

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

AGN. NO.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH – MAY 2025

JUNE 3, 2025

National Foster Care Month is celebrated each May to increase awareness of the needs of children in foster care and to recognize the significant contribution of resource parents, family members, extended family, and members of the community who help children and youth in foster care to reunify with parents, find permanent homes, and build lifelong connections. By proclaiming Foster Care Month, the County joins the child welfare community in a focused commitment to ensuring a safe, family focused, and hopeful future for the more than 12,000 Los Angeles County children and youth in out of home care.

We celebrate Foster Care Month to raise awareness of our shared goal to help youth exit foster care with strengthened lifelong relationships, holistic supports, and opportunities for success with an emphasis on the importance of the youth voice in improving long-term outcomes. We acknowledge the vital role that patient, loving, and committed resource families provide in helping to meet the well-being, cultural, and mental health needs of all children. Only through the commitment of the thousands of kin caregivers, community resource families, and adoptive parents is the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) able to care for and meet the needs of the children and families that they serve.

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As the largest public child welfare agency in the country, DCFS recruits, prepares and supports resource families to provide healthy, stable and loving homes to children until they can be safely returned to their birth parents or find an alternative permanent family. DCFS welcomes individuals and families—regardless of age, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, marital or domestic partnership status, medical or disability status—to open up their doors to children in need of a home, particularly, sibling groups, teenagers, young adults and children with medical needs. Children in foster care have experienced the trauma of abuse and neglect, which requires the commitment of special people in their lives to help them heal.

Additionally, the work that DCFS does on behalf of children and families in Los Angeles County continues to be supported and enhanced through collaborations and partnerships with many community and faith-based organizations. Organizations such as our local Foster Family Agencies, who provide much needed placement homes and supportive services; mental health agencies; and our many community service partners provide needed supports. DCFS' own Faith-based Collaborative further uplifts the partnerships for outreach and support through faith communities. Local community colleges render their support by opening their campuses for events and through Foster Care Kinship Education training. By working together, we establish a powerful network of agents for change in support of home-based family care for children.

Let this celebration of National Foster Care Month be a “Call to Action” to engage others in our community to support our local child welfare agency and its endeavors to meet the needs of children and families in Los Angeles County.

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I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

- (1) Declare the month of May 2025 as Foster Care Month in Los Angeles County;
- (2) Encourage families and other members of the community to consider the benefits and rewards of becoming a resource or adoptive parent by visiting www.FosterLAKids.org and www.JuntosconlosNinos.org;
- (3) Invite the public to call (888) 811-1121 to learn more about foster care and to get details on attending an upcoming resource parent recruitment orientation.

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