

# Be ALL IN for Waiting Kids!

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) [ALL-IN Foster Adoption Challenge](#) is a national effort led by Assistant Secretary Lynn Johnson with the goal of finding loving, permanent homes for the 122,000 children and youth who are currently waiting for adoption in the foster care system.

Every child deserves a family who will love and support them, forever. Right now there are over 400,000 children in the foster care system. While many of these will be reunified with their families, 122,000 of these children and youth are waiting for adoption. There is a particular need for families willing to open their hearts and homes to children in sibling groups, those with special needs, and older youth.

Some of these children will wait years for a forever family, and sadly some will age out of foster care on their own with no family, mentor, or supports in place. This is the experience of nearly 20,000 youth who age out each year. Without a loving, permanent family to help navigate their entry into adulthood, evidence shows these young adults will experience poor outcomes, such as higher rates of homelessness and unemployment, after they leave foster care.

The ALL-IN Challenge is a national call to immediate action – a call for partners in every state, including governors, public figures, agencies, courts, faith-based and community organizations, businesses, and the public, to commit to being ALL IN for waiting children in care.

## What Can You Do?

Commit to one of these [activities](#) and do your part to be ALL IN!

- ✓ Find out how to become a foster or adoptive parent in your state and take the next step toward becoming a forever family for a waiting child/youth. Visit [www.AdoptUSKids.org](http://www.AdoptUSKids.org) for more information and support in the process.
- ✓ Educate and inspire others by sharing foster-adoption stories with colleagues, friends, and family.
- ✓ Become an adoption-friendly workplace with policies and incentives that support families pursuing adoption.
- ✓ Be a support for foster/adoptive families in your community.
- ✓ Mobilize your faith community to become involved in supporting vulnerable children and those who care for them.
- ✓ Become a mentor for a young person in foster care and create a lifelong connection.
- ✓ Volunteer with a local agency that is working to support children and youth in foster care.
- ✓ Make a dream come true for an older youth working toward independence, or for a child in foster care, by donating toward an item or experience they are hoping for.
- ✓ Use your social media platforms to help promote adoption for waiting children and youth. Use the hashtag **#ALLINforWaitingKids** to show your support.