



FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

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



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Upcoming Events

Thursday, June 20

Family Match Night Information Session
6 p.m.
CFSA Headquarters

Friday, June 28

Specialized Opportunity Youth (SOY) Open House
5 p.m.

Tuesday, July 9

Safe Sleep Workshop
11 a.m.
East River Family Strengthening Collaborative

Sunday, July 21

Specialized Opportunity Youth (SOY) Open House
3 p.m.

Tuesday, July 25

Family Match Night Information Session
6 p.m.
CFSA Headquarters

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

Financial incentives for child placement stability now underway



Effective this month, the DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) began issuing incentive payments to CFSA licensed foster parents who have provided kids in care a safe and stable placement in their home for 12 consecutive months. Qualifying foster parents will receive their annual payment via the ReliaCard® based on the date of the child's placement in their home.

To qualify for the placement stability incentive, a CFSA licensed foster parent must maintain a foster youth in their home for 12 consecutive months from the date of placement. Incentive payments will be released on a rolling quarterly schedule, following the annual anniversary placement date.

The incentive payment is part of a broader effort by CFSA to improve placements, minimize placement disruptions, and reduce the trauma that results from unplanned moves for kids in care. For more information, contact the [Placement and Foster Family Support Division](#).

CFSA is seeking two additional full-time, paid resource parents

CFSA recently completed a successful trial-run of the Professional Resource Parent Program, a pilot program that offers resource parents full-time, salaried positions to provide foster care services to young mothers and their children, many of whom have challenging needs. CFSA is seeking to recruit two resource parents who will serve the needs of committed young mothers (ages 15-20) and their children, who have experienced multiple placement challenges; are resistant to services; have experienced sex exploitation; suffer from mental and substance abuse; and/or have been exposed to significant trauma, child abuse and neglect.

Because of the complex issues these youth face, resource parents will be required to provide an array of services, including being an active participant in treatment planning, demonstrating strong and nurturing skills, role-modeling positive behaviors, providing safe and stable housing, providing transportation to and from appointments and other appropriate activities, and supporting positive outcomes for their behavioral, emotional, physical and mental well-being.

The Professional Resource Parent Program also supports CFSA's broader effort to improve placement stability for youth through increased support to foster parents. In addition to their salary, professional resource parents will also receive specialized training and additional resources to support their success. An announcement is forthcoming this summer to kick-off recruitment of additional resource parents for this program. For more information, contact [Tanya Trice](#).

CFSA Open House series promotes fostering older youth

Last month, CFSA kicked off the first in a series of Specialized Opportunity Youth (SOY) Open House events to encourage potential foster parents to open up their homes to older youth ages 12-20.

Hosted at the home of Tanya Dunn, a SOY Resource Parent, the Open House featured remarks from foster youth Shameleen Brown and her foster care mom. Guests were able to network and learn more about becoming a SOY foster parent.

The next SOY Open Houses will take place on Friday, June 28 and Sunday, July 21. For more information on the locations or to host a future SOY Open House event, contact [Dr. Regina Lawson](#).



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Is the DC Foster Parent App helpful?

In an effort to ensure the DC Foster Parent Application (App) is effective and resourceful for resource parents, CFSA invites your input to ensure that our DC Foster Parent App has the functionality necessary for maximum use by our resource parents. If you have not done so, please take a few minutes to fill out the survey below. For more information on the Foster DC Kids App or to find out how to download the app, [click here](#).

Click here to
take the survey

FAPAC News

- ◆ Peer Support group meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dinner and child-care are available. Advance registration required. [Register here](#).
- ◆ FAPAC is acknowledging social workers who go above and beyond to support our children and families. Submit names to [Margie Chalofsky](#).
- ◆ If you haven't received the opportunity to complete your **Shared Parenting Survey**, [take the survey here](#).

News You Can Use

CFSA announces end-of-school-year Performance Rewards Program

Check out CFSA's rewards for fourth quarter positive school performance for youth in foster care. Students can receive \$25 gift cards for achieving an "A" in core classes, attendance with no unexcused absences and improving a letter grade in core classes. [Click here](#) for more details. To claim your foster child's reward, send a copy of the report card to [Aisha McNamee](#) by July 31st for reward distribution. For general questions contact [Rachel Tetteh](#).

Resource parents can earn up to \$500 via CFSA's Foster Parent Referral Program

Currently-licensed CFSA resource parents can receive an incentive for referring interested persons who apply and complete foster care licensing and the placement process. The referring resource parent will receive \$300 when the referral becomes licensed and \$200 once the newly-licensed resource parent has a child placed in their home. [Click here](#) for more information.

Are you a match? CFSA offers information session to find homes for specific youth

Can you or someone you know open your heart, mind and home to foster or adopt a child or youth in the District? CFSA is hosting monthly information sessions to offer potential resource parents an opportunity to learn about the children and youth in need of an adoptive home.

These information sessions will focus on children/youth that need loving, caring and invested forever parents. Join us on any of the following dates from 6 p.m.—8 p.m. Mark your calendars for the upcoming sessions: June 20, 2019, July 25, 2019, September 19, 2019 and October 16, 2019. All sessions will be hosted at CFSA. For more information, contact [Kristin Barnes](#).

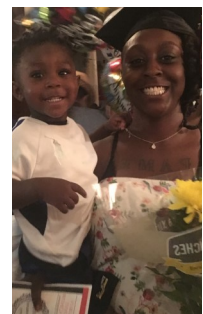
Fostering Spotlight: An OYE Success Story

The future is bright for OYE foster youth Kimnia Bailey

Kimnia Bailey, is an 18-year-old teen mother residing in Bright Futures Independent Living facility for teen moms. Since the passing of her parents, Kimnia has spent most of her life in foster care.

Kimnia doesn't allow life circumstances to get her down and is known for rising above the odds. The Bright Futures program helped Kimnia develop her leadership skills and she has been recognized for embodying the spirit of the program. She is an extraordinary young woman who continues to impress her social worker and her peers with her talent, diligence and work ethic.

Kimnia is a past recipient of the Office of Youth Empowerment's *Against All Odds* Award and is enrolled in the Maya Angelou Adult Learning Center. Last year, she also enrolled in OYE's *Making Money Grow* escrow program. Lastly, Kimnia works at the Walt Whitman Clinic with hopes of becoming an EMT technician.



Fostering Spotlight: Youth in need of a resource parent

Meet Terrance: Will your home be his new home?

Terrance is an engaged 11-year-old who express his love through lots of hugs. Terrance enjoys school, music and attending worship services. He is eager to have a family that will show him loads of love and attention. If you can envision Terrance being a part of your family, please reach out to CFSA. We are excited to find him an adoptive family he deserves and desires. For more information, contact CFSA social worker Michael Carr at (202) 727-7365.



Forward all feedback and story ideas to
nyerere.davidson@dc.gov

Editorial Staff
Lydia Sermons, writer/editor
Nyerere Davidson, writer