



About CHAMPS

What is CHAMPS?

CHAMPS is a national campaign to ensure bright futures for kids in foster care by promoting the highest quality parenting. CHAMPS builds on research that shows that loving, supportive families – whether birth, kin, foster or adoptive – are critical to the healthy development of all children. By improving supports to families and respecting parenting as the primary intervention for children in foster care, children can achieve better outcomes in health, development, education and permanency.

CHAMPS focuses on four goals:

- **Build a robust constituency network and enhance advocacy for quality foster parenting** through a broad-based coalition that is equipped with the evidence and tools to effectively advocate for quality foster parenting in states and nationally.
- **Reform state policies** in 20 to 25 states over five years. Policy approaches will vary by state, but will focus on: (1) child-centered policies that promote quality caregiving, (2) parents as partners in decision-making, and (3) oversight and accountability measures to ensure foster parenting is a priority.
- **Promote federal policies** to emphasize that children do best in families, such as through fiscal incentives or greater state accountability to ensure the availability of trained and qualified foster parents to meet the individual needs of children.
- **Change the public narrative about foster parents** to emphasize the vital role that foster parents play in a child's life. By communicating about research and data, and leveraging the voices of foster parents, youth who experienced foster care, and other community leaders, the public will gain greater understanding and appreciation of foster parents.

Why Focus Policy Efforts on Foster Parenting?

Loving, nurturing parenting is the most powerful intervention for helping children thrive and succeed in school, relationships and in life. For most children and youth in foster care, their foster parents are the most important adults in their daily lives. Yet, past policy reforms have largely overlooked the role of quality foster parenting as a driver of better outcomes for children. By improving supports and respecting parenting as the primary intervention for children in foster care, policy makers can ensure excellent parenting and promote better outcomes for children in care. These changes can also help ensure that more children are cared for in families, rather than in group or institutional care.

For many years, bipartisan policy makers have demonstrated a deep interest in promoting better outcomes for children and youth in foster care. The campaign will highlight what legislators, program administrators and others can do to support quality foster parenting and help children in foster care heal, grow and thrive. Emerging trends provide a timely opportunity for the campaign to spur policy reforms. For example, a deepening body of research demonstrates the importance of caring adults in the healthy development of children, especially children who have been traumatized by abuse or neglect. New examples of successful foster parenting programs and practices

pave the way for broader implementation. And, new technologies and access to data-driven approaches have become more widespread and available for incorporation into daily practices.

Who Leads the CHAMPS Campaign?

Launched in June 2017, CHAMPS is led by a coalition of child-focused organizations committed to policy reforms that encourage and support foster parenting, keep children and youth safe, ensure they grow up in loving families and give them the best chances possible to heal, grow and thrive. CHAMPS also partners with a nationally-recognized non-partisan think tank that contributes its research expertise so that coalition partners can utilize evidence-based information to advocate for quality foster parenting. The campaign is supported by a diverse group of funding partners. For more information about campaign's partners, see the website at www.fosteringchamps.org

What are the Campaign's Activities?

The collective efforts of the campaign's partner organizations help raise awareness and understanding of the importance of quality foster parenting nationally and in the states. By calling on policy makers to improve support for families and respect parenting as the primary intervention for children in foster care, the campaign's reforms efforts promote excellent parenting and help drive positive outcomes for children's health, development, education and permanency.



For additional information about the campaign and how to get involved, please visit its website at: www.fosteringCHAMPS.org

Connect to CHAMPS on Facebook: www.facebook.com/fosteringCHAMPS

Follow us on Twitter: @fosteringCHAMPS

Help us spread the word about CHAMPS, see the communications toolkit on the website.

With questions, please contact: info@fosteringCHAMPS.org