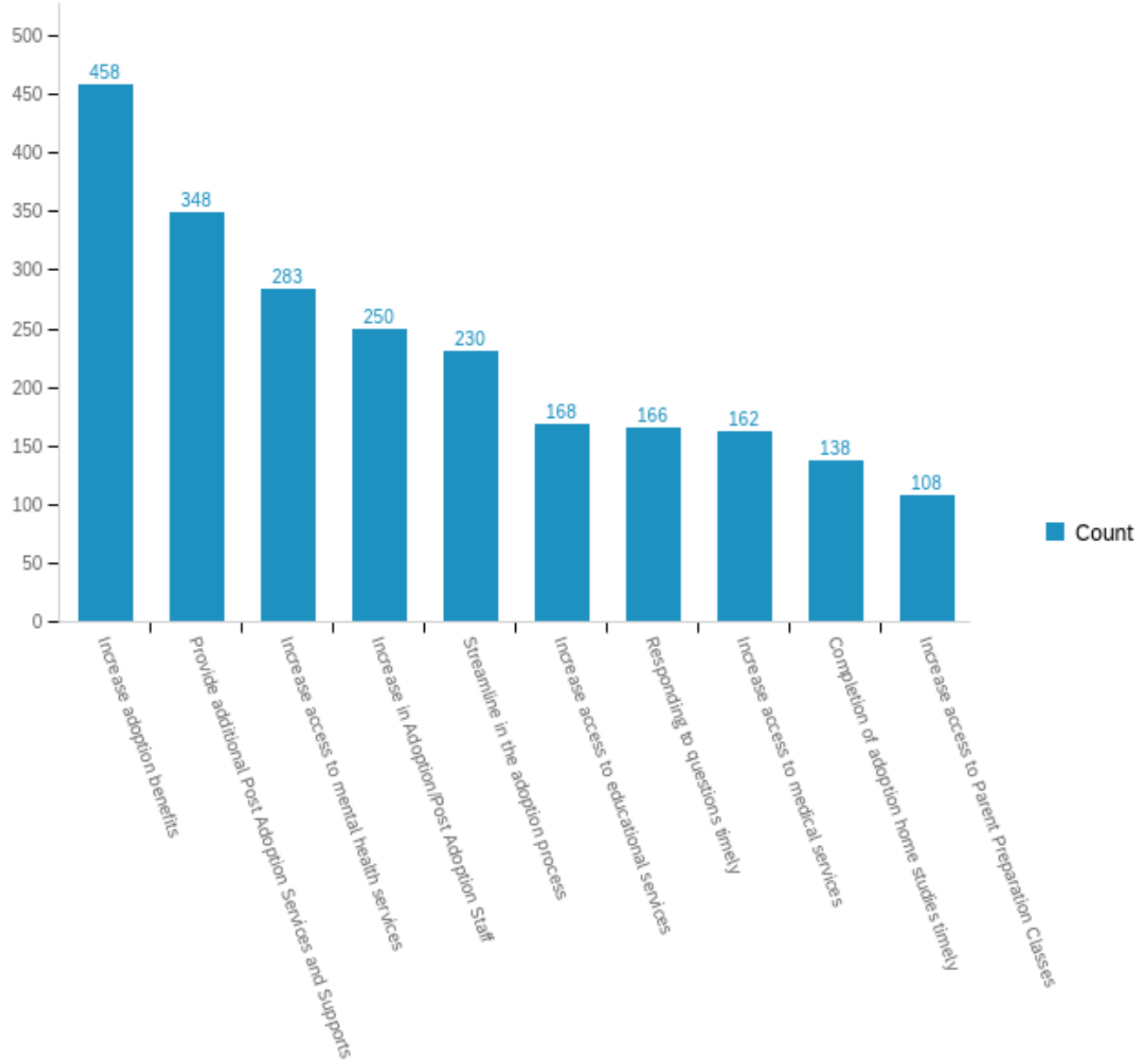
5 - What do you believe is the number one challenge affecting the stability and well-being of Florida's adoptive children?



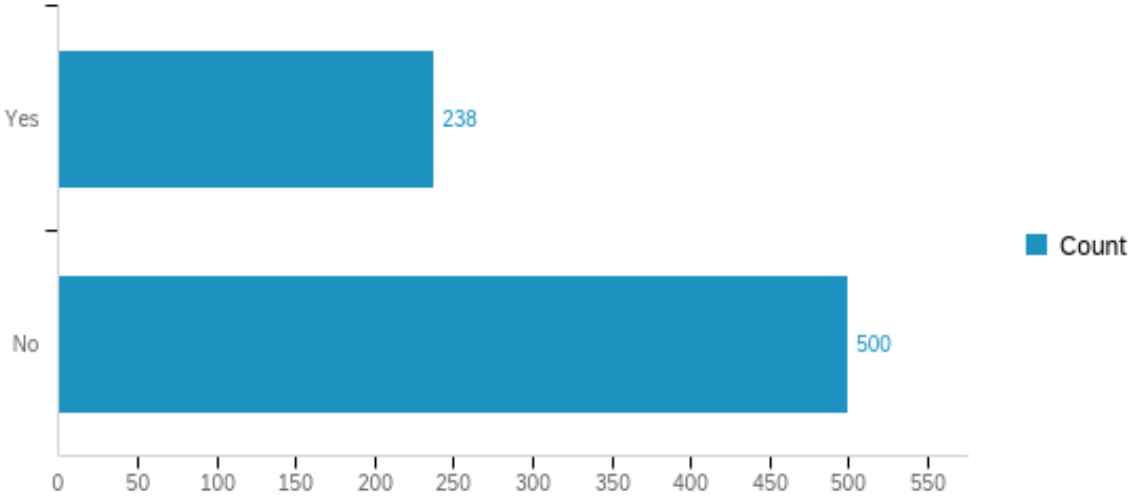
6 - Based on your experience during the last 12 months, please rate the quality and timeliness of the following:



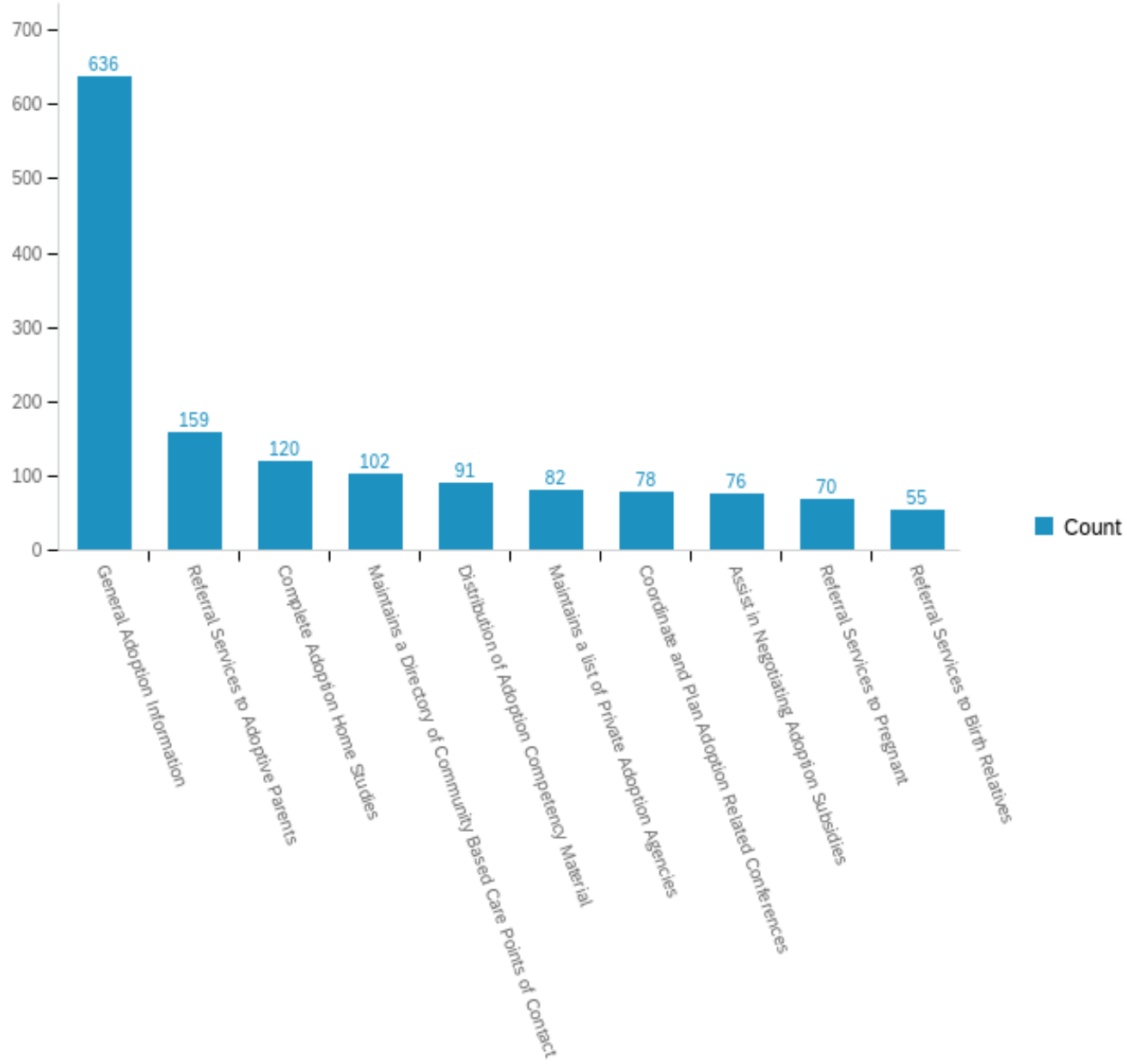
7 - In what way can the State of Florida improve their adoption service delivery? Please select all that apply.



8 - Are you aware that the State of Florida has an Adoption Information Center?



9 - Based on the knowledge, what services does Florida's Adoption Information Center offer? Please select all that apply.





POST COMMUNICATION SURVEY

Department of Children and Families

Office of Child Welfare

November 15, 2026

Kathryn Williams	Ron DeSantis
Interim Secretary	Governor

Introduction

Each year the Department of Children and Families (Department), in conjunction with Community Based Care Lead Agencies, conducts a Post Communication Survey to gather feedback from families that requested and received post-adoption services. The intent of the survey is to determine the types of services received by the family and the quality of the services provided.

In order to assess the quality and quantity of our post-adoption programs, we need to hear from our adoptive parents who are the true customers of post-adoption services. Post-adoption services include all services and staff available to assist you as an adoptive parent and your adopted child, until the child turns age 18.

Please help us by taking a little time to answer the questions below. The Post-Adoption Communication Survey should take less than **15 minutes** to complete. Responses to this survey are anonymous.

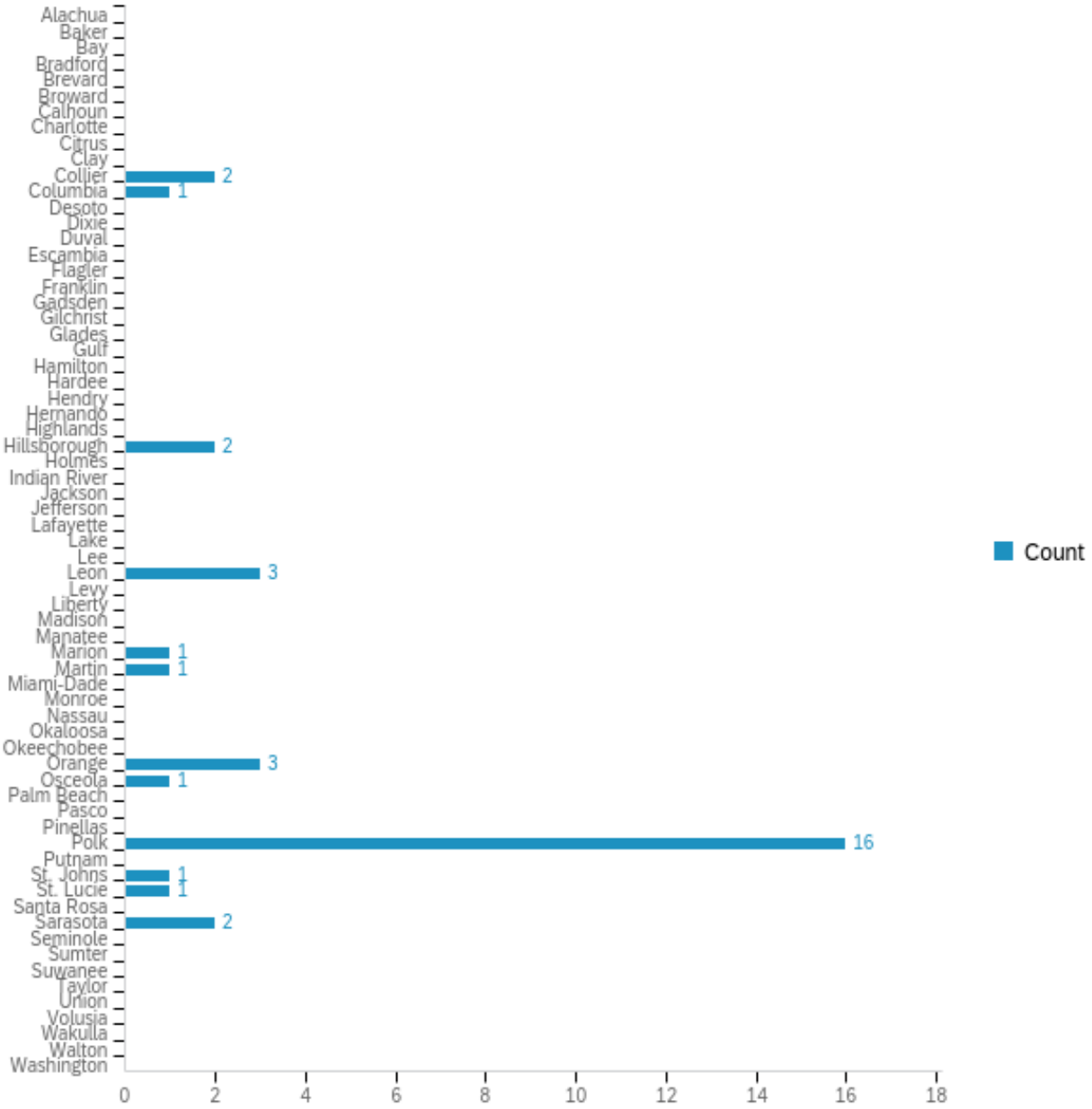
We very much want to hear from you and appreciate your input. Please call 1-800-96-ADOPT if you have questions.

