

## NCTSN External Resources National Foster Care Month (May 2020)

In 2018, there were an estimated 437,283 children in foster care ([Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System](#)). A child can be removed from the home and placed in foster care for a variety of reasons including abuse or neglect, parent-child conflict, and the presence of serious physical or behavioral problems in the child that cannot be addressed in the home. This year marks the 32nd anniversary of the observance of May as National Foster Care Month. Originally envisioned by the [National Foster Parent Association](#) as a way of recognizing the contributions of foster caregivers, National Foster Care Month expanded into a campaign that draws attention to the needs of children in foster care, spotlights the importance of permanency for them, and celebrates the contributions of those who work to help children in foster care.

### For Foster Families

#### [National Foster Parent Association](#)

Supports foster parents in achieving safety, permanence and well-being for the children and youth in their care.

#### [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

- [Supports for Foster Families](#)  
Provides resources that support foster parents during what can be a challenging process.
- [Building Relationships with Foster Parents](#) (2009) (PDF)  
Presents a complete issue of Rise magazine, which is written by and for parents involved in child welfare. This issue explores the obstacles to positive relationships and the actions and attitudes that help parents and children connect.
- [Resources for Foster Families](#)  
Provides information on supports for foster parents, the fundamentals of parenting children in foster care, working together with birth families, and adopting a child from foster child.

#### [Foster Parent College](#)

Helps foster parents understand behavior, recognize behavior triggers, and discover fresh ideas for coping.

#### [North American Council on Adoptable Children](#)

Ensures children in care have a permanent, loving family and that families have the support they need to care for children who have experienced abuse, neglect, and trauma.

### For Birth Parents

#### [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

- [Resources for Parents With Children and Youth in Out-of-Home Care](#)  
Provides information designed to assist parents in learning more about foster care, including what to expect, tips for building positive relationships with caseworkers and your child's caregiver, and information to help you navigate the child welfare and reunification process.

### [Rise \[Stories by and for Parents Affected by the Child Welfare System\]](#)

Works to combat negative stereotypes of families in the child welfare system. Trains parents to write about their experiences with the child welfare system, with the goals of: 1) supporting parents and parent advocacy, and 2) guiding child welfare practitioners and policy makers to become more responsive to the families and communities they serve. Publishes *Rise Magazine* (online and print), which reaches 15,000 parents and child welfare practitioners nationwide; workbooks designed for parent support groups; and related Spanish-language materials. Website includes advocacy resource materials.

## **For Child Welfare Professionals**

### [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#)

- [How Public Agencies Can Transform Foster Parenting](#) (2016)  
Explores how public agencies can enlist more individuals and families to become foster parents and encourage those who now serve to continue their extraordinary commitment

### [Casey Family Programs](#)

Works to provide and improve—and ultimately prevent the need for—foster care in the United States.

### [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

- [Promoting Protective Factors for Children and Youth in Foster Care: A Guide for Practitioners](#) (2015) (PDF)  
Presents information from a review of current research linking protective factors to well-being for children and youth in and transitioning out of foster care.

### [The Chadwick Center for Children and Families](#)

Provides hospital based child advocacy and trauma treatment centers in the nation, is staffed with more than 75 professionals in the field of medicine, social work, psychology, psychiatry, child development, nursing and education technology. They are committed to family-centered care and a multidisciplinary approach to child abuse and family violence.

## **For Educators**

### [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

- [Educational Stability for Children and Youth in Foster Care: State and Local Examples](#)  
Offers examples of programs, strategies, and tools that States and localities have implemented to support educational stability and positive educational outcomes for children and youth in foster care.

### [Legal Center for Foster Care and Education](#)

- [Fostering Success in Education: National Factsheet on the Educational Outcomes of Children in Foster Care](#) (2018) (PDF)  
Provides statistical and demographic data on the education of children in foster care in the United States.

## For Mental Health Professionals

### Casey Family Programs

- [Mental Health, Ethnicity, Sexuality and Spirituality Among Youth in Foster Care](#) (2007) (PDF)  
Surveys youth in foster care about mental health, spirituality, ethnic identity, gender identity, and sexual orientation.
- [What is the Impact of Substance Abuse on Child Welfare?](#) (2018) (PDF)  
Contextualizes the opioid epidemic with statistical information, provides a selection of resources that underscore the key safety and permanency considerations in addressing substance abuse, highlights tools and frameworks that facilitate the collaborative action required for successful intervention, and describes some innovations and jurisdictional implementations.

## For Youth

### Casey Family Programs

- [Casey Life Skills](#)  
Assesses independent living skills and provides results instantly.” Contains tools for assessing the types of behaviors and competencies youth need to acquire in order to achieve their long-term goals. Includes customized learning plans to help adolescents in foster care prepare for adulthood, and develop healthy and productive lives.

### Child Welfare Information Gateway

- [Resources for Youth Involved With Child Welfare](#)  
Provides informative briefs and guidelines to aid youth while they are in foster care or preparing to transition from foster care, including state and local examples.

### Foster Club

- [Transition Toolkit](#)  
Helps youth and their team of adult supporters take inventory of your current assets, identify your resources, and map out a plan for the challenges after foster care.

### Foster Care to Success

Annually, approximately 5,000 turn to Foster Care to Success (FC2S) for the support they cannot get from a parent or guardian – like financial backing for college in the form of scholarships and grants, care packages and family-like encouragement, academic and personal mentoring, and help with internships and employment readiness skills.

### Foster Youth in Action

Believes in the power of the foster youth voice. We organize a grassroots network of foster youth-led groups through training, leadership opportunities, shared learning and advocacy. With 16 foster youth-driven partners in 17 states, FYA is the only national organization raising up and connecting independent, grassroots groups fighting to secure rights and opportunities that current and former foster youth deserve.

### A Home Within

Works solely to meeting the emotional needs of foster youth.

## Planning for and Supporting Foster Care Month

### [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

- [National Foster Care Month 2020](#)
  - Provides information and resources to support Foster Care Month.