Serving and affirming kids and families in child welfare
About Amara

At Amara, we believe in the power of families. That’s why each year we support 1,500+ children, parents, and families in Washington who have experienced the child welfare system.

Founded in 1921, we are a nonprofit organization committed to positive long-term outcomes for children and families. Our mission is to drive systemic change, promote healing, and advance racial and LGBTQIA+ equity, by offering programs and services to families engaged in foster care, and to adoptees and families, post-adoption.

Re-Envisioning Child Welfare

We are working with communities to transform the child welfare system into a network of supports that centers family wellbeing. The best way to support children and families is to address the underlying causes of family separation, including the impacts of racism and poverty, by partnering with people with lived experience to create systemic change. Together, we are committed to investing in innovative programs that create positive long-term outcomes for children, caregivers, and families.
The Opportunity to Thrive

There are more than 8,100 children in foster care in Washington from every age, race, ethnicity, and background. The overwhelming cause is cases of suspected neglect, which is often rooted in poverty created by inequities in the justice, housing, and education systems. Foster care disproportionately impacts children and families who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color. As a community, we have a responsibility to support families toward healing and reunification, whenever possible.

Investing in children, their parents, families, foster and kinship caregivers, and adoptive families creates positive, long-term outcomes:

- Children experience greater stability and security
- Children exit foster care and are more likely to return home to their families
- Children have a stronger sense of identity and experience higher educational attainment
- Youth, parents, and caregivers become advocates for change and are leaders in their communities
About Our Programs

Foster Care Programs
Amara supports the full foster care triad – children in care, their parents, and foster families – through a variety of programs that:
- support foster families throughout their entire fostering journey from licensing, to caring for children, to supporting reunification when possible
- help children maintain important connections with their parents and family members while in foster care
- encourage parents and foster caregivers to build relationships centered on the needs of the children in care
- support parents working toward reunification with their child

Kinship Care Programs
We know that kids do best when they stay connected with their family while in foster care. Amara’s Kinship Care programs support family to take care of family with information and connections to resources, managing children’s transitions, accessing a foster care license, and navigating support for family in the context of the child welfare system.

Post-Adoption Programs
Amara supports adoptees, birth families, and adoptive families to promote stability and fulfilling family relationships. We offer training and support in building open and supportive relationships between adoptive and birth families, confidential intermediary services, and resources for adult adoptees.
Getting Involved

We believe in the power of community. As a nonprofit, our work would not be possible without our network of supporters — like you — who help us ensure all children and families can thrive. Here are ways you can get involved in our mission:

- Learn about becoming a foster caregiver – there are lots of ways to be a foster family!
- Become an advocate – use your voice, whether you’re supporting legislation or changing hearts and minds about foster care
- Make a financial gift of support – we depend on community giving to fuel our programs. You can give securely online at amarafamily.org/donate.
- Donate goods – we are there for kids and families when kids first enter foster care and when families are reunifying. See the new or gently used items families need at amarafamily.org/goods.
- Volunteer – every part of our mission could use an extra hand (or two!). Learn more about our current volunteer opportunities at amarafamily.org/volunteer.
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