



National nonprofits are powerful advocates for vulnerable children and youth.

Changing the Foster Care System

There are approximately 496,000 children in the American foster care system. As an advocate for change, Casey Family Programs is committed to our 2020 Strategy—an ambitious yet attainable reform to safely reduce the need for foster care and better the lives of those in it. We are not doing this alone. Across the nation, nonprofits are being advocates for change by helping to safely reduce the number of children in foster care and working to ensure that those who remain have the support they need to succeed.

While the challenge is great, our collective potential to improve the lives of our most vulnerable children is far greater. Here are just a few examples of how nonprofits are tailoring their work to tackle these challenges.



The destiny of all of us is, to a large extent, in the keeping of each of us.



—Jim Casey, Founder United Parcel Service (UPS) and Casey Family Programs

Examples of National Nonprofit Organizations Advocating for Youth in Foster Care

AARP

Impact Areas: Safely Reducing the Number of Youth in Foster Care

With 40 million members nationwide, AARP is the nation's largest membership organization for people 50 and over. More than six million children—approximately one in 12—are living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives. AARP Foundation, in partnership with Casey Family Programs, Brookdale Foundation Group, Child Welfare League of America, Children's Defense Fund and Generations United have compiled fact sheets for grandparents raising their grandchildren. These fact sheets are designed to help grandparents navigate the laws, policies, financial assistance, and custody procedures relevant to kinship caregivers in each state. AARP also has a national database searchable by ZIP code of support groups for grandparents and grandchildren.

America's Promise Alliance/First Focus

Impact Areas: Education and Safely Reducing the Number of Youth in Foster Care

America's Promise Alliance, founded by Ret. Gen. Colin L. Powell and chaired by his wife, Alma Powell, is the nation's largest multi-sector collaborative, involving more than 240 organizations, dedicated to the well-being of children and youth. America's Promise is hosting Dropout Prevention Summits across all 50 states to raise awareness about the dropout crisis in America. The summits mobilize state policymakers, community leaders, corporations, philanthropies, and nonprofits to take action. In partnership with Casey Family Programs, the summits will involve child welfare leaders to discuss the specific educational challenges facing youth in foster care. First Focus is a bipartisan advocacy organization affiliated with America's Promise. Casey Family Programs is teaming with these organizations to educate policymakers on the needs of youth in foster care while building state advocacy coalitions aimed at safely reducing the number of youth in foster care.

City Year

Impact Areas: Mentoring and Positive Youth Development

City Year unites 1,500 young people of all backgrounds for a year of full-time service, giving them the skills and opportunities to change the world. As tutors, mentors and role models, these young leaders make a difference in the lives of children, and transform schools and neighborhoods in 18 U.S. locations and Johannesburg, South Africa. Just as important, during their year of service, corps members develop civic leadership skills they can use throughout a lifetime of community service. In Seattle and San Antonio, City Year partners with Casey Family Programs to provide tutoring and mentoring to children in, or transitioning from, foster care. City Year also offers service opportunities to alumni of foster care as corps members.

National Urban League

Impact Areas: Employment, Education, and Safely Reducing the Number of Youth in Foster Care

Founded in 1910, the National Urban League currently provides direct services to more than 2 million people nationwide through programs, advocacy and research. The Los Angeles Urban League's Neighborhoods at Work is revitalizing a 70 square block area in South Los Angeles around Crenshaw High School, where more than 60 percent of students have spent time in foster care. This significantly underserved community is working to improve in the areas of safety, health, housing, employment and education. NUL is also working on a national level to serve more youth in foster care and to build the public will for policy change. Casey Family Programs, in partnership with NUL, is training NUL affiliates to be a credible voice for policy change in communities.

How You Can Help

If you want more information about child welfare or would like to explore ways your influence can make a difference for children in foster care, please contact Casey Family Programs' Strategic Alliances team at 206.282.7300.

Casey Family Programs is the nation's largest operating foundation entirely focused on foster care. Since 1966, we have worked to provide and improve foster care in the United States. Decades of front-line experience make us exceptionally qualified to identify various improvements in child welfare practices, and help states and counties implement them.



www.casey.org