

HONORING, UNITING, AND CELEBRATING FAMILIES

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH FAQ

www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth

What is National Foster Care Month?

May is National Foster Care Month—a time to acknowledge the foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections. It is also a time to focus on ways to create a bright future for the more than 400,000 children and youth in foster care.

This year's National Foster Care Month theme is "Honoring, Uniting, and Celebrating Families." The materials throughout the site illustrate best practices in promoting a youth's connection with biological parents, other family members, and their cultural heritage. Best practices and strategies that support family reunification efforts in child welfare are also highlighted.

How does the Children's Bureau support National Foster Care Month?

The Children's Bureau—together with its information service, Child Welfare Information Gateway, and a host of other Federal, State, and local partners—supports National Foster Care Month through a website.

What resources will be available on the National Foster Care Month website?

This year, the theme for National Foster Care Month is "Honoring, Uniting, and Celebrating Families," emphasizing the importance of reunifying families. The website provides resources about supporting youth, parents, foster families, kinship caregivers, professionals, and the community by offering information that illustrates best practices and strategies that support family reunification in child welfare. Access the resources at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/resources/>.

What are Real-Life Stories?

Storytelling is a powerful way to connect real-life scenarios to important practice issues. Each year, the National Foster Care Month website features real-life stories of children, youth, and families that can help child welfare workers, managers, training staff, and others engage audiences in a variety of settings. From training to recruitment, these inspiring stories are great tools for gaining perspective and highlighting the role each of us has in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care. View the stories at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/reallifestories/>.

How can I spread the word about National Foster Care Month?

There are a number of tools you can use to help promote National Foster Care Month. Check them out at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/spread/>.

- National Foster Care Month Facebook Campaign
- Email Signature Blocks
- Sample Email Messages
- Sample Social Media posts
- Graphics and Widgets

How can I learn about what other States are doing for National Foster Care Month?

Want to contact colleagues in other States to learn about their foster care policies? Access to State officials and other foster care information is available through the State Foster Care Contacts map. Take time during National Foster Care Month to get to know your colleagues across the country and learn about their work. View State Foster Care Contacts at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/resources/contacts/>.

What is the history of the Children's Bureau and foster care?

Throughout its history, the Children's Bureau has worked to assist children and youth in foster care; engage youth in decisions that affect their lives; and support foster families, kinship caregivers, child welfare professionals, and others who help these children. Learn more at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/about/history/>.

Learn more about the history of the Children's Bureau on its centennial website at <https://cb100.acf.hhs.gov/>.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau

