



FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

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



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Wednesday, October 16	
Family Match Night	
4:30 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.	
at CFSA Headquarters	

National Kinship Care Month 2019 Meet Our Kinship Support Services Team

National Kinship Care Month provides an opportunity for everyone across the country to recognize and celebrate kinship caregiving families.

DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) administers a robust kinship support program that engages relative caregivers (and potential relative caregivers) of children both inside and outside of the foster care system.



With more than 229 children currently placed with kin, the CFSA Kinship Support Services team is at the forefront of keeping kids in care connected to their communities.

“We believe that kinship care is one of the best ways to minimize the trauma of entering foster care or being separated from a parent,” said Ana Burgos, Program Manager—Kinship Support Services. “We also realize that all families have strengths and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect,” she added..

Services provided by the Kinship Support team include emergency and traditional licensing of kinship homes. Our Kinship Support staff also ensures caregivers have the proper beds, cribs, and gift cards to purchase food and clothing for the children placed in their homes.

One of the newest programs recently under Kinship Support Services is the Parent Engagement, Education and Resource (PEER) unit. PEER staff are assigned to birth parents to support them with their case plan goals in order to reunify with their children as quickly as possible. [Click here](#) for more information on PEER.

Relatives who are interested in caring for kin in foster care with CFSA should contact CFSA at (202) 442-6100 to speak with a social worker about becoming a licensed kinship foster parent.

UPDATE: Resource parents to participate in CFSA

Planning for CFSA’s new resource parent recruitment campaign is now underway. This campaign is intended to expand our array of family-based foster homes. The goal of the campaign is to recruit new resource parents, deepen our community involvement and strengthen support for our foster care system.

CFSA’s recruitment campaign partner, LINK Strategic Partners, will begin reaching out to resource parents to conduct interviews this month. These interviews will help determine what motivates your commitment to foster and adopt, what’s working well, and the types of challenges faced by resource parents and CFSA staff. LINK will also convene focus group sessions to further understand public perception of foster care as a way to increase first placements with kin, increase placement resources and refine our placement matching tool.

For more information on CFSA’s new resource parent recruitment campaign, Contact Kristin.Barnes@dc.gov.

DC Child & Family Services Agency
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FAPAC News & Updates

Updates from the Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center



Fall and Winter 2019 Foster Parent Training Schedule

September

Parenting Across Racial and Cultural Lines: What You Need to Know (in partnership with FamilyWorks Together) - Saturday, September 28, 2019 (*Note: this class is full. Contact us to join waiting list.*)

October

Inside the Adolescent Brain—Date: TBD

November/December

Reasonable and Prudent Parenting (RPP); Legislation and Practice (in partnership with CFSA) —
Date: TBD

For more information on training, visit www.dcfapac.org, call (202) 269-9441 or e-mail info@dcfapac.org.

- ◆ Peer Support group meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6pm to 8pm Dinner and childcare 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](#).

News You Can Use

The Office of Youth Empowerment to offer local college tour, registration is open

The Office of Youth Empowerment is sponsoring their local Fall College Tour. The tour will visit two colleges in Virginia. RSVP by **Thursday, October 24**. Lunch and snacks will be provided. To RSVP or for more information, contact Jai-Ahmal Mitchell at jai-ahmal.mitchell2@dc.gov, 202-727-2426 or Dr. Kimyatta Divinity at kimyatta.divinity@dc.gov, 202-727-6937.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid opens October 1. Get assistance today!

College is rewarding experience but, for many, it is also an expensive one. CFSA's Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) wants to make sure our older youth are provided with the resources they need to flourish as they embark on the college experience. On October 1, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available and OYE will provide assistance to youth who plan to complete their FAFSA documentation. To apply, please visit www.fafsa.ed.gov. For application assistance, contact your social worker or e-mail Afrilasia.Joseph@dc.gov.

Are you a match? CFSA hosts final 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 its final monthly information session of the year to offer potential resource parents an opportunity to learn about children and youth in need of an adoptive home. These information sessions will focus on children and youth that need loving, caring and invested forever parents. Join us on any of the following dates from 6pm — 8pm Mark your calendars for this session on **October 16, 2019** at the CFSA Headquarters. For more information, contact [Kristin Barnes](#).

Discontinued: Foster DC Kids app

We want to thank all resource parents who participated in the Foster DC Kids App user survey. However, due to low usage and insufficient demand, the Foster DC Kids App has been discontinued as of September 1, 2019.

Forward all feedback and story ideas to
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