Thank you in advance for your response.

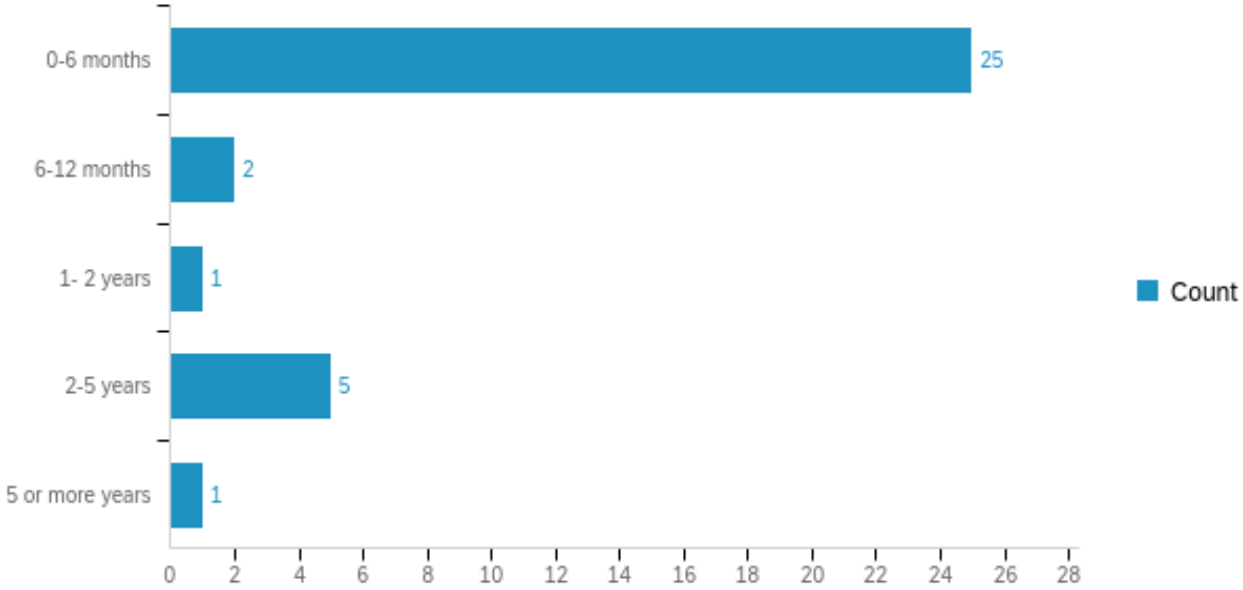
In what year did your first adoption finalize?

Year	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
2002	1	2.94%
2008	2	5.88%
2011	2	5.88%
2013	5	14.71%
2015	1	2.94%
2018	3	8.82%
2019	2	5.88%
2020	1	2.94%
2021	3	8.82%
2022	1	2.94%
2023	6	17.65%
2024	6	17.65%
2025	1	2.94%

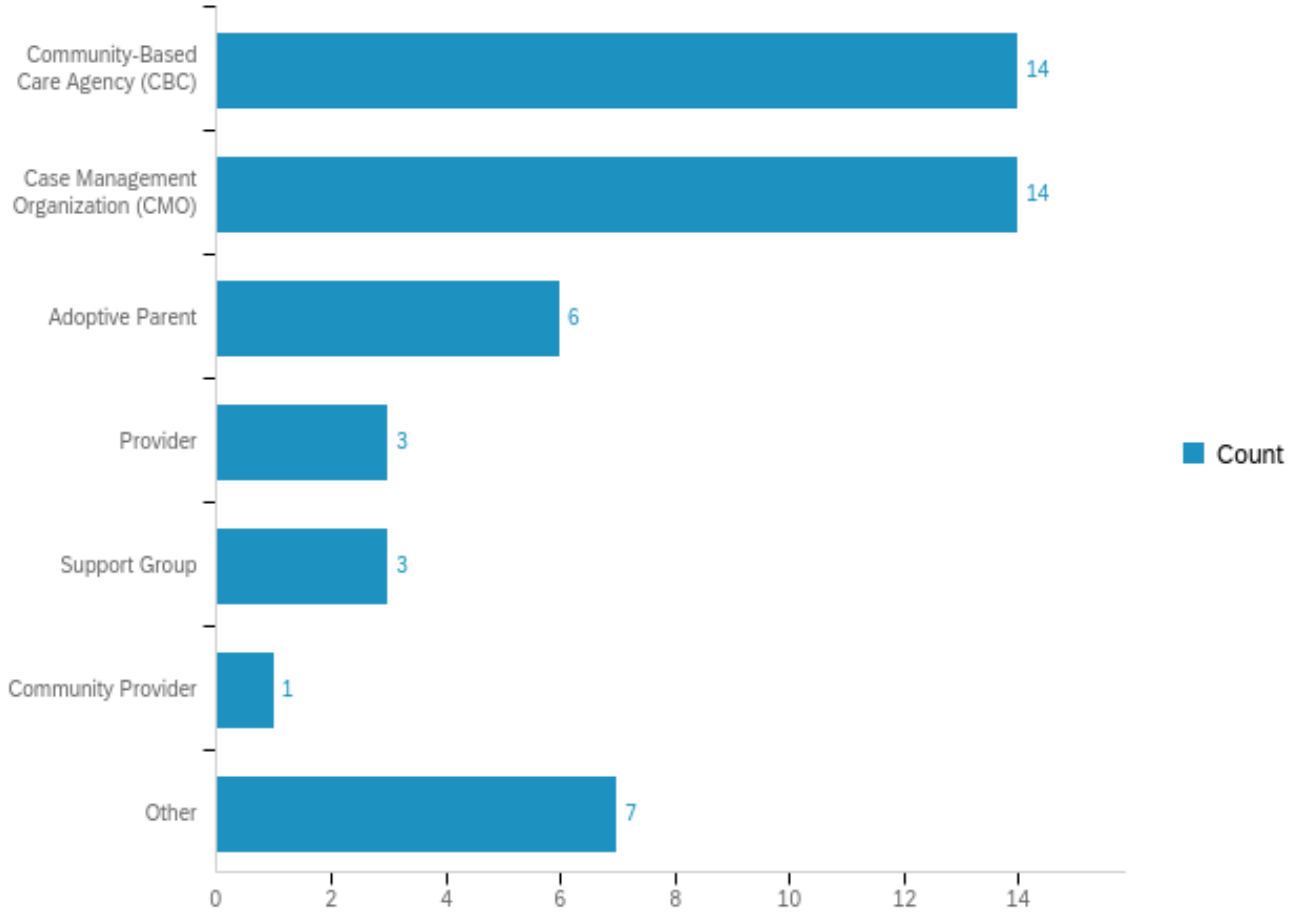
In what county did you finalize your adoption:		
County		



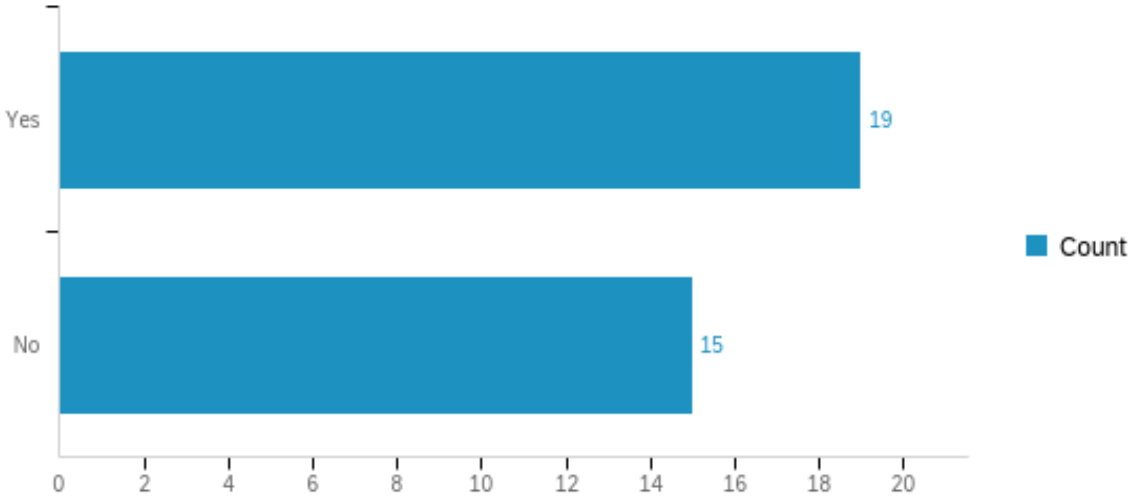
How long after your adoption finalized were you informed about post-adoption services and supports?



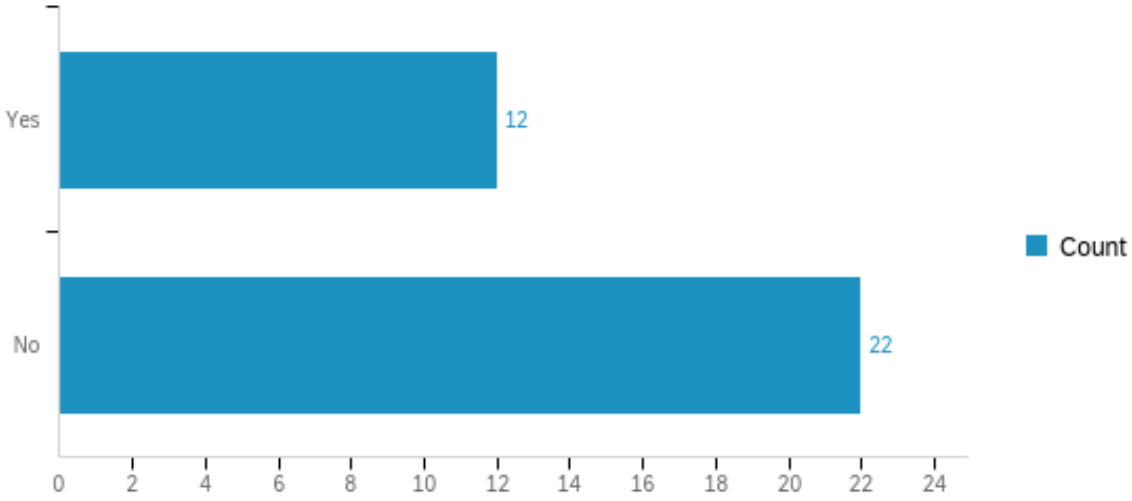
Who first advised you about the availability of post adoption services? Please select all that apply.



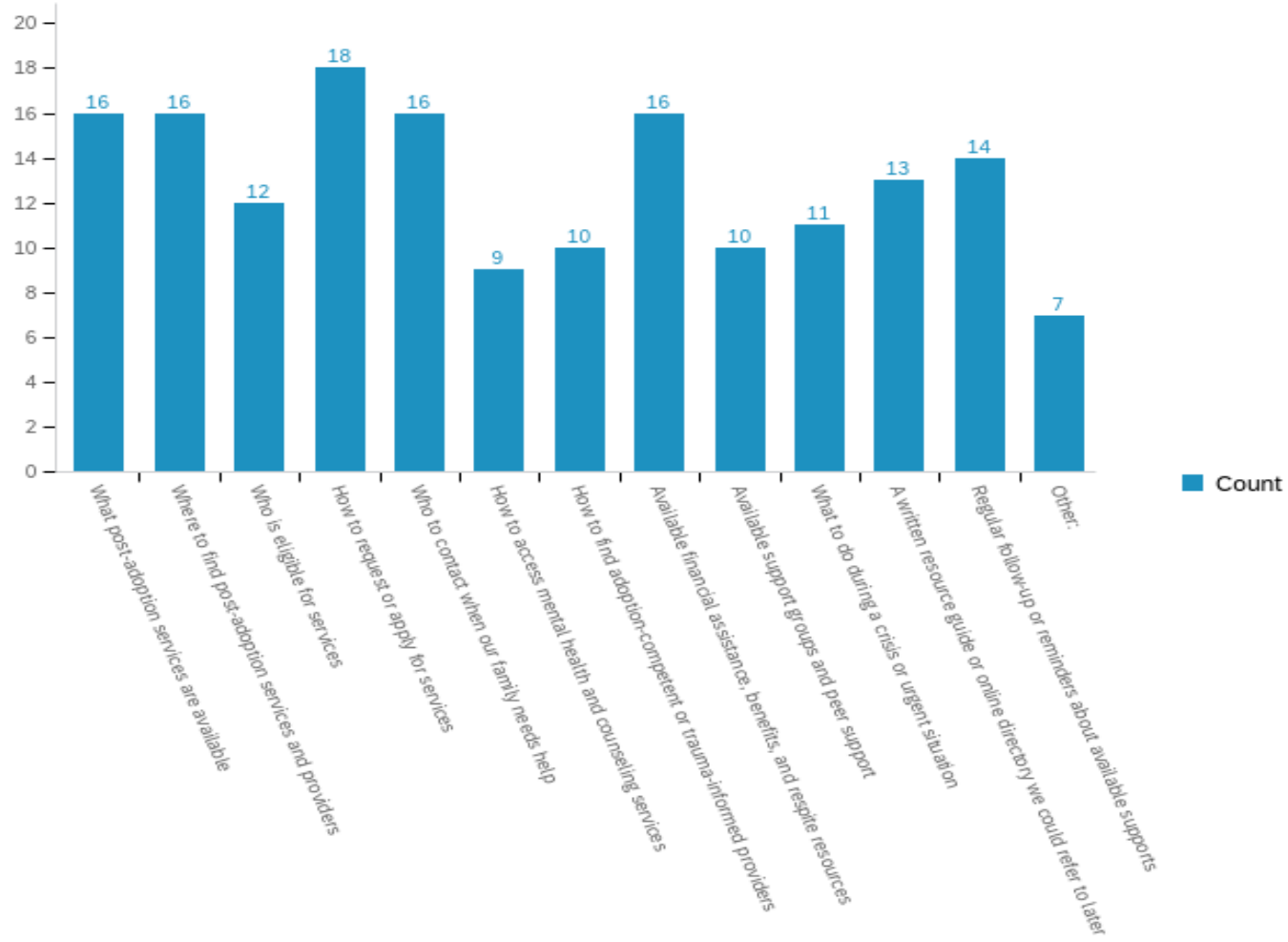
Were you given information about the types of post-adoption services and supports available to your family?



