



The National Foster Parent Association is a champion for the thousands of families that open their hearts and home to over 400,000 children in out-of-home placement in the US.

www.nfpaonline.org | info@nfpaonline.org | 800-557-5238

24 State Members

CoSA
Council of State Affiliates



Meet NFPA's State Affiliates (CoSA)

We are members of NFPA's **Council of State Affiliates**.

We are state non-profit foster care associations that provide support to foster, adoptive and kinship families and children.

We Need Your Ongoing Support!

- ⇒ Congress has a long history of caring about youth in foster care. We are grateful for that. We are seeking federal policy improvements that lead to better outcomes and opportunities for youth who experience foster care.
- ⇒ We want to share what's working, and not working to help youth in foster care heal and thrive. Our recommendations focus on mental health, permanency and economic security for youth and young adults.
- ⇒ Supporting foster parents and caregivers is critical to youth having permanency, whether it's reunifying with their families or having lifelong family through guardianship or adoption.

Why It Matters

Effective training and support for foster parents

- Improves retention
- Increase placement stability
- Increases capacity to help care for children/youth

A holistic approach

- Meaningfully addresses the mental health needs of foster children and youth
- Focuses broadly on their overall well-being - home, family, school, work, and community

Stable, nurturing placements

- Positively impacts child resilience and long-term well-being
- Relational permanency is fundamental to the well-being of children and youth in foster care

Maintaining relationships with relatives and kin

- Increases stability
- Reduces trauma
- Helps children maintain a sense of family, belonging, and identity

Everyone has a role to play in helping children and youth exit care with strengthened minds, holistic supports, and stable families.

www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth

The Stats



- There are over [391,000 children and youth in foster care](#).
- [Mental and behavioral health](#) is the largest unmet health need for these children and teens.
- Many LGBTQIA2S+ teens, African Americans, Latinx/Hispanic and Asian Americans in foster care also deal with language barriers, and higher rates of depression, and substance abuse.

ISSUE 1: FOSTER PARENT SHORTAGE/TURNOVER

Support the <i>bipartisan</i> Recruiting Families Using Data Act H.R. 3058/S. 1313	<i>Sponsored by:</i> Rep. Kildee (H-MI) and Feenstra (H-IA) Grassley (S-IA) Hassan (S-NH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates the existing requirement in Title IV regarding diligent recruitment of foster and adoptive families• Expands best practices such as kin-first, sibling connections, and family placements for teens
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ISSUE 2: LACK OF FAMILY-BASED PLACEMENT OPTIONS

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creates “Core Supports” for family-based foster care
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ISSUE 3: UNMET YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

Support Foster Youth Mental Health Act S. 2836		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a national navigation program to support the mental health and well-being of foster youth and former foster youth• Would provide assistance to foster, adoptive parents, kinship guardians, and parents• Would require states to develop a comprehensive mental health system for foster care
Support legislation from <i>last Congress (2021)</i> Treatment Family Care Services Act S. 3761		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide standardized definition of treatment family care• Require Medicaid to provide guidance to states on treatment opportunities

ISSUE 4: WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

Title IV-B		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the \$20M for workforce development in Title IV-B for better training for caseworkers• Create new competitive or formula grants in Title IV-B of the Social Security Act with additional funding for states to address both recruitment and retention• Create task forces or working groups to compile and disseminate best practices on issues such as creating psychological safety and wellness for staff, racial disparities in child welfare, promoting a diverse workforce, and reducing barriers to social work licensure.
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