

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

November 18, 2025

NOVEMBER 2025 IS ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

There are more than 200 children and youth in the Los Angeles County (County) foster care system waiting for a permanent family and a place to call home. Adoption is a celebration of something powerful from the moment a child and a parent choose each other. For children, it means safety, love, and a place to call home. For parents, it brings new beginnings, unexpected joys and love that grows deeper every day. November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor a beautiful truth. Adoption builds more than families. It builds a future for the child, for the parent, and for life.

For these reasons, it is important to promote awareness of the need to recruit loving, committed prospective adoptive families. Caring for a child or youth in foster care and making them a permanent member of one's family requires a special kind of person—someone who is patient, accepting, nurturing, compassionate, and caring. These qualities are critical for providing long-term commitments to children and youth that include the opportunity to grow and thrive in loving environments that allow them to reach their full potential.

The Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation seek interested individuals and family members regardless of age, sex, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital or domestic partnership status, physical characteristics, or national origin, to provide permanent and loving adoptive homes for children in foster care.

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Every year in November the County raises awareness about the importance of recruiting loving, committed prospective adoptive families, including prospective adoptive families from a child or youth's own family or community. During this month of November, the County will celebrate the 26th annual Adoption Day on November 22, 2025, at Edelman Children's Court in Monterey Park, California. This day is set aside for the court to help finalize the adoption of more than 150 children and is a partnership with DCFS, the Superior Court of California, The Alliance for Children's Rights, Public Counsel, and the Dave Thomas Foundation.

Also to be highlighted is the support and service programs that contribute to successful adoption efforts long after an adoption is finalized. The County's Post Adoption Services (PAS) is a specialized program within the DCFS Adoptions Division, which offers support to families and adoptees whose adoptions have been completed and finalized by DCFS. PAS provides essential services related to the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP), such as rate renegotiations, referrals to wraparound services, address change assistance, and support for residential treatment placements, if needed, to name a few. Currently, DCFS issues approximately 24,000 AAP checks to families who are eligible to access PAS services. PAS also assists adult adoptees and adoptive parents in coordinating connections between birth parents, siblings, and adult adoptees.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Declare November 2025 as "Adoption Awareness Month" dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of adoption;
2. Declare November 22, 2025, as "National Adoption Day" and;
3. Encourage families and community members to consider the benefits and rewards of adopting an available child by calling (888) 811-1121, visiting www.FosterLAKids.org, or seeing some of our children at Heart Gallery LA.

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