

Relative and Kin Connections: Keeping Families Strong

National Foster Care Month Frequently Asked Questions

What is National Foster Care Month?

National Foster Care Month is an initiative of the Children's Bureau within the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is celebrated each May and is a time to acknowledge 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 also allows us to renew our commitment to ensuring a bright future for the more than 407,000 children and youth in foster care and celebrate those who make a meaningful difference in their lives.

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—builds awareness for National Foster Care Month through a dedicated website that includes resources, stories, and outreach tools to help you spread awareness at the State and local levels. Read the Children's Bureau message to learn more about the agency's commitment to the initiative.

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

Throughout its history, the Children's Bureau has worked to assist parents, children, and youth involved with foster care; engage families in decisions that affect their lives; and support foster families, kinship caregivers, child welfare professionals, and others who help these children. Learn more about how this work led to the establishment of the National Foster Care Month initiative by visiting the [About section](#) of the website.

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

Resources on the National Foster Care Month website emphasize this year's theme, which is focused on relative and kin connections to keep families strong. With these resources, we aim to help child welfare professionals develop strategies for prioritizing family placements, licensing relative caregivers who understand their role in supporting parents, providing equitable supports, and approaching this work with cultural humility. These resources showcase how supporting kinship connections can help the foster care system reinforce its support of families. [View the resources](#) to learn more.

What is the Reflections: Stories of Foster Care series?

Each year, the National Foster Care Month website features stories from families, youth, and caseworkers in which they share their experiences with foster care. These inspiring narratives and videos are a powerful way to connect people's experiences with foster care to important practice issues and can be used as a tool for training new child welfare professionals, recruiting and training foster parents, and

enhancing State and local media and awareness campaigns for National Foster Care Month. Visit the website to read [the personal stories](#) from youth, families, and professionals.

How can I promote National Foster Care Month in my community?

There are a number of tools in the [Raise Awareness](#) section you can use to help spread the word about National Foster Care Month, including the following:

- Sharable graphics
- Sample social media posts
- Email signatures and sample messaging

View examples of National Foster Care Month [proclamations](#) issued by various levels of government, and see what [State and local communities are doing](#) across the country to recognize National Foster Care Month and influence the development of your own campaign. [Sign up](#) to stay connected on how else to get involved throughout the campaign!



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