At the time you finalized your adoption, did you feel you understood how to access post-adoption services if your family needed them?

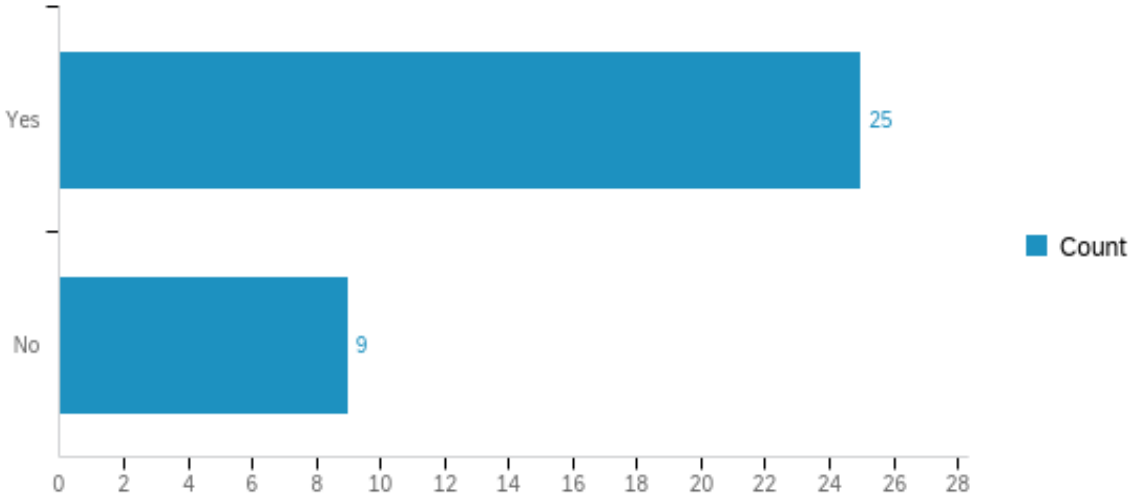


What information would have been helpful to better understand how to access post-adoption services if your family should need them? Please select all that apply.

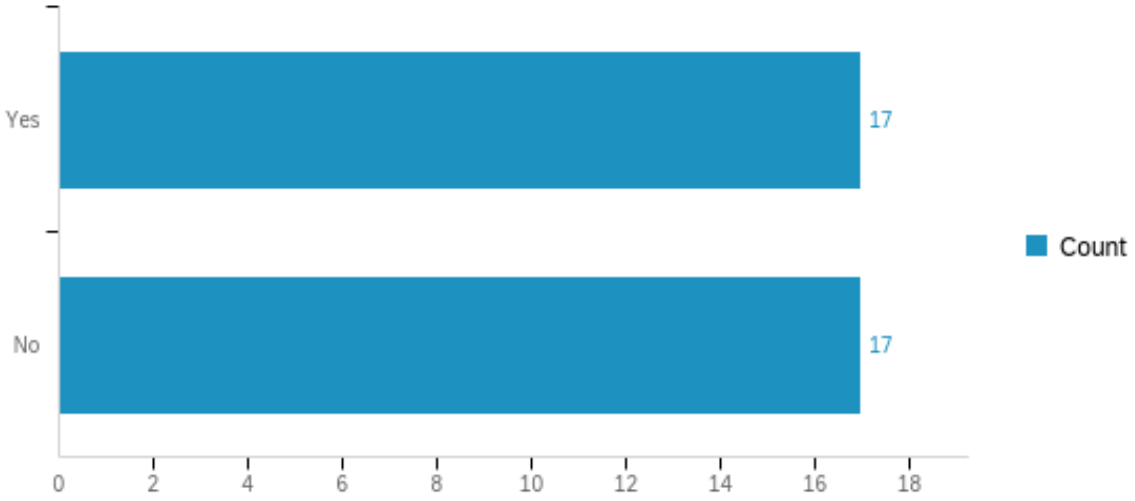


Other-Comments:
I have never been told about post adoption services
Information to understand Medicaid, counseling resources, and tutoring resources, which we currently need
It wouldn’t been helpful to receive a booklet of the post adoption services available. Most information received was from other adoptive parents over the years. Without those connections I would have been in the dark.
Regular checkups from post adopt support to advise after finalization.
Just to get a return phone call or reply
We still don't have access to post adoptive and trauma informed providers

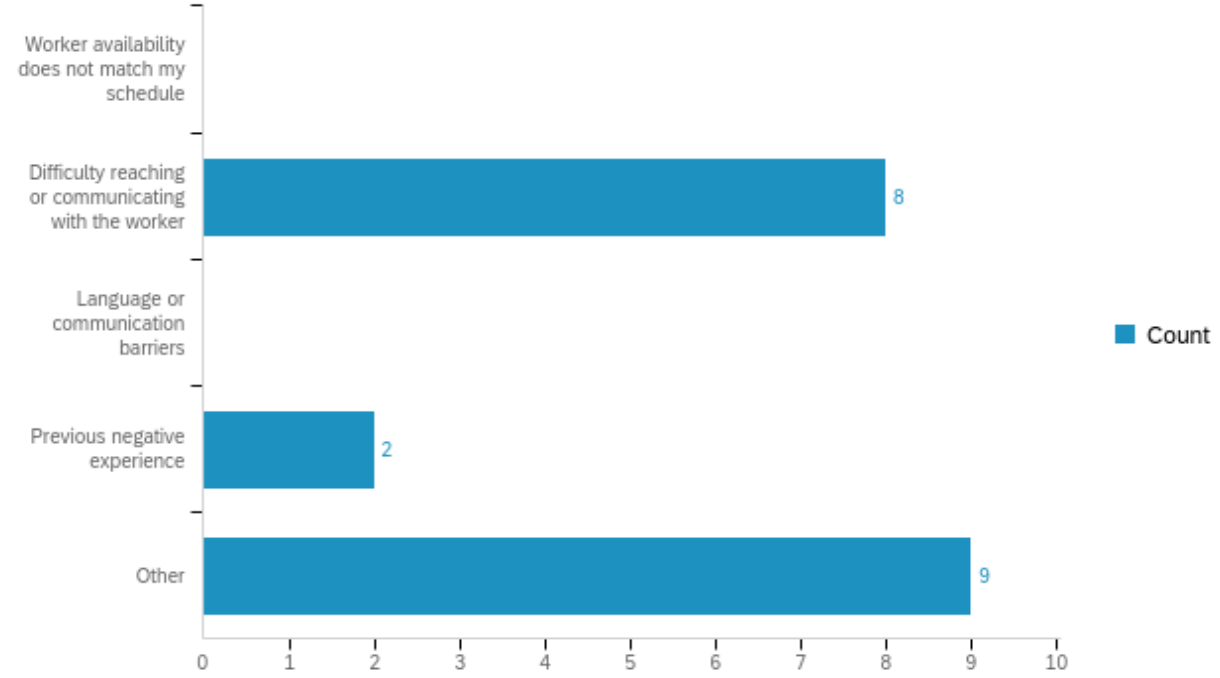
Were you provided with contact information for a post-adoption worker or other person who could help connect your family with services?



Did you find it easy to get connected to your agency's post-adoption worker?

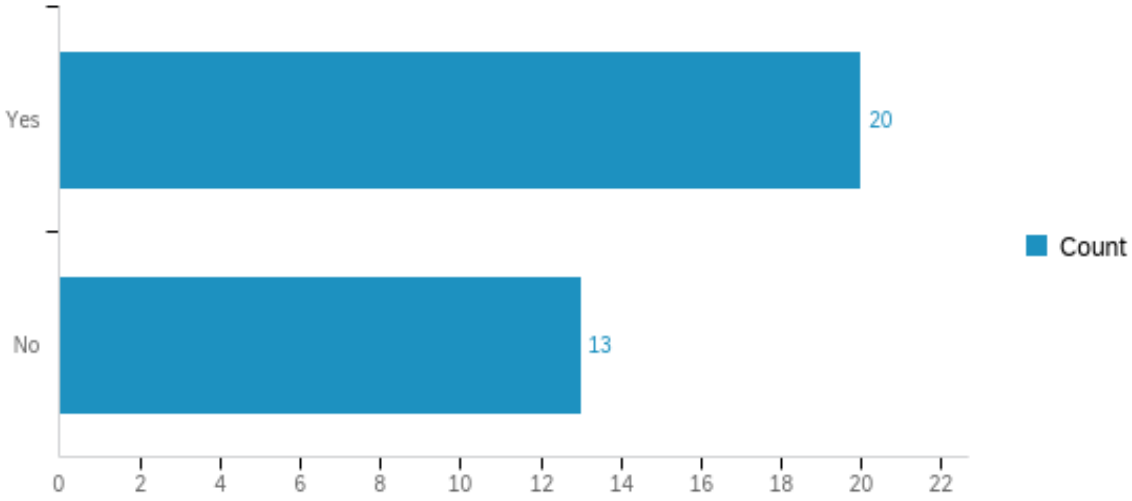


What challenges did you experience in getting connected to your agency's post-adoption worker? Please select all that apply.

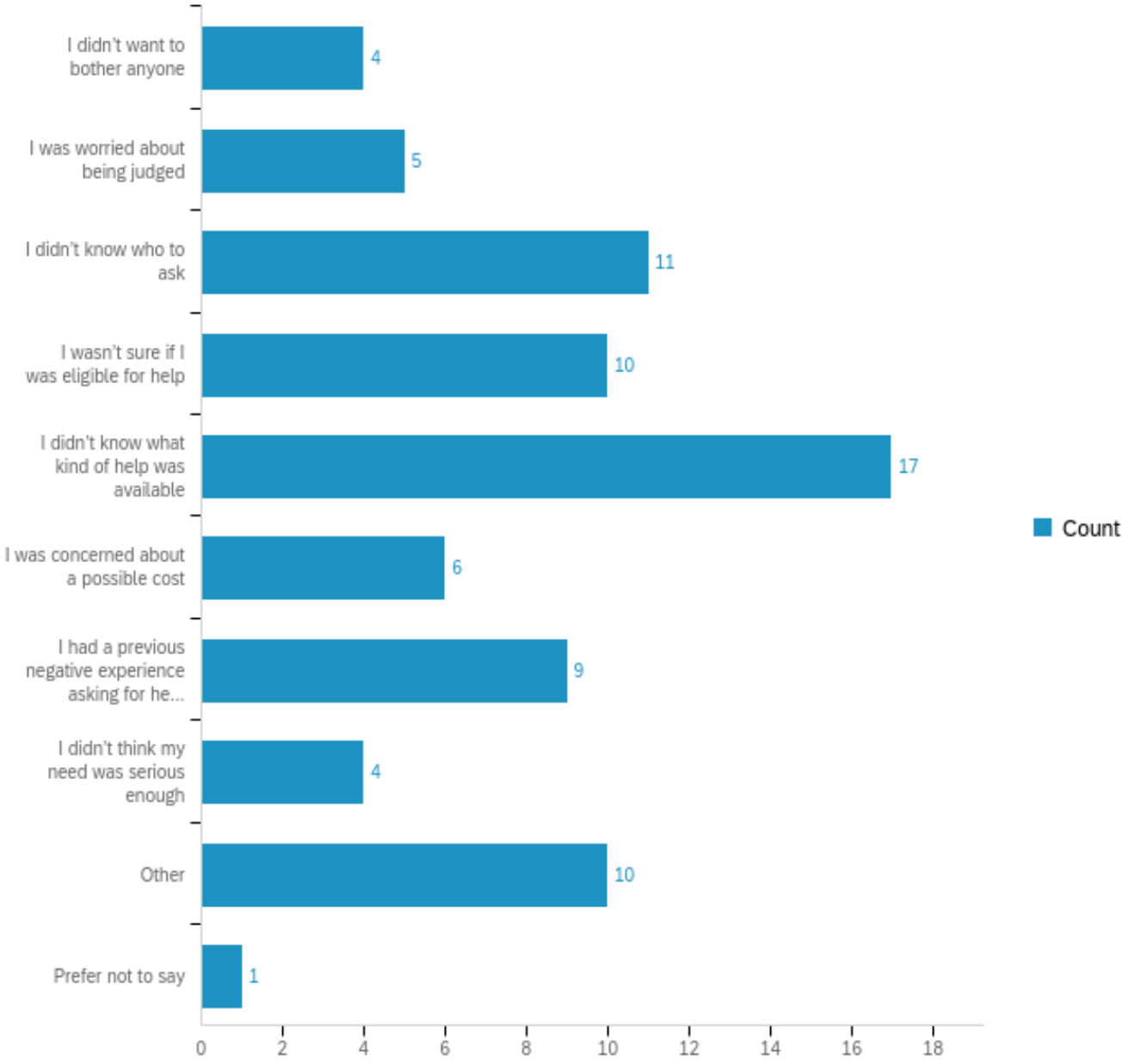


Other- Comments:
Did not know worker and then several replacements
no communication when worker left about who to contact
The worker changed and we were not notified
Workers kept changing. Supervisor wouldn't respond.
I would email and receive no reply. Email was only contact info I received.
Never had any contact to anyone. Or anyone calling to say Hi just seeing how things are going with kids
No return contact after repeatedly leaving messages.
I don't know who to contact

Did you feel comfortable asking your post-adoption worker for additional help or assistance when your family needed it?



What made you uncomfortable or hesitant to ask for help? Please select all that apply.



Other Comments:
I was not uncomfortable
I didn't know who to ask or that there was help available and I still don't
Services were stopped inside of a year
Did not feel uncomfortable.
Difficult to get in contact with those who can help. Always being transferred to multiple people.

