



Congressional staff, please join us for a policy briefing hosted by the National Foster Parent Association and its Council of State Affiliates in partnership with Journey to Success.

Date: October 27

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Where: Rayburn House Office Building, room 2020

Foster parent leaders from 18 states will share their insights and will identify ways to strengthen and streamline federal IV-B policy to promote best practices in **foster parent recruitment, retention, support and training**. Effective foster parent recruitment and retention policies are important because children in stable, well-supported family-based care have better outcomes in education, health, mental health, and family permanency. Strengthening our support of kin and non-kinship caregivers through IV-B can result in placement stability, opportunities to meet a child’s special needs, and improve chances to reunify a child with their family.

Enacted in 1994, Title IV-B of the Social Security Act includes a requirement that state child welfare agencies “provide for the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the State for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed.” HHS oversees the state approaches to meeting this requirement, which includes states developing “diligent recruitment plans” as part of the Child and Family Services Plan (also a Title IVB requirement). For years, state child welfare agencies have struggled to recruit and retain families. Much has been studied and written about these challenges and what’s needed to address them without any resulting changes in the law. Increasing concerns about youth staying in hotels and office buildings is again shining the light on the need for solutions to foster parent solutions.

Foster parent leaders will share their insights to foster parent shortages and the concerning trend of youth staying in hotels and office buildings. They will highlight how strengthening support for kin and non-kin caregivers is a critical strategy to ensure that youth in foster care are with family and in family-based settings and not institutions or lingering in inappropriate placements.

States of foster parent leaders participating include:

**Connecticut** - Margaret Doherty, CT-- Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families

**Florida** -- Amanda Cruce, Gainesville, FL – Florida’s Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

**Florida** -- Armetta Torrence – Florida Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

**Georgia** - Carsandra Favors, Savannah, GA – Adoption and Foster Parent Association of Georgia

**Indiana** - Keith Mason, Indiana, NFPA Board of Directors

**Kansas** - Pamela Robbins, Kansas – Kansas Foster and Adoptive Parents Association

**Kentucky** - Rebecca Mullins, Beattyville, KY – Kentucky Foster & Adoptive Care Association

**Kentucky** - Melinda McGuire: Mt Vernon, KY – Kentucky Foster & Adoptive Care Association

**Louisiana** - Peggy Kirby, West Monroe, LA -- Louisiana Foster & Adoptive Parents Association

**Maine** - Sarah Hatt, Wade, Maine – Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine

**Maryland** - Stefany Lang, Owings Mills, MD – Maryland Resource Parent Association

**Maryland** - Arnie Eby, Hagerstown, MD – National Foster Parent Association

**Michigan** - Lara Bouse, Howell, MI – Fostering Forward Michigan

**Missouri** - DeAnna Alonso, Missouri – FosterAdopt Missouri

**Nebraska** - Tammy Wells, Alma, NE – Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

**Nevada** - Ben Douglas, Nevada – Foster Change

**Nevada** - Cindy Tarrant, Nevada – Foster Change

**New Jersey** - Corinne: Shrewsbury, NJ – Umbrella

**North Carolina** - Gaile Osborne, North Carolina – Foster Family Alliance of North Carolina

**Oklahoma** - Karen Poteet, Oklahoma

**Texas** - Kellie Pittman, Tyler, Texas – Texas Foster Family Association

**Texas** – Denise Blakney – Building Future Families

**Washington** - Mary McGauhey, Marysville, WA – Foster Parent Alliance of Washington State