



# November is National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is Saturday, November 20, 2021. These awareness events are a collective effort to raise awareness of the more than 120,000 children waiting to be adopted from foster care in the United States.

Every child deserves a loving, nurturing, permanent home where they feel cared for, safe, and supported. Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services works to provide this permanency in Pennsylvania through partnerships with the Pennsylvania

Adoption Exchange and the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN).

The Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange at [www.adoptpakids.org](http://www.adoptpakids.org) maintains an ever-changing database of children who need families as well as families who have been approved to adopt. Matches between children and families are carefully made.

SWAN is a partnership among public and private agencies, judges and the legal community, and foster and adoptive parents to build a better collaborative adoption

process in Pennsylvania. SWAN serves children in the custody of county Children and Youth agencies who have a goal of adoption. These are children with special needs, and finding an adoptive family may be a bigger challenge than for other children in the system.

## Why are children in foster care and in need of adoption?

Children and youth enter foster care through no fault of their own because they have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by the people who were supposed to care for them. If reunification with their family is not an option, then adoption into a new, permanent family is needed.

While the majority of children come into care due to neglect, all children in foster care have experienced loss and trauma.

Read more about the **effects of trauma** and how to support children who have experienced trauma.

## What is the average age and background of a child in foster care?

According to the 2020 report published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

- ▶ Their average age is approximately eight years old.
- ▶ There are slightly more boys than girls.
- ▶ The majority are white (42 percent), followed by black/African American (24 percent), Hispanic of any race (22 percent), and Native American (2 percent).

## How much does it cost to adopt from foster care?

Most adoptions from U.S. foster care are free. The minimal costs associated with them are often reimbursable. Read more about the **costs of adoption**.



## What are the benefits of fostering-to-adopt?

The majority of children in care are ultimately adopted by their foster parents. Most states give top priority to relatives and current foster parents when a child becomes legally freed for adoption, and a growing number of states require that families be willing to foster if they want to adopt from foster care.

Fostering first has the advantage of reducing the number of moves made by a child placed in your home and allowing the child to live with the family before an adoption is finalized. It also enables a potential adoptive family to make connections with birth parents or other relatives that can be maintained in the future.

According to **recent data from the Children's Bureau**, 88 percent of children adopted from foster care are adopted by relatives or foster parents.



## Where can I find additional information and training about being an adoptive parent?

Meeting many of the day-to-day emotional needs of a child you've adopted will be similar to meeting the needs of any child by providing unconditional love, reassurance, and support. However, there are additional things you'll need to know to help a child you've adopted work through past traumas and loss.

Read more about the **effects of trauma** and how to support children who have experienced trauma.

Child Welfare Information Gateway has a great list of resources for adoptive parents:

- ▶ **How to help adopted children cope with grief and loss**
- ▶ **General information on parenting after adoption**
- ▶ **Specific information on parenting after adoption from foster care**
- ▶ **Preadoption trainings for parents**



# Thank you!

## WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

On November 30th, PFSA is proud to participate in #GivingTuesday. This day of giving invites you to celebrate the holiday season by giving back and creating change in your community.

Together, we can continue to make a difference by keeping PA safe for all children!

Every dollar raised directly contributes to efforts to:

- ▶ Strengthen parenting
- ▶ Provide services and support to families in need
- ▶ Educate communities about awareness and advocacy

All of these initiatives help children and families reach their fullest potential. We are grateful to you and for you! Your support on Giving Tuesday, and every day, allows us to fulfill our mission to #ProtectPAKids.

**You can donate through our website at [pafsa.org](https://pafsa.org).**

## PA Child Abuse PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM

### Save the Date!

**SEPT**  
**14**  
**2022**

*CBCAP Members*  
ALWAYS RECEIVE  
**10% OFF**  
REGISTRATION!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR INFO!

Mark your calendar and plan to join us on **September 14, 2022 for PFSA's Annual PA Child Abuse Prevention Symposium!** This all-day event will feature acclaimed speakers and presentations on current topics and emerging trends relevant to a variety of professionals and organizations that provide services to children and families.