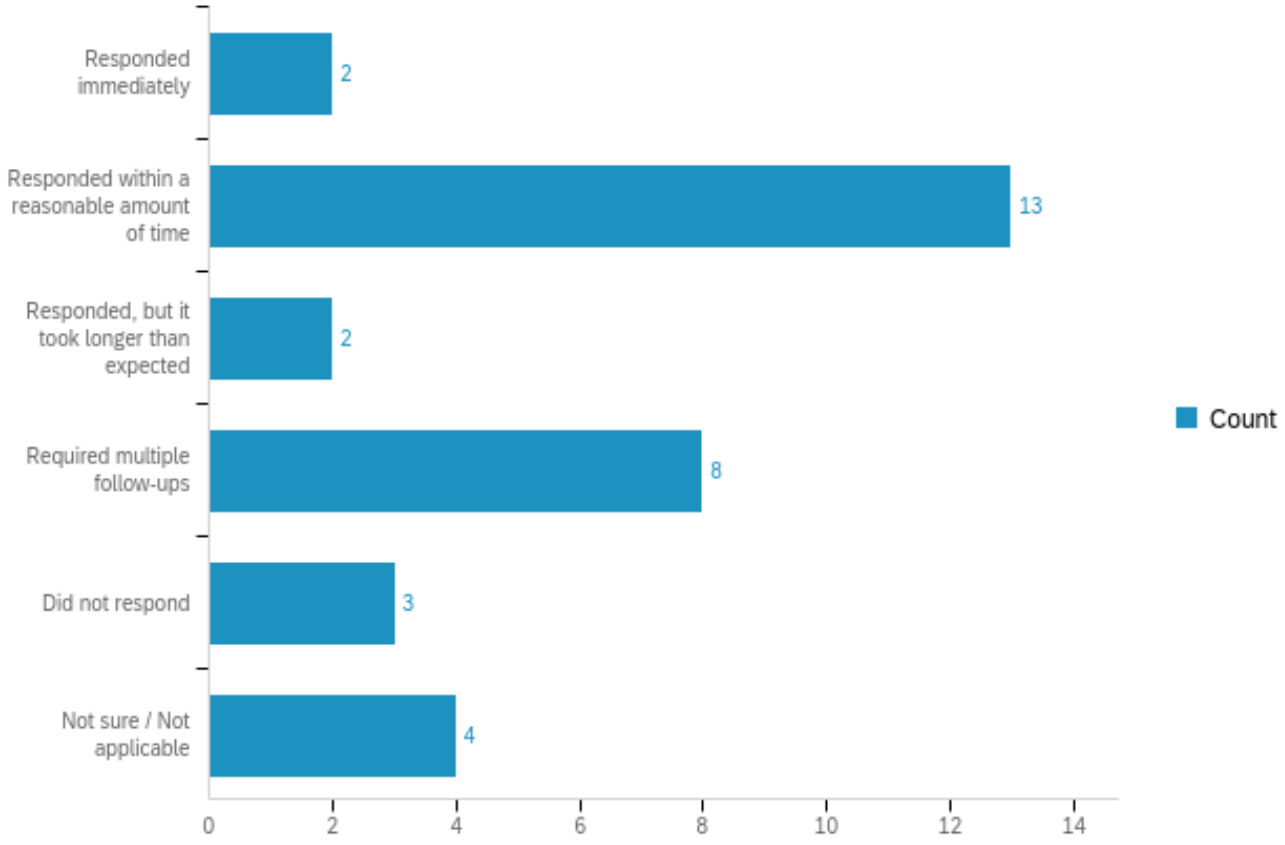
After having and paying for additional assessments, we couldn't get anyone to review them and it took over a year to be reimbursed.

I knew the reply would not come in time to help. I only emailed when it was not a timely thing.

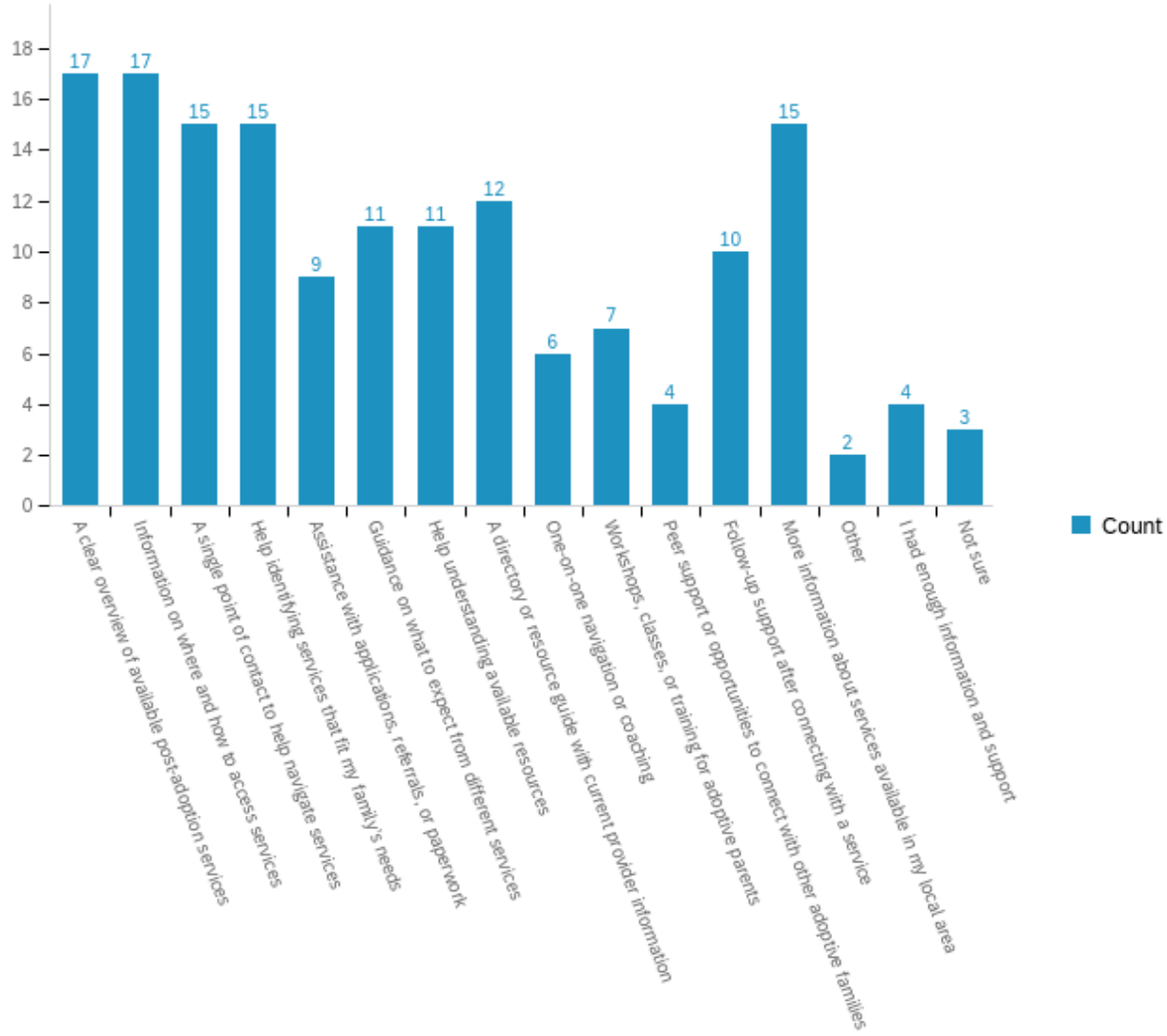
No help (period)!

Sometimes the problem is I don't know what to ask for or what options even are. Other times the problem is that it's clear that we have to fight for help and services. They aren't generally offered easily.

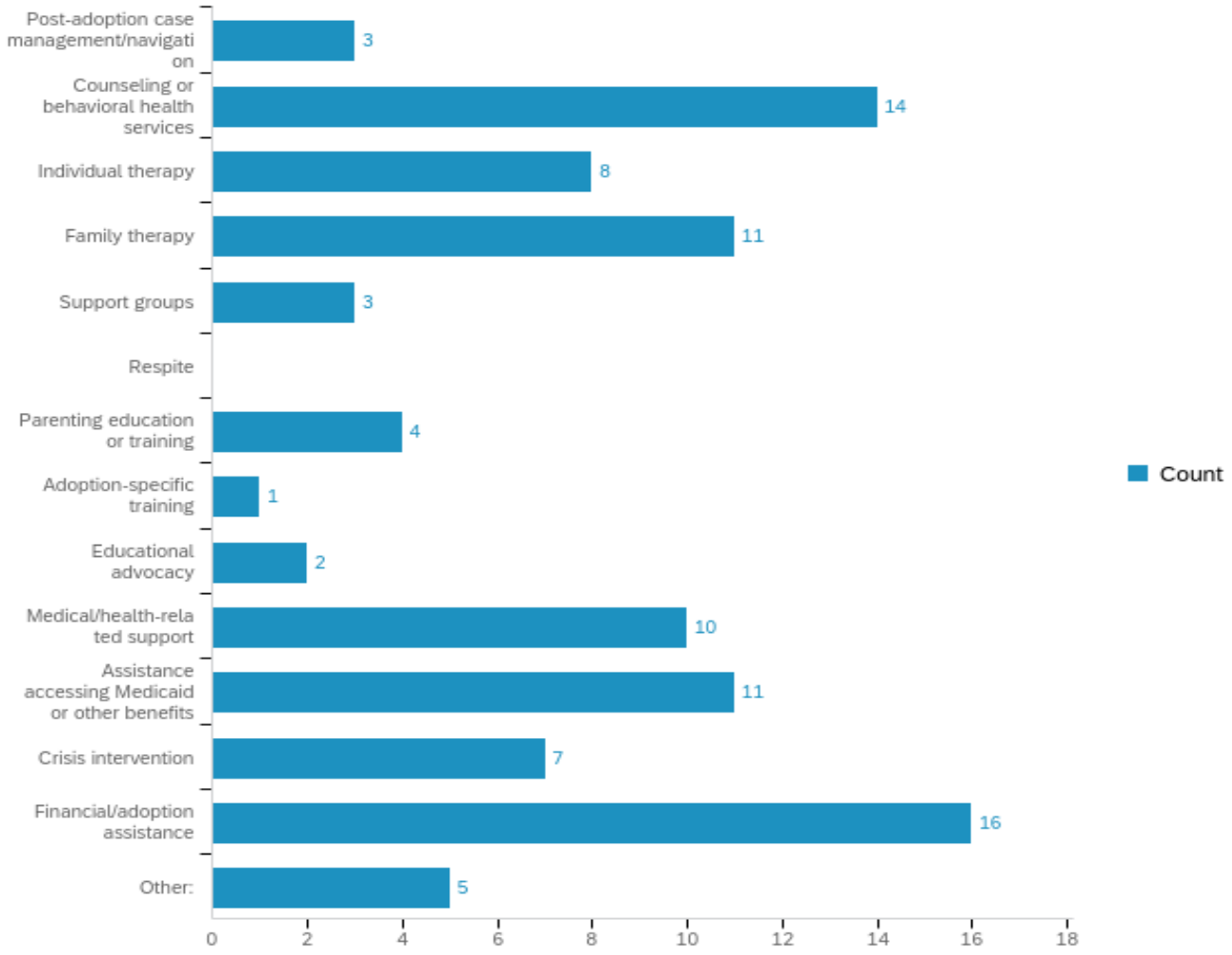
How responsive was your post-adoption worker when you contacted them for assistance?



What additional support, information, or training would have made it easier for you to navigate post-adoption services? Please select all that apply.

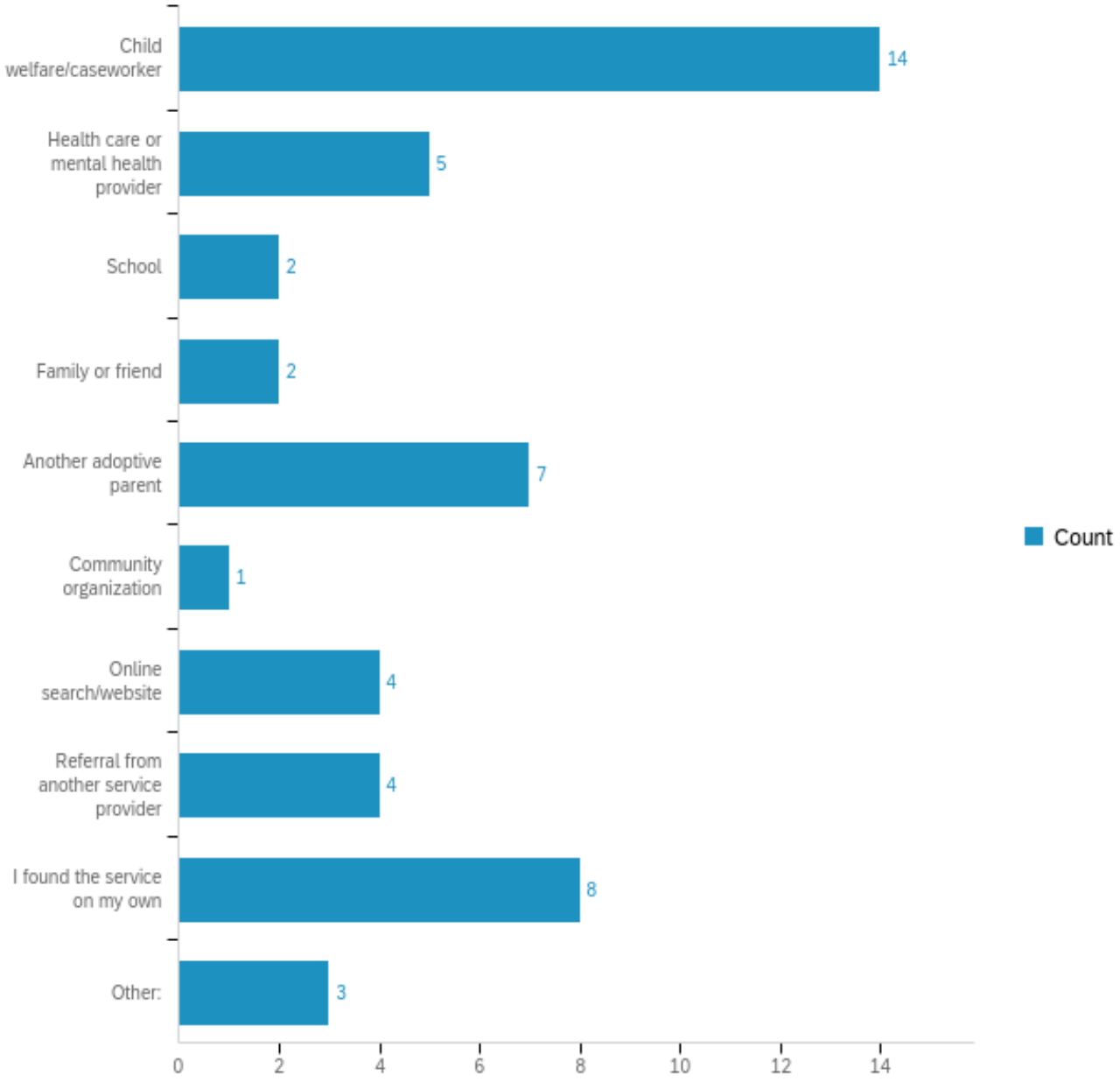


What types of post-adoption services or support has your family received? Please select all that apply.



