

# Here to HELP

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Please contact us to discuss your needs:

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## FORMED FAMILIES FORWARD

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# TRAINING & SUPPORT SERVICES



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## FOSTER, ADOPTIVE AND KINSHIP FAMILIES NEED SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

Families formed by adoption, foster care and kinship care are more likely than other families to have children with disabilities and other special needs.

Coping with the educational and developmental challenges involved in raising children with special needs can be confusing, frustrating and exhausting.

Training and support are effective tools for increasing family involvement in the education of their children and for supporting higher education outcomes.

## WHO WE ARE

Formed Families Forward is a non-profit organization dedicated to informing and supporting foster, adoptive and kinship families so they can meet the early intervention and special education needs of their children.

We serve families, and social service and education professionals in the northern Virginia region. Composed of parents and kinship caregivers of children who have special needs, the Formed Families Forward staff and Board of Directors bring expertise in special education, law, child welfare and special health care needs.

## SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND THE PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK WITH THEM

Formed Families Forward provides consultation and support to families and agency personnel to help them meet the special education needs of their children and youth. Short-term phone and direct consultations are available at no cost to adoptive, foster and kinship families and to child welfare and education professionals in northern Virginia. We also offer peer-to-peer support groups for youth and parents/caregivers.

Formed Families Forward offers special education resources designed specifically for foster, adoptive and kinship families. We make linkages to other agencies and organizations, and offer access to direct group counseling services for families in need.

In addition, we provide customized trainings for families and professionals. Training topics include:

- Special education overview
- Understanding disabilities and disorders
- Strengthening communication between school and home
- Resolving disputes with agency personnel
- Use of positive behavioral supports at home and at school
- Legal role of foster parents and kinship caregivers

Please contact Formed Families Forward to discuss specific training and support needs.