Event details are forthcoming, and more information will be formally announced soon. In the meantime, keep an eye and ear out to learn more about the 2022 PA Child Abuse Prevention Symposium and early registration opportunities!

# UPCOMING TRAININGS

## Families in Recovery New Facilitator Training

PFSA is excited to announce that our Families in Recovery (FiR) program has additional dates scheduled for new facilitator training.

This research-based program is a great resource for parents, guardians, and caretakers recovering from substance use disorder. The program aims to teach healthy coping and parenting skills while balancing the needs of recovery.

New facilitators will be fully prepared to implement the program and provide training after attending a two-day comprehensive session consisting of content, education, and application instruction of the curriculum. FiR site contracts include ongoing technical assistance, program development, facilitator calls, and assistance with data collection procedures. FiR facilitators come

together with each other to share program implementation experience, ideas, and insights following initial training.

**Cost:** Program costs have recently changed. Please contact Justin Donofrio, Program Services Manager, at [jdonofrio@pafsa.org](mailto:jdonofrio@pafsa.org) for details regarding contracts and costs.

**Dates:** Jan. 12 & 13, 2022 (virtual)  
Apr. 13 & 14, 2022 (virtual)

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.  
(half-hour lunch break)

**How to register:** You must pre-register for this training. Email Justin Donofrio, Program Services Manager, at [jdonofrio@pafsa.org](mailto:jdonofrio@pafsa.org) for the paperwork or to ask any questions.

## Mandated Reporter Training

PFSA has several options for you and your staff to receive training on how to recognize and report suspected child abuse. This training is for those mandated by law to report suspected child abuse, as defined in the Child Protective Services Law. Curriculum is approved by the Departments of Human Services, Education, and State and meets all requirements for mandated reporters to receive training in recognizing and reporting child abuse (including ACT 126).

Certificates are provided to the participants, and upon request, we will upload confirmation of your training to the

Department of State or Education for CE fulfillments under ACT 31 and/or ACT 48.

This curriculum has also been approved for CLEs for attorneys.

### LIVE IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL

**Cost:** Free

**How to register:** Find and register for a virtual session here: [pafsa.org/mandated-reporter-training](https://pafsa.org/mandated-reporter-training)

### INDIVIDUAL ONLINE, ON-DEMAND

**Cost:** \$30

**Take anytime:** [pafsa.org/on-demand-online-training](https://pafsa.org/on-demand-online-training)

## TRAIN-THE-TRAINER (TTT)

This is an opportunity for organizations to develop their own quality, cost-efficient, in-house training program for employees on child abuse recognition and reporting. With the three-year contract, PFSA provides two days of initial instruction for approved applicants, reports CE's directly to PA Departments of State and Education, and offers ongoing technical assistance.

**Cost:** \$1,000 per trainer entering into a three-year contract with PFSA (payment can be broken down by year: \$400/year one, \$300/year two, \$300/year three)

## Join PFSA's CBCAP Network

As the calendar year winds down, PFSA would like to invite community-based organizations to consider joining our **Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Network!**

This is a diverse network of child protective and family-serving organizations that make a long-lasting, positive impact on the children and families throughout Pennsylvania. All CBCAP Network members receive benefits from PFSA, such as parenting and caregiver resources, educational materials, professional development opportunities for staff, discounts on training and materials, and so much more.

If you are looking to join a network that is committed to preventing child abuse in Pennsylvania, supporting families, and working toward a brighter future, consider PFSA's CBCAP Network.

To learn more about the CBCAP Network, the membership benefits, or how to sign up, contact PFSA's Program Services Manager, Justin Donofrio, at [jdonofrio@pafsa.org](mailto:jdonofrio@pafsa.org).

**Dates:** Jan. 20 & 21, 2022 (virtual)  
Mar. 23 & 24, 2022 (virtual)

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.  
(half-hour lunch break)

**How to register:** You must pre-register for this training. Email Haven Evans, Director of Programs, at [hevans@pafsa.org](mailto:hevans@pafsa.org) for the paperwork or to ask any questions.