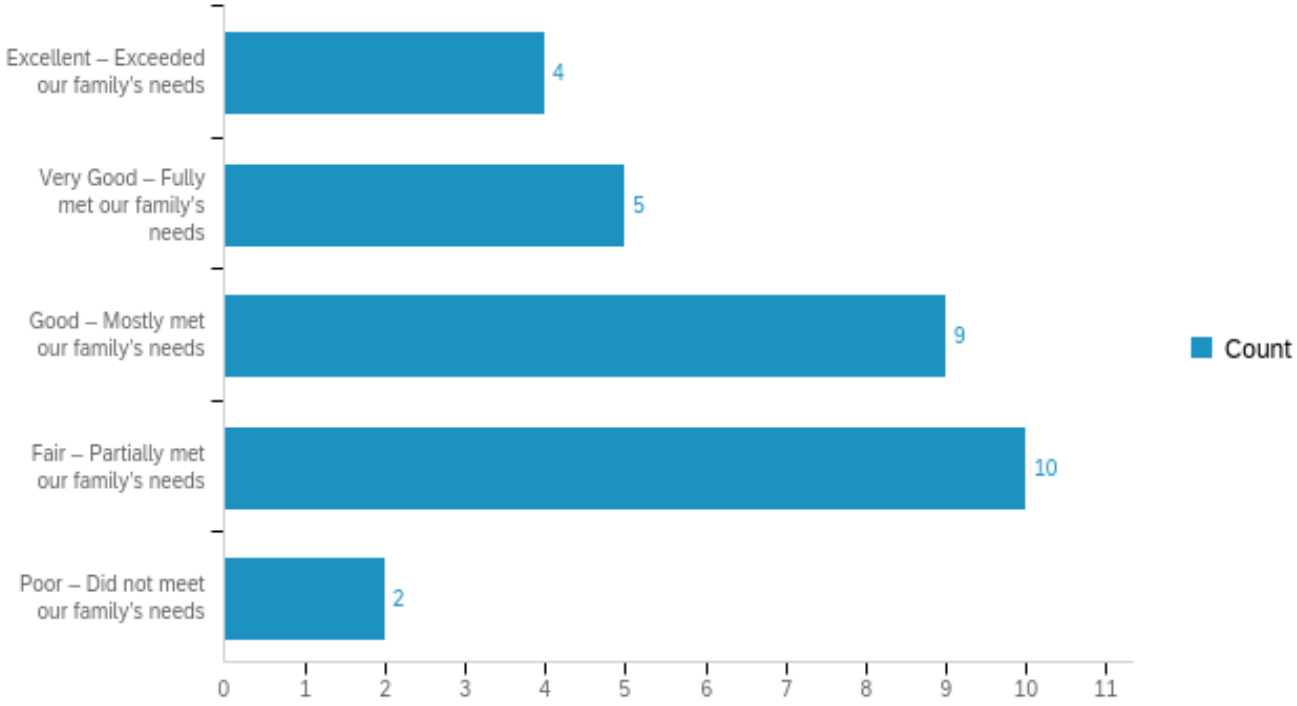
Other-Comments:
we use many of the other things but not as a "post adoption service"
Subsidy increase
Assistance with extracurricular
Nothing not even return phone contact
None of those services were offered to us until there was a tragic crisis going on. And the only time we were able to get services was after a post-adaptive parent told us that there is help somewhere and we were lucky enough to have a case manager to advocate for us. Otherwise, I don't think we would have been able to secure any services or help.

How did you learn about or get connected to the services you received? Please select all that apply.

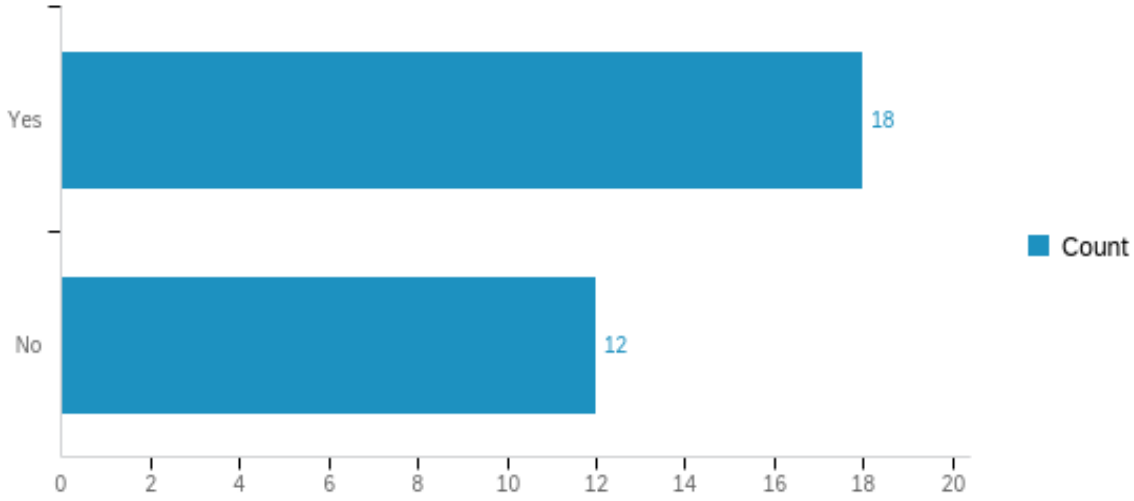


Other-Comments:
Make sure information given is updated
Medicaid case manager called me after a couple years

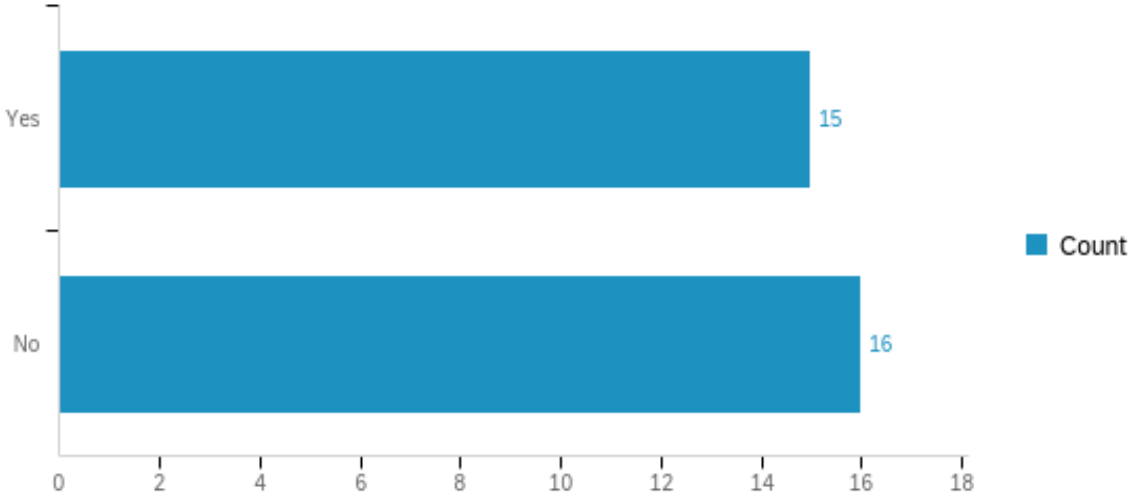
How well did the services meet your family's needs?



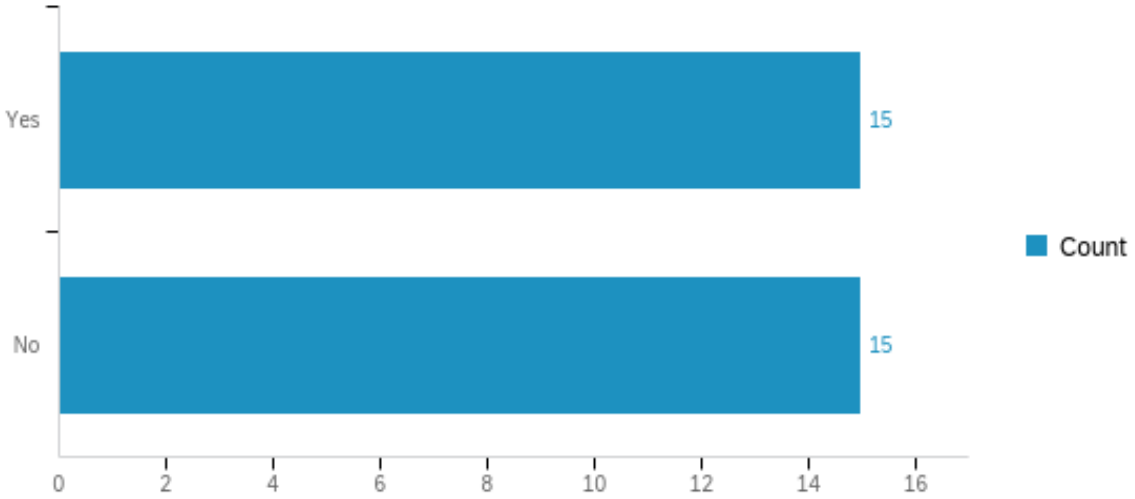
Did the services help your family better understand and cope with your child's needs?



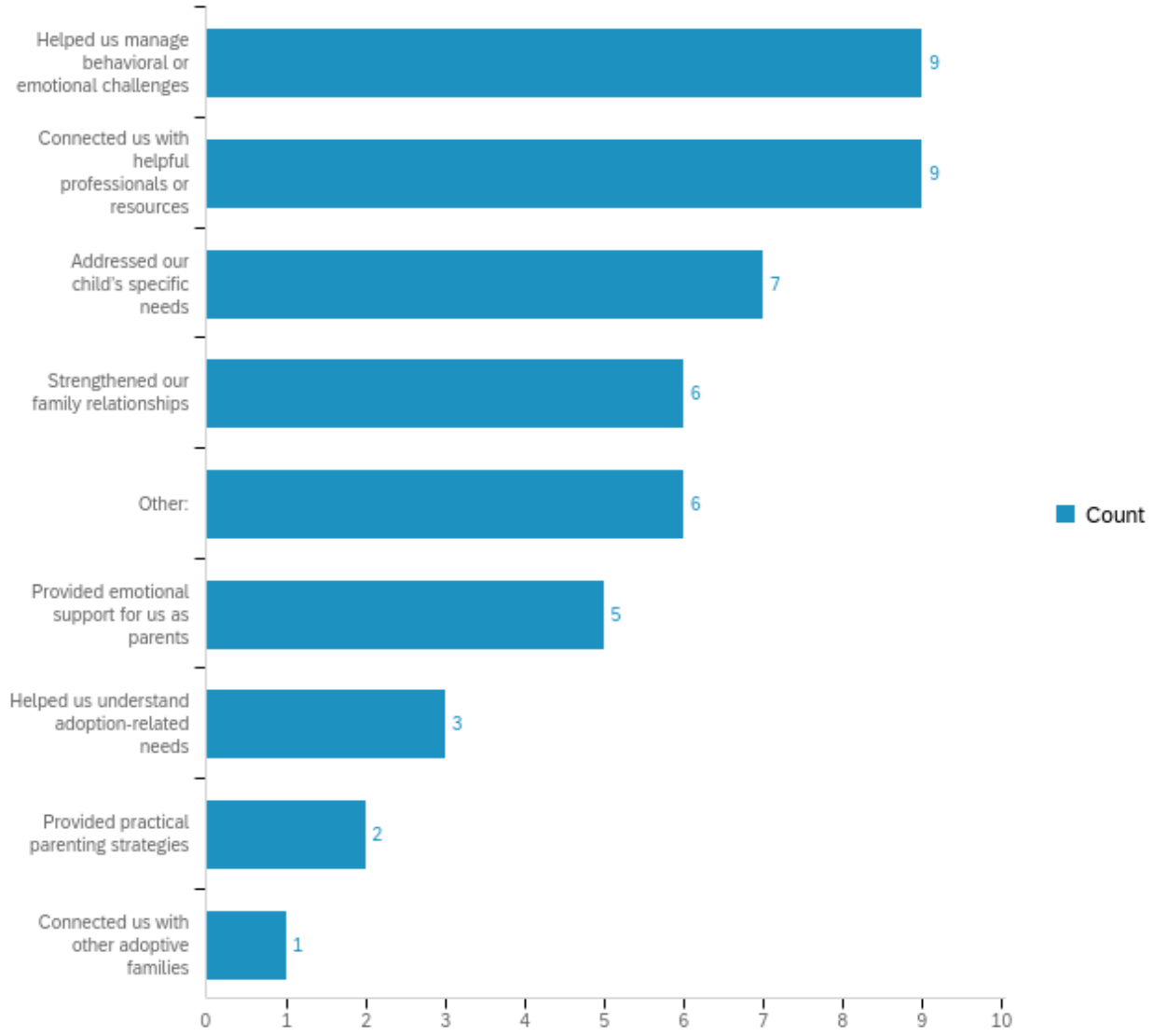
Did the support you received help improve family stability or prevent a crisis?



Were there particular services or supports that were especially helpful to your family?

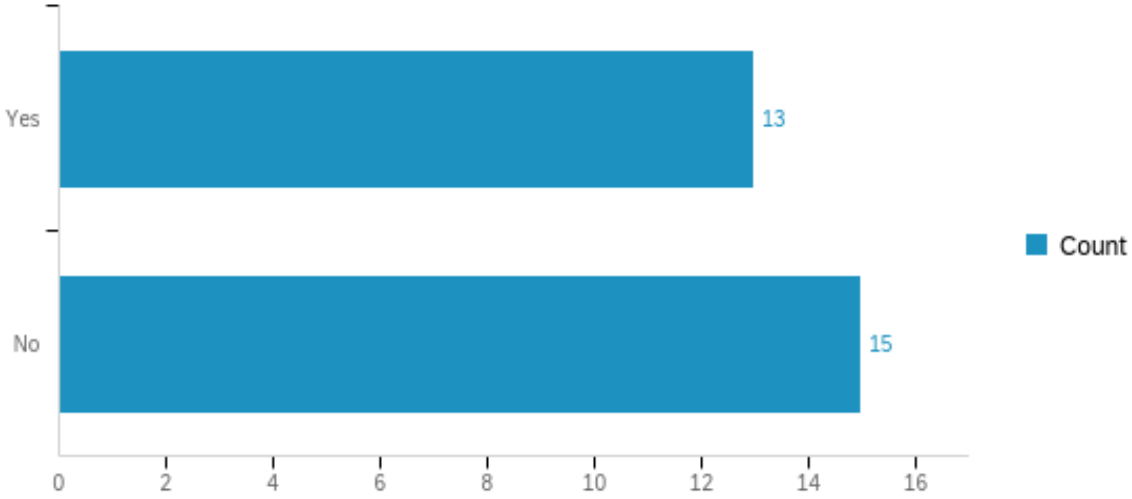


What made the particular services or supports helpful? Please select all that apply.

