



# FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

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



# FEBRUARY

## Inside this issue:

- CFSA Birth, Resource Parent Listening Sessions** 1
- CFSA Public Town Hall** 1
- FAPAC News** 2
- News You Can Use** 2
- Upcoming Events**
- Thursday, March 5th**  
Listening Session on How To Better Serve Our Foster & Birth Families  
4pm — 6pm  
CFSA Headquarters  
200 I St., SE, WDC
- Saturday, March 7th**  
Listening Session on How To Better Serve Our Foster & Birth Families  
10am — 12pm  
CFSA Headquarters  
200 I St., SE, WDC
- Wednesday, March 11th**  
Financial Aid/Scholarships Workshop  
5pm — 6:30pm  
Office of Youth Empowerment  
3350 9th St., NE, WDC
- Wednesday, March 25th**  
CFSA Budget Engagement Forum  
10am — 12pm  
CFSA Headquarters  
200 I St., SE, WDC

## CFSA Hosts Listening Sessions for Birth, Resource Parents

DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) is working to address ways to better serve our foster and birth parents. On Thursday, March 5th at 4pm and Saturday, March 7th at 10am, we are offering two opportunities to discuss ways to improve your continued experience with the agency. Please come to one of our Listening Sessions at CFSA Headquarters.

If you are interested in this topic, but are unable to attend any of the meetings, please contact our Office of Public Information at [cfsa.opi@dc.gov](mailto:cfsa.opi@dc.gov). Share your ideas so that they may be included as we develop the vision that will guide our work.

Resource parents and birth parents are urged to RSVP at [cfsalisten.eventbrite.com](https://cfsalisten.eventbrite.com).

## Resource Parents, Community Attend CFSA Public Town Hall

CFSA welcomed a packed house of resource parents and stakeholders at January's Public Town Hall. Moderated by CFSA's senior leadership, some topics discussed were agency performance data, CFSA's new Data Dashboard, practice and policy changes, and much more.

Visit [cfsa.dc.gov](https://cfsa.dc.gov) to access presentations from last month's Town Hall. For more information, contact [CFSA.TownHall@dc.gov](mailto:CFSA.TownHall@dc.gov). See photos from the CFSA Public Town Hall below.



## New Foster Parent Training Regulation Act

The new Foster Parent Training legislation passed by the DC City Council last year requires CFSA to mandate new and updated training for resource parents who foster or might foster children who fall into one of the following categories: LGBTQ, pregnant or parenting, victims of sex trafficking, youth with a history of violence, youth with a disability and/or youth who are 16-plus years old.

Since you might foster a child that falls into these categories, CWTA has identified topics and courses that satisfy the training requirements of this legislation. These courses can be taken via the free online Foster Parent College (FPC) or you can take an in-person six-hour course at CFSA. You will soon receive additional information about courses you need to take depending on the children placed in your home. For questions or more information about FPC or specific trainings, contact [cwta.training@dc.gov](mailto:cwta.training@dc.gov).

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

## FAPAC News & Updates



### Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center (FAPAC) News

#### Coming Soon!

- Dialogue between Foster Parents and Older Youth (in partnership with Best Kids). Please email [info@dcfapac.org](mailto:info@dcfapac.org), if you are interested in participating.
- FAPAC is working on building back our training opportunities. We are gathering suggestions. Let us hear yours! Please email [info@dcfapac.org](mailto:info@dcfapac.org) with any ideas or suggestions.
- If you are not on our mailing list, or need our help, please contact FAPAC at (202) 269-9441 or [info@dcfapac.org](mailto:info@dcfapac.org).

## News You Can Use

### OYE Dates for College Prep Workshops

The Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) released dates for its latest college preparation workshops for youth-in-care. Case-carrying staff can sign-up youth-in-care for the following workshops. The next session will be the Financial Aid/Scholarships on March 11, 2020 from 5pm – 6:30pm. All workshops will be held at the OYE office (3350 9th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017). [Click here](#) for a full list of OYE College Prep Workshops. To register or for more information, contact Sade Price at [sade.price@dc.gov](mailto:sade.price@dc.gov) or (202) 727-7500.

### Summer Jobs Available to all Foster Youth through the MBSYEP

If youth need access to computers and supports for the application, the Office of Youth Empowerment will be offering a walk-in period on February 24 from 3 pm to 6 pm. Deadline is February 29, 2020. For more information, contact Afrilasia Joseph-Phipps at (202) 727-7517 or [Afrilasia.Joseph@dc.gov](mailto:Afrilasia.Joseph@dc.gov).

### OYE Seeking 20 Youth for Black College Expo on March 14

The Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) is offering 20 slots for the DC/Maryland Black College Expo on Saturday, March 14, 2020. Interested youth should contact Dr. Kimyatta Divinity at 202-727-6937 or [kimyatta.divinity@dc.gov](mailto:kimyatta.divinity@dc.gov).

### Mark Your Calendar: CFSA Budget Engagement Forum

To keep our community and stakeholders up to date on CFSA's budget and investments that support our children and families, the agency will host a Budget Engagement Forum on Wednesday, March 25th from 10am to 12pm at CFSA Headquarters (200 I St., SE, WDC).

More information is coming soon.

## Fostering Spotlight

### Are You the Perfect Home for Paris?

Paris is an outgoing, friendly and caring 16-year-old. She is funny, sassy and loves to talk to almost everyone. She is expressive and cheerful with a huge personality. Paris is insightful and has an ability to advocate for herself. Paris is very open to being adopted and needs a family who is patient and can provide structure, consistency, love and the attention that she deserves and desperately desires. She wishes to be a part of a "happy family" who enjoys being active in the community. If you can picture Paris being part of your forever family, please contact Kim Walk, LICSW at (202) 727-2454 or [kim.walk@dc.gov](mailto:kim.walk@dc.gov).



**Have feedback, a tip or story idea?**  
We welcome them all! Contact us at [OPLCFSA@dc.gov](mailto:OPLCFSA@dc.gov).