

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

DC CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

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



GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



February 2021 at a Glance

CFSA POLICY PRESS

Fostering Connections now includes *Policy Press*!

- CFSA Launches Portal for Resource Parents
- Summer Youth Employment Program Applications Due Feb. 27
- Save the Date: Oversight Hearing on Feb. 25
- Fingerprint Appointments Temporarily Relocated to MPD
- Standby Guardianship: Identifying a Temporary Caregiver

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Feature Stories

CFSA Launches Portal for Resource Parents

FosterDCKids.org has a new look and features updated content for current and prospective resource parents in both English and Spanish. You can now log into a private portal to access tip sheets and information. Contact your Resource Parent Social Worker for the password.

Check out the new FosterDCKids.org today and share it with anyone looking to welcome a DC youth into their hearts!



Summer Youth Employment Program Applications Due Feb. 27

Applications are now open for the 2021 Mayor Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP). District youth ages of 14 - 24 can apply online at summerjobs.dc.gov. Applications will be accepted until **Saturday, February 27, 2021**. In 2020, the MBSYEP continued during the public health emergency by going online and providing six weeks of telework experience for nearly 9,000 youth.

Share this with your youth and help them apply today!



Celebrate Black History Month and Heart Health Month

The theme of **Black History Month 2021** is "The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity." With your support, CFSA works everyday to celebrate and strengthen DC families, so we love this year's theme! Honor Black history all year round and check out these activities:

- Understand your roots and [schedule a Genealogy Research Session](#) with the National Museum of African American History and Culture.



- Entertainment is wellness, too. Explore these [28 films on Netflix or Amazon Prime](#) that span the ages of Black cinema.

February is **Heart Health Month**! Show yourself a little love and explore these [heart health tips](#) and Look for more heart health information in Wellness Works.



Save the Date: Oversight Hearing on Feb. 25



On an annual basis, The DC Council conducts a review of every District agency to discuss agency performance over the last fiscal year. You are invited to watch Director Donald's testimony during CFSA's Performance Oversight Hearing on **Thursday, February 25 at 12 p.m.** After testimony by public witnesses, Director Donald will respond to questions from Councilmembers about how CFSA is fulfilling its responsibilities and serving families.

Visit DCCouncil.us to livestream the hearing at noon on February 25.

News You Can Use

Fingerprint Appointments Temporarily Relocated to MPD

Resource parents must have police and FBI clearances every year. To ensure proper social distancing, fingerprint appointments have been temporarily moved from CFSA to MPD headquarters. CFSA resource parents, their household members, and back-up caregivers must make appointments at MPD headquarters (300 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001).

Call (202) 671-6705 or email Travon.James@dc.gov to schedule an appointment. Request a Criminal History Check, not a DC Clearance. For questions or challenges getting an appointment, contact your licensing or relicensing worker.

Standby Guardianship: Identifying a Temporary Caregiver

The [DC Standby Guardian Amendment Act of 2020](#) allows parents to designate a guardian (usually a relative or trusted friend) to care for their child if they become unable to do so. Standby guardianship allows parents to create care plans without terminating or limiting their legal rights in any way. For information about designating a standby guardian, [click here](#).

Activities for All Ages

Check out these kid-friendly resources that feature activities for you and the young people in your life.

- [DC Public Library calendar of events](#)
- [KidFriendly DC blog for parents](#)

Resource Parent Information Session

Saturday, February 13 | 10 - 11:30 a.m. | [RSVP](#) required

Know someone interested in fostering or adopting? The CFSA Recruitment Team will host an online information session this Saturday, February 13, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Attendees will connect with CFSA representatives and learn whether fostering or child-specific

adoption is right for them. Presenters will discuss DC's foster care system, children who are currently in care, and the supports that CFSA provides foster parents. RSVP is required. Register online via [Eventbrite](#).

We're in This Together: Professional Parent Get-Together

Tuesday, February 23 | 7 - 8 p.m. | [RSVP](#) required

CFSA's Professional Parents are invited to join the next bi-monthly gathering on Tuesday, February 23, from 7 to 8 p.m. This free-flowing virtual meeting is an opportunity to connect, share common experiences, and bond. Remember: we're not meant to do life alone! Email Kristin.Barnes@dc.gov to RSVP.

Fellowship & Feedback: Social Work Month Edition!

Friday, March 5 | 12 - 1 p.m. | [RSVP](#) not required

Join the next monthly Fellowship & Feedback session on Friday, March 5, from 12 to 1 p.m. We will kick off Social Work Month by addressing how social workers serve you and the children in your care. Connect with CFSA leaders, meet other resource parents, and share your thoughts and ideas. Discussion questions can be submitted ahead of time to ReachCFSA@dc.gov. Access the meeting via [Webex](#) or dial 202-860-2110 and use the access code 180 172 61637.

Department of Behavioral Health Weekly Parent Support Group

Wednesdays | 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. | [RSVP](#) not required

CFSA Resource parents can join the DC Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) [Wellness Wednesday parent support group](#). These virtual meetings provide DC parents with a space to connect with others, take care of themselves, and help foster resiliency in the children in their care during these challenging times. Sessions occur via Webex every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Review the [February calendar](#) for session topics and meeting access information.

Fostering Spotlight

Meet Gabby

Gabby is a thirteen-year-old girl who is curious, funny, caring, and imaginative. She is also friendly, outgoing, and loves to socialize. She enjoys traveling, trying new foods, creating stories, getting her nails done, and anything involving hair and dolls!

Gabby wants a forever family—especially one that is patient and can help with learning challenges, excited to empower her as she explores her identity, listens as she shares her thoughts, and provides her with the structure and support she needs to achieve her goals.



If you can imagine welcoming Gabby into your heart and your home, please reach out to Mr. Brian "Michael" Carr at Brian.Carr@dc.gov.

CFSA POLICY PRESS

Moving forward, CFSA's quarterly *Policy Press* newsletter will be incorporated into *CFSA Today*. You can now access all policy updates alongside agency news, program updates, and upcoming events.

Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) Policy & Business Process

The ICPC policy and business process were updated and implemented in July 2020. Generally, an ICPC must be completed each time a CFSA child is placed in an out-of-state placement, or a child from another state is placed in the District of Columbia, with a few exceptions. The ICPC Policy and business process outlines the ICPC requirements while providing guidance on ICPC activities, such as when an ICPC is needed and how to make an ICPC request.

For more information, visit [Program - Interstate Compact on Placement of Children \(ICPC\) | cfsa \(dc.gov\)](#).

Hotline and Investigations Procedural Operations Manuals (POMs)

The POMs are practice reference guides for CPS Hotline and Investigations staff. Both versions were updated and implemented in June 2020. Starting in December 2020, the POMs will be updated regularly to reflect practice changes. A survey has been shared with CPS and Hotline staff to inform these adjustments. The next planned update to the manuals is expected to occur in June 2021 and every six months thereafter.

Please visit [Hotline POM | cfsa \(dc.gov\)](#) and [Investigations POM | cfsa \(dc.gov\)](#) to learn more about Hotline and Investigations practice tips and procedures.

Additional Policy Updates

You can learn about the agency's new and recently updated governance pertaining to [Medication Management and Administration](#), [CPS Diversions](#), and [Safe Haven](#).

Have feedback, a tip, or a story?

We want to hear from you! Please send all inquiries, suggestions, or story ideas to cfsa.opi@dc.gov.

Follow CFSA on social media!



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

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