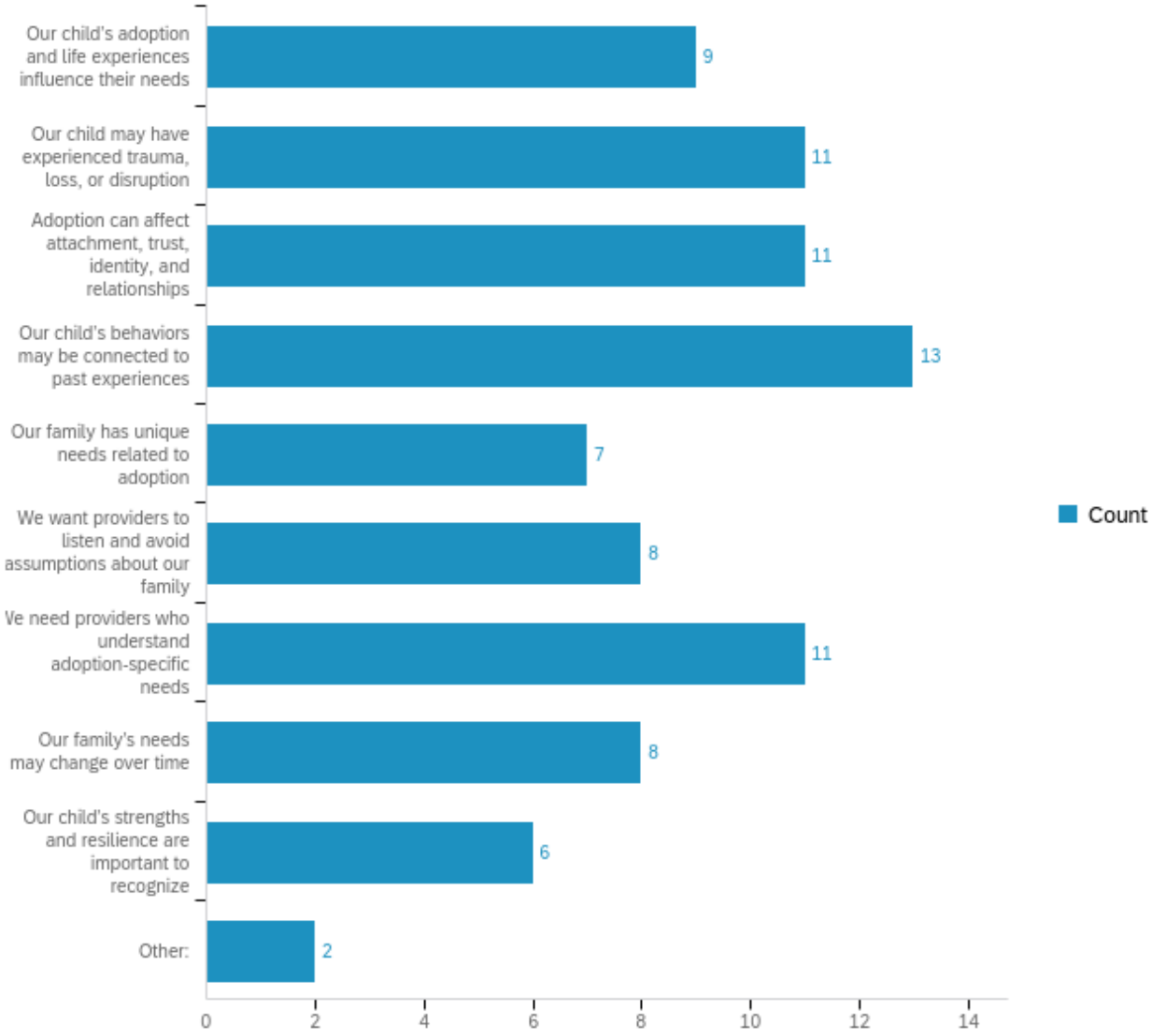


Other-Comments:
We need services currently
Services were nonexistent in less than 2 years
Updated Neuro-psych eval
Small subsidy increase but fell far short of psychiatric needs, etc.

Did you feel that the providers of post-adoption services understand the unique needs and experiences of children and families who have experienced adoption through the child welfare system?



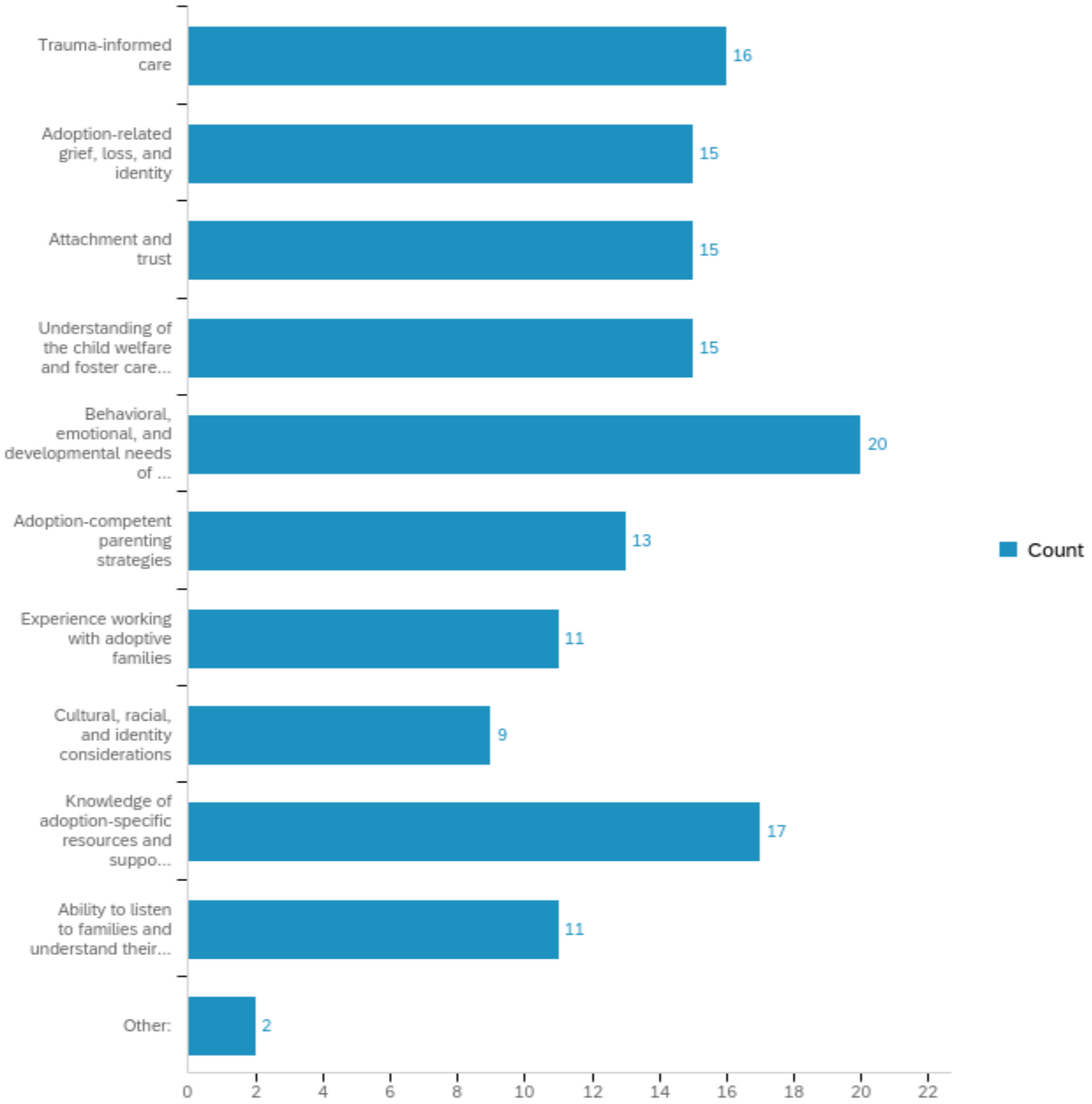
What would you want providers to understand about your child's or family's experience? Please select all that apply.



Other-Comments:

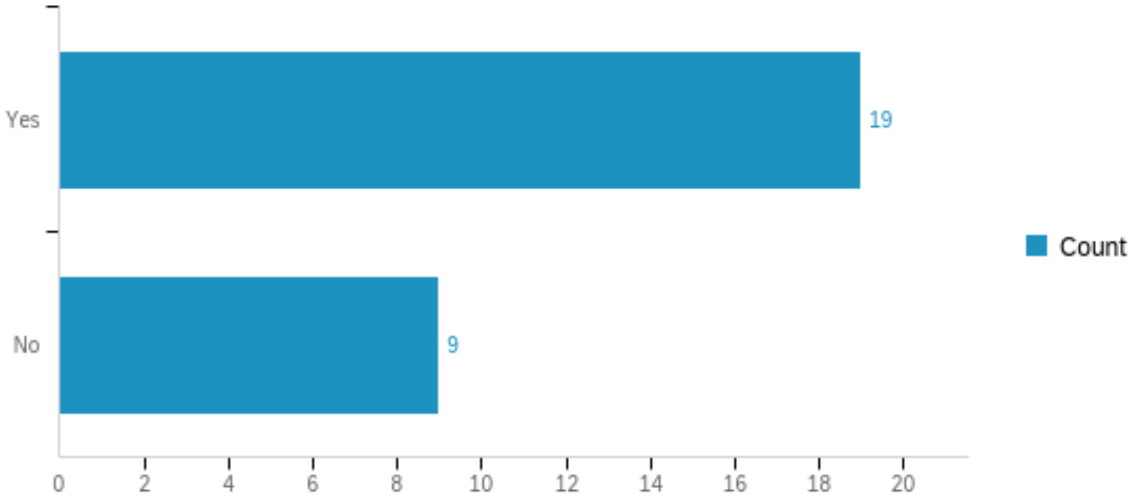
We just need help finding and utilizing resources
Most services we tried for the first several years were completely unequipped to handle the needs of post-adoptive children. And once it was acknowledged that their needs were unique, services just dropped us because they didn't know what to do. We still have never experienced a trauma informed long-term service for our children.

What knowledge, training, or experience do you believe providers need to better serve children adopted through the child welfare system and their families? Please select all that apply.

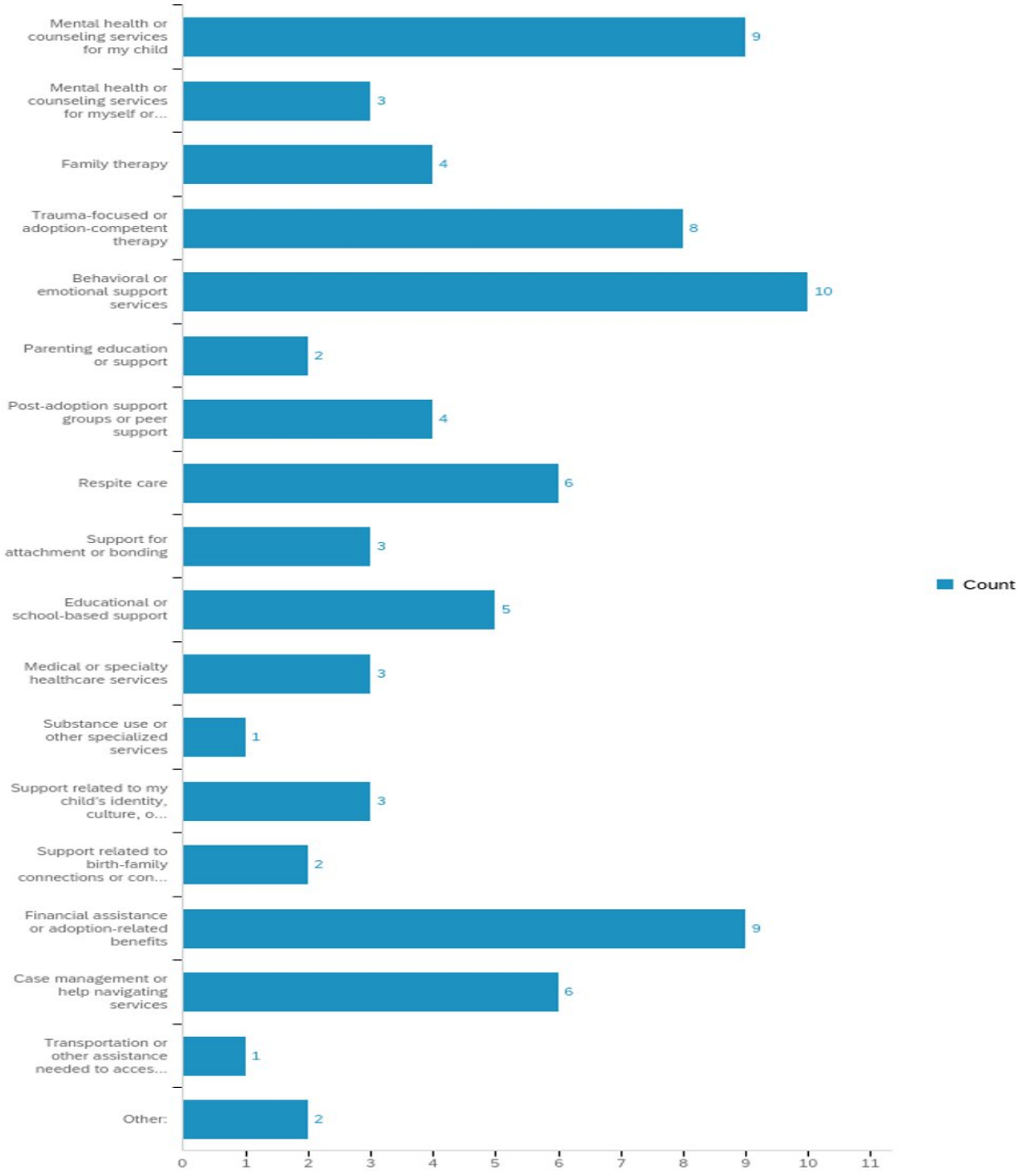


Other-Comments:
nutrition
Financial, medical, and psychological support is lacking. Once adopted—we were basically told you are on your own. Figure it out.

