

Tell our story, too



A Child Welfare Resource Guide for Journalists

The child welfare system is not just about foster care anymore.

The number of children in the foster care system has been safely declining nationally in recent years, which is a positive trend. But there is so much more to the story.

In addition to serving the 424,000 children living in foster care each year, the child welfare system is helping 936,000 additional children who are living at home while their parents or caregivers receive the services they need to raise their families safely and successfully.

For those children who are abused or neglected and need the temporary refuge that foster care can provide, there is a growing focus on moving those children into safe and stable homes with families they forever can call their own.

At the same time, efforts are underway in Washington, D.C., to transform how our nation pays for child welfare services, with the goal of giving states greater flexibility to invest in preventing abuse and neglect, thereby reducing the need for foster care.

Journalists who cover the nuanced field of child welfare have a responsibility to understand these and other changes taking place. To aid journalists, Casey Family Programs has created a resource guide to help you access information on child welfare trends and up-to-date statistics.

Casey Family Programs is the nation's largest operating foundation working in partnership with child welfare systems to keep children safe and support their lifelong connections to stable families and supportive communities.

Casey Family Programs

Our website provides a national perspective on changes taking place to better serve vulnerable children, their families and the communities where they live.

www.casey.org

Our series of white papers on ensuring safe, nurturing and permanent families for all children provides a detailed analysis of federal child welfare financing policies and child safety.

<http://www.casey.org/whitepapers/>

Child Welfare Information Gateway

This website is chock-full of comprehensive, up-to-date information and resources on child welfare topics, including child abuse and neglect, foster care, adoption, prevention and permanency. It is a service of the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

www.childwelfare.gov

Children's Bureau

The home page for the federal agency that oversees child welfare has numerous links to useful information.

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/index.htm

This direct link to national and state adoption and foster care statistics is regularly updated. (Please note that the most current-year statistics are usually two years behind.)

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.htm#afcars

National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections

This training, technical assistance and information services organization, part of the Hunter College School of Social Work, is dedicated to improving the work of public and tribal child welfare agencies.

www.nrcpfc.org

The website includes a helpful listing of state foster care contacts.

www.nrcpfc.org/fci

The website also includes a direct link to state-by-state child welfare fact sheets.

www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/fact-sheets.html

National Foster Care Month

Each May, National Foster Care Month raises public awareness about the urgent needs of children and teenagers in the foster care system and encourages citizens from every walk of life to get involved – as foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors, employers or in other ways. The website is treasure trove of child welfare information that is of value year-round.

www.fostercaremonth.org

Foster care alumni organizations

Those who grew up in the foster care system (“foster care alumni”) are the most powerful voices to tell the story of the child welfare system. Two organizations advocate of their behalf: Foster Care Alumni of America and FosterClub.

www.fostercarealumni.org

www.fosterclub.org

Other organizations dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable children and families

Annie E. Casey Foundation

www.aecf.org

Marguerite Casey Foundation

www.caseygrants.org

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative

www.jimcaseyyouth.org

Casey Family Services

www.caseyfamilyservices.org

Orphan Foundation of America

www.orphan.org

National Foster Care Coalition

www.nationalfostercare.org

National Foster Parent Association

www.nfpainc.org

North American Council on Adoptable Children

www.nacac.org

AdoptUSKids

www.adoptuskids.org