

# CHAMPS in New York

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GENERATING STATEWIDE SUPPORT OF FOSTER AND KINSHIP PARENTS



# Foster Care Best Practices

- Foster care should be temporary
- Children do best in placements with someone they know and trust
- Next best placement is with foster parents who are well supported and committed to helping them return to their parents
- Residential care should only be used as a short-term placement

# State of the State for NY Children

## Child poverty remains stubbornly high

- 22% of NY children live below the poverty line

## NY's foster care census is down to 16,000 but we still struggle with placements & permanency

- 26% of children are placed in residential care vs national average of 13% for counties outside of NYC
- 48<sup>th</sup> in the country for time to permanency for children in care 12+ months

## Challenging state budget and policy environment

- \$62 million cut from Foster Care Block Grant in FY18
- Governor FY19 proposal caps preventive, protective and adoption funding stream for NYC

# Challenges and Myths

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Too many good foster families leave discouraged. More than half quit within 12 months

Common concerns that foster parents are “in it for the money”

Teens are perceived as too challenging for kin/foster parents; drives up residential care placements, in NY

Reluctance to place with kin: “apple doesn’t fall far from the tree”

“Census is down, we must have enough families”  
Limited data on how many foster parents are licensed, trained or available.

# Statewide Involvement

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- **Co-chairs: Schuyler Center and Families Together**
- **Provider Agency leads:** Children's Village, Northern Rivers, Children's Home
- **Parents:** Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of NY and NY Kinship Navigator
- **Residential and Foster Care Provider agencies:**
  - Good Shepherd, Graham Windham, Children's Aid, Heartshare
- **Advocacy Organizations:**
  - Citizens Committee for Children, Children's Agenda, Westchester Children's Assoc.
- **Foundations:**
  - Redlich Horwitz Foundation, Conrad N Hilton Foundation, Casey Family Programs

# Potential Policy Playbook