Were there services or supports that your family wanted or needed but were unable to access?



What services did you try to access but were unsuccessful in accessing? Please select all that apply.

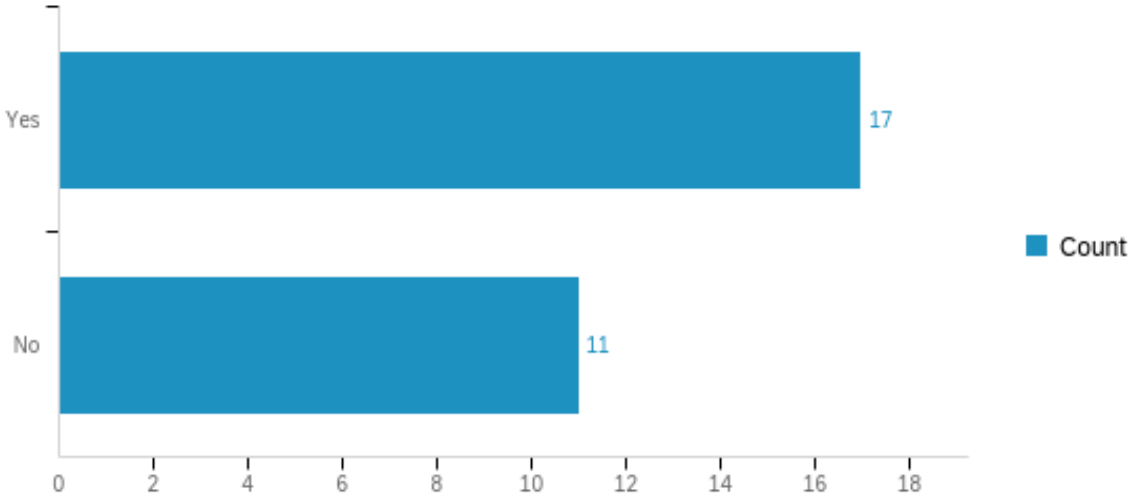


Other-Comments:

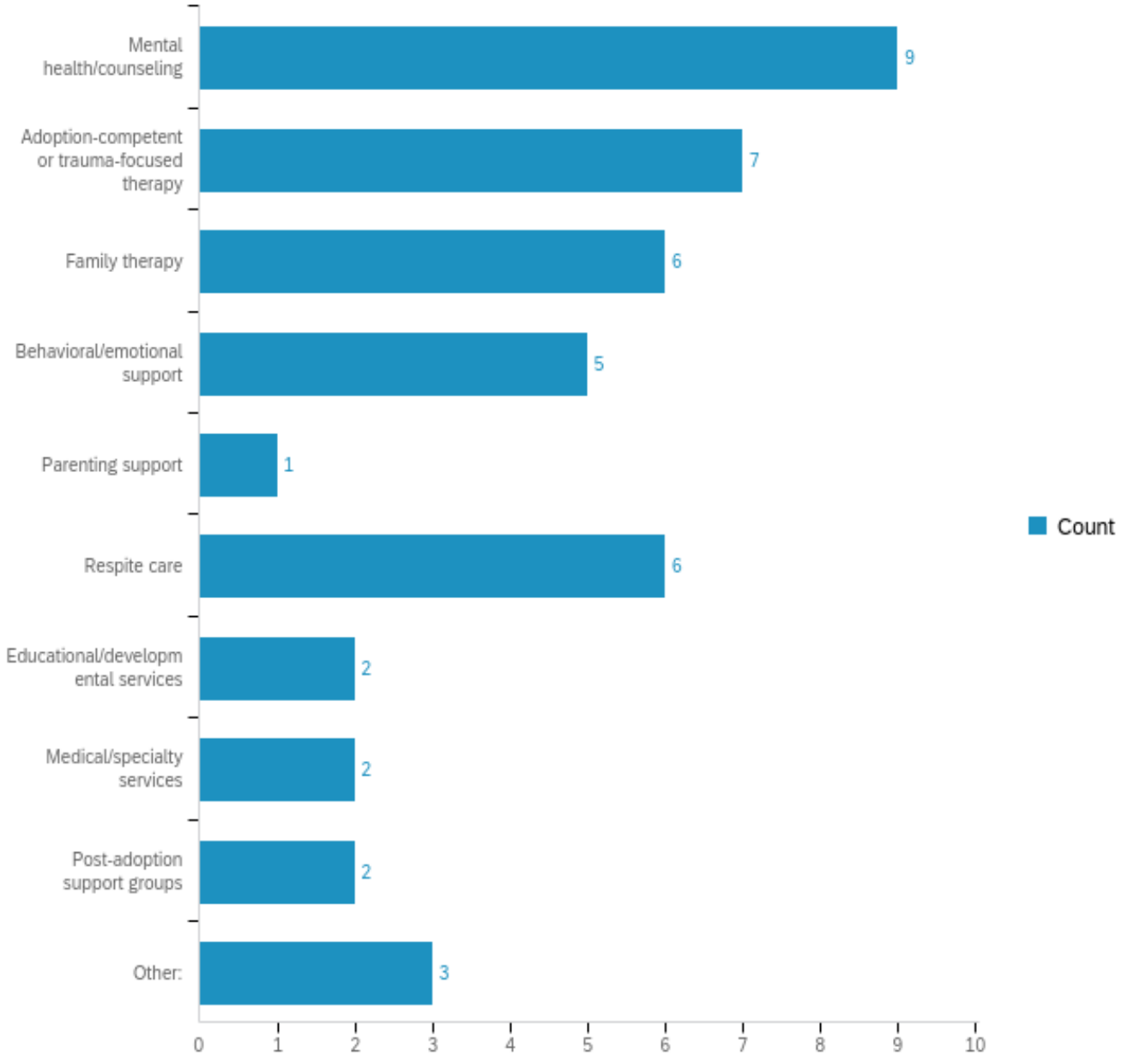
Long term care facilities

Finding competent therapists that also take child's insurance is the problem.

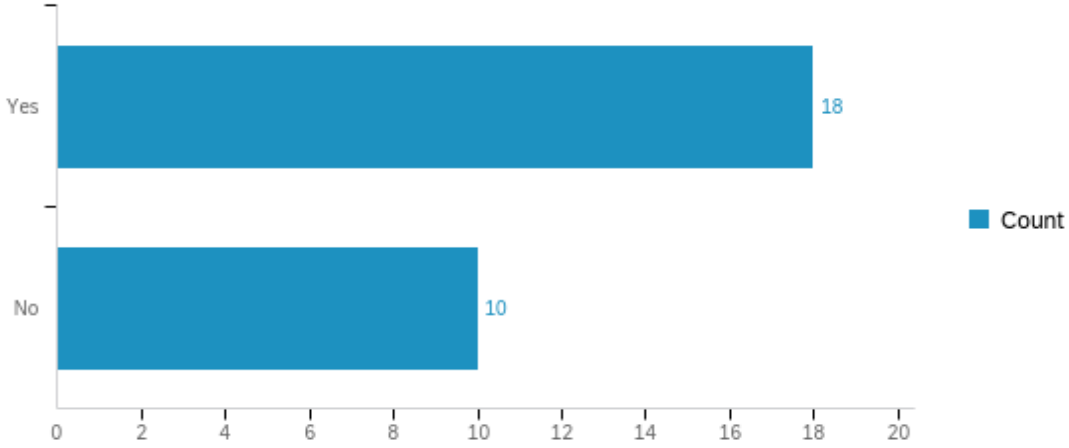
Were there services your family stopped pursuing because the process of obtaining them was too difficult, lengthy, or frustrating?



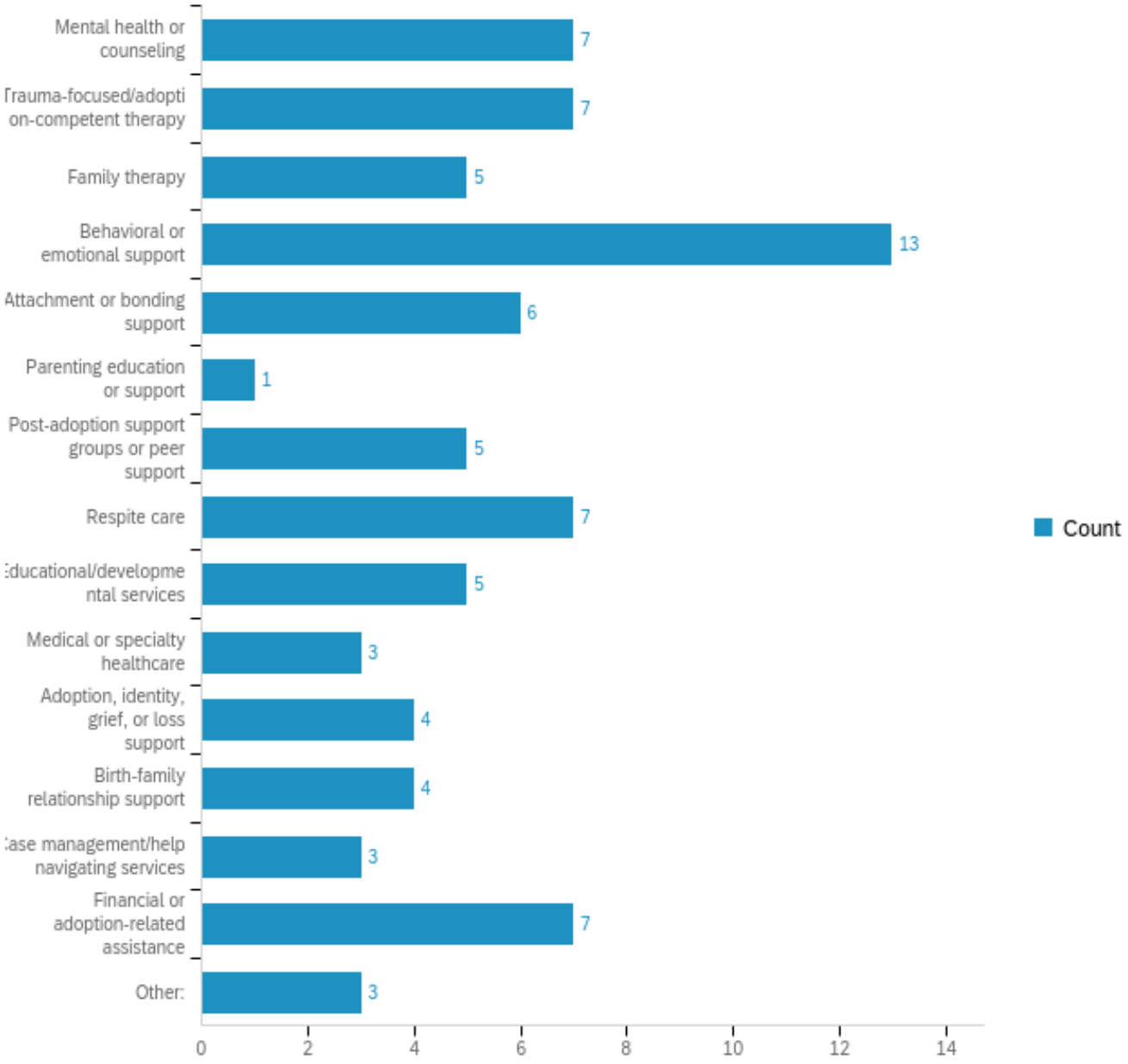
What services did your family stop pursuing because the process of obtaining them was too difficult, lengthy, or frustrating? Please select all that apply.



Were there services you believe your child or family needed but were never offered or recommended to you?

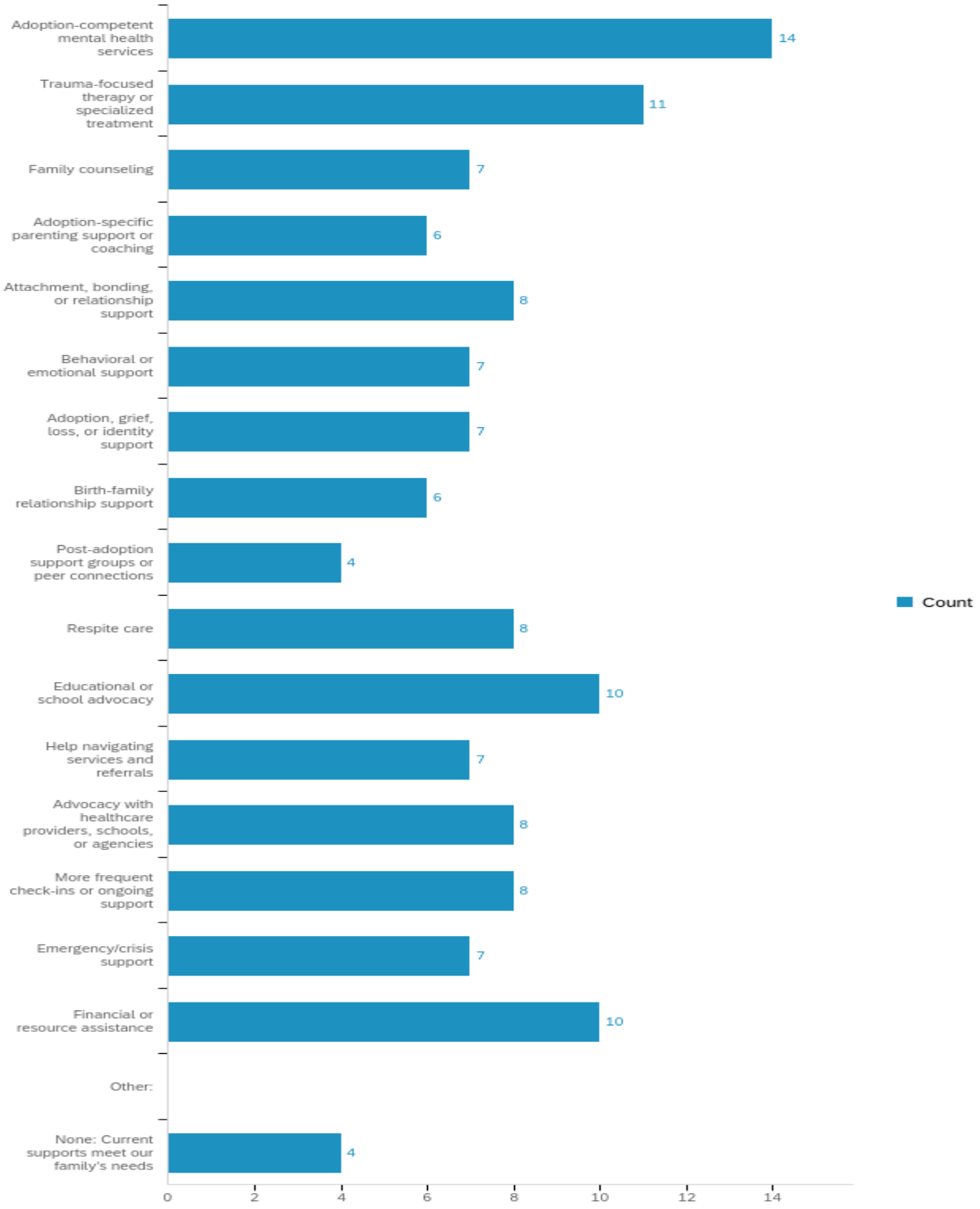


What services that you believed your child or family needed but were never offered or recommended...

