



OCYF Trauma Team

National Foster Care Month

May is National Foster Care Month. This year, the Children’s Bureau has chosen the theme “Centered on Family, Strengthened by Connections,” highlighting the vital role of family relationships and authentic engagement in decision-making. The Office of Children, Youth, and Families (OCYF) shares this commitment, recognizing that listening to families and supporting their relationships with one another builds trust and promotes the well-being of both children and families. OCYF continues to support agencies and coalitions statewide in their recruitment and awareness efforts.

As we consider foster care, it is important to recognize the dedication of those serving as temporary caregivers, whether through kinship or foster placements, across Pennsylvania. Parenting traumatized children presents significant challenges, often leading to frustration and exhaustion. Nevertheless, caregivers’ calm and consistent responses are essential for the child’s healing. To maintain this calm, caregivers must adopt trauma-informed approaches, including strategies for regulation and de-escalation when working with children in foster care and even in consideration of their secondary trauma. (<https://www.thrivewithin.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/guide-for-foster-parents.pdf>)



Help raise awareness for National Foster Care Month by coordinating a Wear Blue Day at your school or organization, and sharing photos with parents, guardians, and on school social media. This token symbolizes our support for the foster and kinship parents who selflessly volunteer to assist Pennsylvania’s most vulnerable children.

Are you aware of the following resources that can help you support foster parents?

The Children's Bureau creates awareness for National Foster Care Month through a dedicated website that includes [resources](#), and [stories](#) to assist child welfare staff to spread awareness at the State and local levels. Additionally, there are Pennsylvania specific website including [PA KinConnector](#) and [PA Navigate](#) that are resources to help support foster and kinship caregivers.

Adapted from: [About National Foster Care Month | Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

Suspect Abuse? Report it! Call ChildLine at 1-800-932-0313

Make the Call

Report Online 