



FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

A monthly newsletter for CFSA's resource parents in the District of Columbia



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COVID-19 UPDATES

A Special Message from CFSA Director Brenda Donald

Greetings CFSA Resource Parents:

It has been one week since [DC Mayor Muriel Bowser declared both a state of emergency and a public health emergency](#) in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

DCPS moved to distance learning in order to help slow the spread of the virus and charter local education agencies have been encouraged to follow the DCPS operating status. Please monitor coronavirus.dc.gov for the latest information on the District of Columbia Government's response.



As of March 16, CFSA offices are closed to the general public. However, we continue to provide essential services to ensure the safety of the children in our care, including our child abuse and neglect hotline, (202) 671-SAFE, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

As you can imagine, COVID-19 has shifted our plans – including events. As we adjust our schedule, we will keep you informed on event changes and cancellations.

On Monday, FAPAC sent resource parents a detailed update on CFSA services, including details about training and licensing, social worker contacts and visits, and placements. The email also included information about other city services, such as the Family Court and meals for students. We will continue to work with FAPAC to keep that information up-to-date and flowing to you.

In addition:

- Read more about CFSA's Operating Status during the COVID-19 emergency [here](#);
- Please email COVID19.CFSA@dc.gov with any questions or concerns or call us at (202) 442-6100; and
- Reach the on-call nurse at (202) 498-8456 (if needed).

Finally, I want to acknowledge that the world's current public health emergency is impacting every aspect of our lives -- professionally, personally, and in our communities. On a normal day, our work is far from easy, and I recognize that health and safety concerns only add to any challenges. Your well-being is extremely important to us, and we appreciate your continued commitment. Remember, children often feel what you feel. Answering their questions and providing honest and age-appropriate information is best. To maintain your mental health during this emergency, the Department of Behavioral Health's mental health hotline (1-888-793-4357) is available for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We will continue to update you on COVID-19 related information as it becomes available. Thank you for all the sacrifices you are making during this time to keep DC kids and youth safe.

Please monitor coronavirus.dc.gov for the latest information.

Sincerely,

Brenda Donald
Director
DC Child and Family Services Agency

DC Child & Family Services
Agency
200 I Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

FAPAC News & Updates



A Message from FAPAC

Dear Families,

FAPAC will be canceling all of March's group activities and reassess at the end of the month. We will continue, as always, to offer individual support to any resource parent of a DC child. As we are working mostly remotely, please contact FAPAC Director Margie Chalofsky directly to request this support. Margie is best reached at margiec@dcfapac.org. Sending wishes of health and healing to your families, our community, our country, and our world. As always, please let us know how we can be of service.

-The FAPAC team

News You Can Use

CFSA to Launch New Resource Parent Support Program in April

CFSA will be transitioning from the current Mockingbird and Family Connections models to a new model we call BOND: The **B**ridge, **O**rganize, **N**urture and **D**evelop Resource Parent Support Program. With an expected launch on April 6, 2020, the new BOND Program will provide consistent and meaningful support for our traditional and kinship resource families. On March 31, the Mockingbird and Family Connections Programs will be officially terminated. We are very excited about the transition and the support this new program will provide to our resource parent partners! Contact your Resource Parent Support Worker for more information.

CFSA Event Cancellations and Changes

In our effort to practice COVID-19 prevention, the following CFSA events have been cancelled or postponed:

- CFSA Budget Oversight Hearing (March 25, 2020) – **Postponed until further notice**
- Office of Youth Empowerment's Local College Tour (April 14, 2020) – **Cancelled**
- Out-of-State College Tour (April 4 – 10, 2020) – **Postponed until further notice**

Please stay tuned for further updates.

Fostering Spotlight

Are You the Perfect Home for AJ?

Antonio, who goes by "AJ," is an active and energetic 11-year-old. He loves outdoor activities, like riding bikes and going to the park. He is a very humorous, engaging, and caring young man. AJ is quite inquisitive and likes to ask a lot of questions if there is a topic of interest. He is skillful at getting his needs met!

AJ would benefit from a loving family that is patient, committed, active in the community, and flexible while also providing both structure and consistency.

If you can see AJ being part of your forever family, contact Kim Walk at Kim.Walk@dc.gov for more information.



**Have feedback, tip or story idea?
Contact us at OPL.CFSA@dc.gov.**