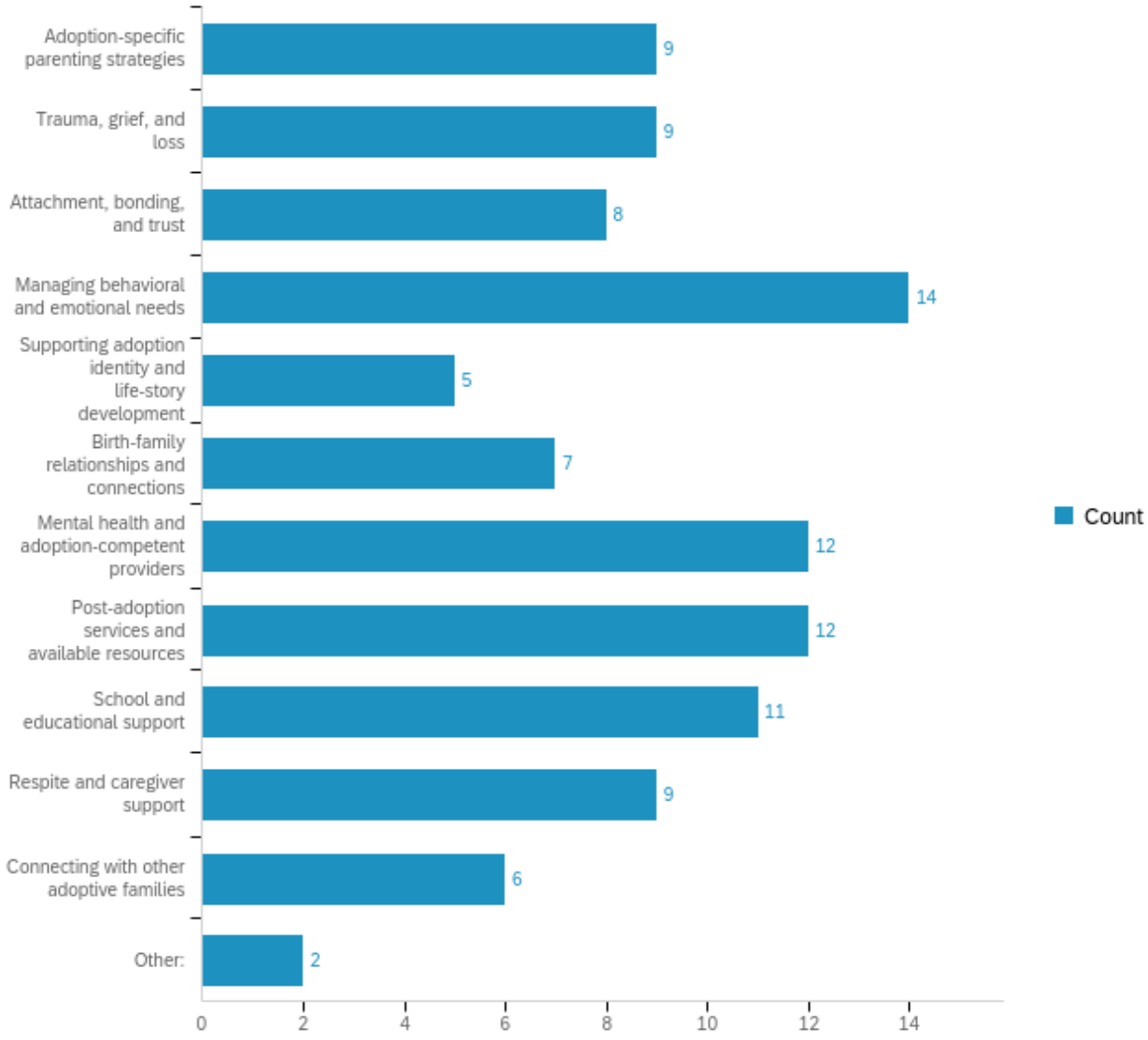


Other-Comments:
Long-term care facilities
Big on financial—it was not offered or available.

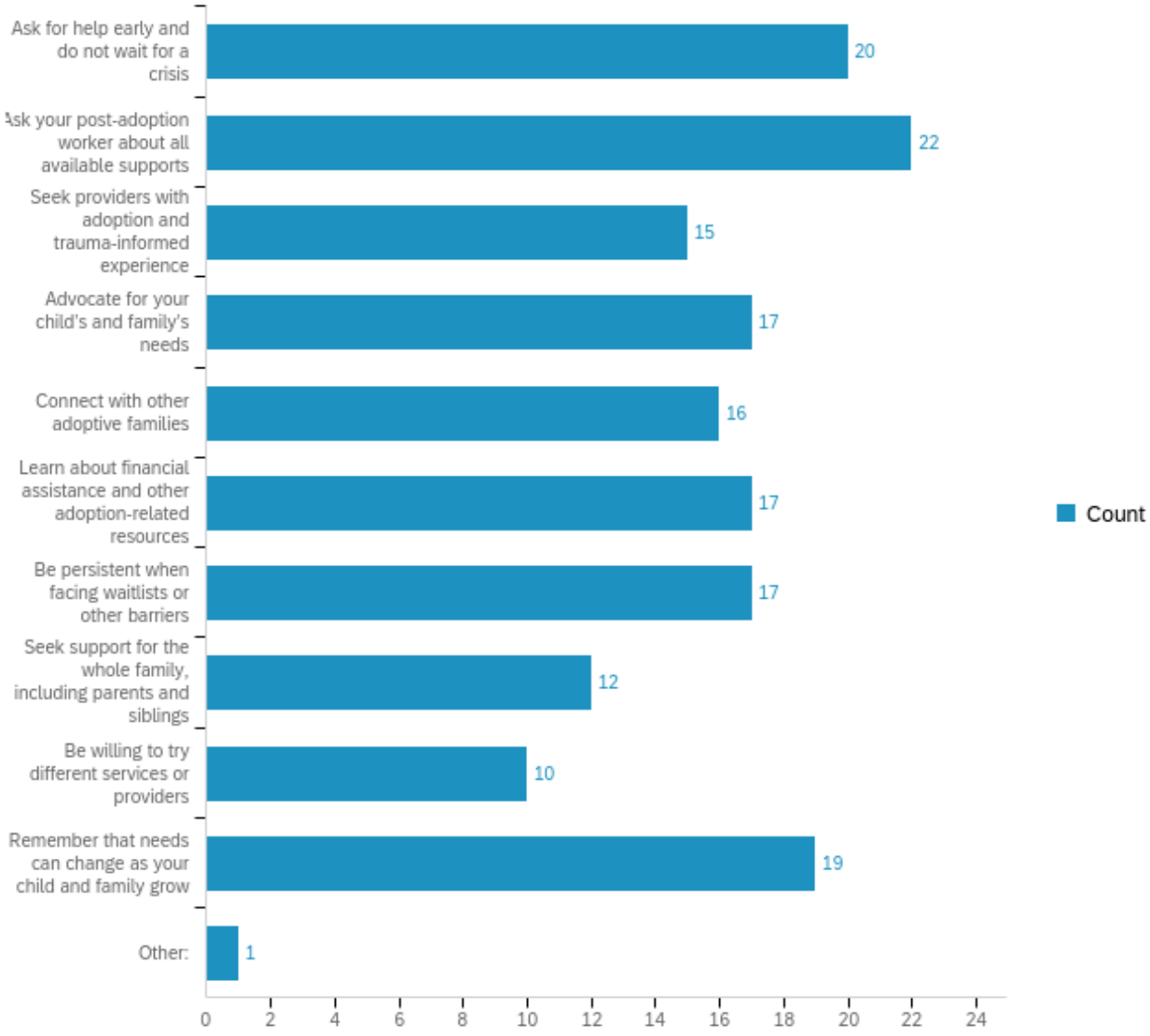
What services, resources, or type of supports you wish your post-adoption worker could provide that is not currently available? Please select all that apply.



What additional support, training, or information do you wish your agency had offered your family? Please select all that apply.



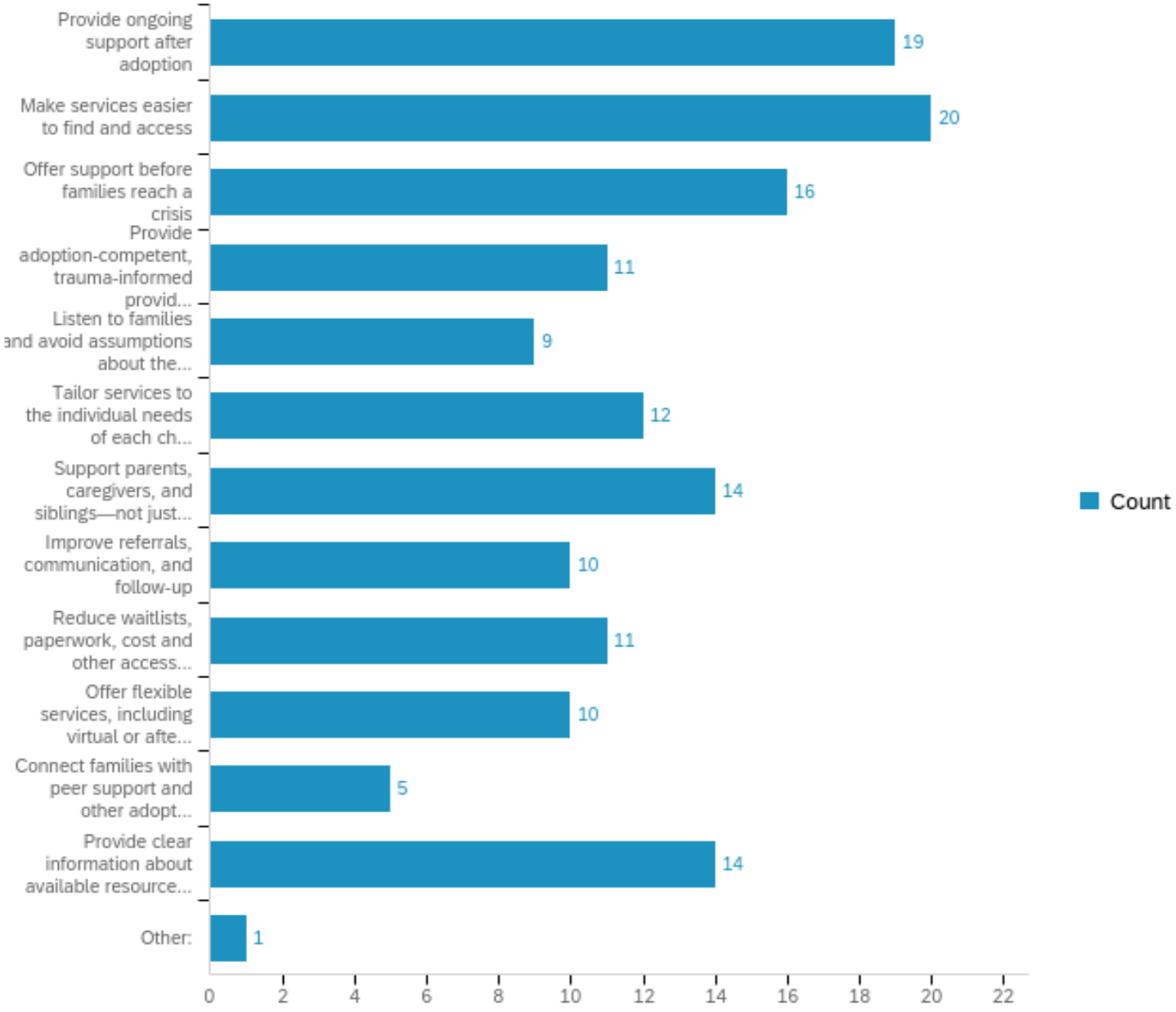
What advice would you give to another family who has recently adopted a child through Florida's child welfare system about finding and using post-adoption supports? Please select all that apply.



Other-Comments:

Don't expect support to be available

What advice would you give to agencies or providers about how they can better support families after adoption?



What additional information would you like to share with the Department regarding post-adoption supports and services?

Open-ended survey comments described challenges finding services, receiving timely responses, and obtaining ongoing support as children's needs change. The themes below summarize the comments presented; selected quotes preserve respondents' wording.

Theme	Feedback from families	Illustrative comment
Clear information about available services	Families described researching services themselves and not knowing what assistance they could request.	"Don't know what is available to ask for."
Ongoing outreach and responsive communication	Families requested regular follow-up and reported difficulty receiving responses when they needed help.	"Just follow up after adoption every 6 months to see how it's going"
Support through adolescence	Families emphasized that support needs continue and may increase as children enter their teen years.	"As children change, support is still needed, especially in the teen years."
Help navigating crises and complex systems	Families requested advocates to help when children's needs involve law enforcement or other systems.	"We need advocates to help our families navigate the system"
Timely access to specialized care	One family described long waits, limited trauma-informed therapy options, and difficulty obtaining meaningful help before repeated mental health hospitalizations.	"It shouldn't take for our children to be hospitalized repeatedly in order for someone to care."
Financial assistance	Financial support was also identified as a need.	"Financial support, returning phone calls"