



fosteringCHAMPS.org

About the CHAMPS Campaign

What is CHAMPS?

CHAMPS -- which stands for Children Need Amazing Parents -- is a national policy campaign to ensure bright futures for kids in foster care by promoting the highest quality foster 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 better supporting foster parents through improved resources and policies, we can ensure children receive that loving, supportive care the need to grow and flourish, while they are in foster care.

CHAMPS is comprised of a broad-based network of partners who advocate for quality foster parenting in states and nationally. Specifically, CHAMPS calls for creating a new partnership between foster parents and the child welfare agencies responsible for foster care. This new, stronger partnership means that amazing families who step up to be foster parents will get the resources they need when they need them, and that hardworking caseworkers will be better supported in their critical role. Quality foster parenting will result in more stable placements for children in foster care and will lead to more children leaving foster care to rejoin their birth families or joining a new family through adoption or guardianship. Most importantly, it means that children and youth will have the care they need to heal, grow and thrive.

The campaign's goals are to:

- Reform state policy in 20 to 25 states over five years to promote quality foster parenting.
- Promote federal policy changes that incentivize states to enhance supports to foster parents
- Strengthen public will by changing the narrative about foster parents to emphasize the vital role that foster parents play in a child's life.

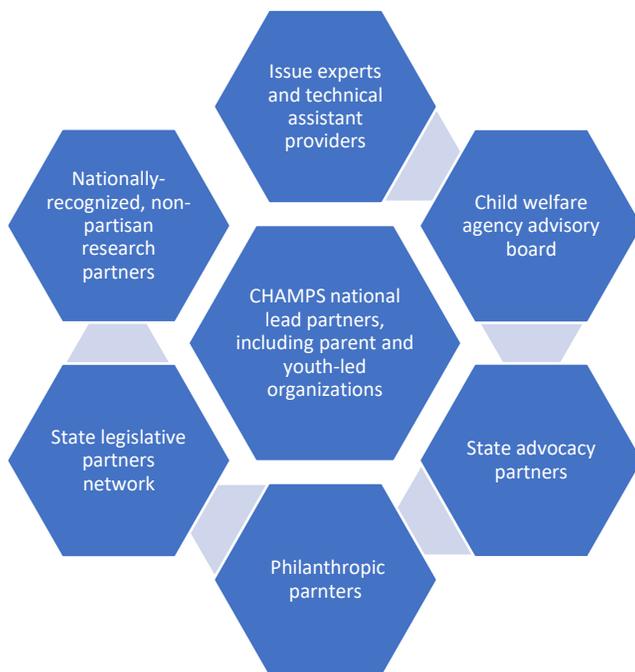
Why Focus Policy Efforts on Foster Parenting?

Recent events and trends have converged to create an urgency for foster parenting solutions: the nation's opioid crisis, rising numbers of kids entering foster care, and the recent passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act and its requirement on states to implement a range of family-based care policies. By bringing together research, policy solutions and key stakeholders to advocate for changes, CHAMPS can be a valued partner and information source to decision makers looking for proven approaches to recruiting and retaining foster parents in the short and long run.

There are compelling reasons policymakers are looking to champion bipartisan reforms to better support quality foster parenting. First, they know that one of the most powerful ways to help children in foster care is to ensure they have supportive foster parents to help them heal from trauma, grow and thrive. Second, high quality foster parenting can save time and money for fiscally-strapped children welfare systems through shorter lengths of stay in care, fewer high cost residential placements and fewer behavioral and physical health problems that need to be treated. And third, many policy options to better support foster parents have no- or low-costs.

Campaign Leadership

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. Lead partners represent key stakeholders including children and families served by child welfare, faith-based partners, health care and social services providers, and advocacy organizations.



Partner Activities.

Campaign partners are involved in a range of activities to reach and engage policy makers, including:

- Public events to raise awareness about the need for action
- Communicating through media about the vital importance of quality caregiving to children’s health, development, education and permanency
- Research and analysis to inform policy decisions
- Policy development and advocacy to promote data-driven, innovate policy approaches to recruiting and retaining foster parents and ensuring the best possible matches for children and families
- Technical assistance to agencies and legislators seeking solutions to recruiting and retaining quality foster parents

How to Get Involved

CHAMPS offers state leaders, advocates and others a range of resources to identify and implement policy solutions, including the CHAMPS [policy playbook](#), communications tools, technical assistance, research summaries, and a network of issue experts and national spokespersons

To learn more about our campaign and how to get involved, please visit our website at: www.fosteringCHAMPS.org
Be sure to visit the “Get Involved” page: <http://fosteringchamps.org/get-involved/>

There are a variety of ways to get involved today!

- Take the CHAMPS pledge: <http://fosteringchamps.org/the-champs-pledge/>
- Help spread the word about the vital role of foster parents in the lives of children. See our ready-to-use tools.
- Get involved locally. Consider hosting a town hall meeting, and/or communicate directly with policy makers to draw their attention to policy approaches that support the safety and well-being of children in foster care.
- Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/fosteringCHAMPS and follow us on Twitter: @fosteringCHAMPS
- With questions, please contact: info@fosteringCHAMPS.org