



May 6, 2025

Gov. McKee, DCYF Celebrate Foster Care Families in May

PROVIDENCE, RI — In celebration of National Foster Care Month, Governor Dan McKee; the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families; and DCYF Director Ashley Deckert, MSW, MA are recognizing and celebrating foster care families and those who support them.

Governor McKee proclaimed May 2025 “Foster Care Awareness Month” and “Foster Parent Appreciation Month.” The proclamation recognizes “all foster caregivers, child welfare professionals, community organizations and countless others who work tirelessly and collaboratively to ensure the safety and well-being of our children and families.”

“Strengthening foster families supports our children and our communities,” **Governor McKee noted**. “It is essential to raise public awareness of the role of foster caregivers and to acknowledge their priceless contributions to the health, safety and well-being of children and families.”

In Rhode Island, approximately 1,300 children have been placed in out-of-home care for their well-being and safety. “Foster caregivers open their hearts and homes to provide nurturing care,” **noted DCYF Director Ashley Deckert, MSW, MA**. “They deserve our highest respect and full support.”

Increasing kinship care—foster placements with extended family or others with close family ties—is a DCYF priority, as laid out in the DCYF [“Setting P.A.C.E. for Rhode Island Children and Families” 2025-2030 Strategic Plan](#). “Preserving family and community connections minimizes children’s trauma, helps protect their sense of cultural identity, reduces their likelihood of multiple placements and supports their healing,” **Deckert said**. “Listening to families and supporting their relationships with family members, friends, coaches, teachers and other close ties are essential to our work and to positive outcomes for those we serve.”

Rhode Island’s [“Be an Anchor”](#) initiative seeks to educate potential kinship caregivers, traditional and therapeutic foster families, and pre-adoptive families who serve as “anchors” for children in DCYF care. In-person and virtual learning sessions provide information on the process for becoming a licensed foster caregiver, plus ongoing training and support. Featured speakers include current and former foster caregivers and DCYF mentors.

About the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families

At [Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families](#), our mission is to build a system of care where every child grows up in a safe and loving family environment that supports the development of

strong, resilient families throughout the state. To fulfill our mission, we believe that family, community and government share responsibility for the safety, protection and well-being of children, emphasizing prevention over intervention through an integrated continuum of care that reflects a partnership between all parties and is culturally relevant. Learn more at dcyf.ri.gov and read our [2025-2023 strategic plan](#).

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State of Rhode Island
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Foster Care Awareness Month and Foster Parent Appreciation Month

WHEREAS, our children are a critical investment and the key to a future with promise; and

WHEREAS, every child deserves to have their basic needs met in a safe and stable home with tireless caregivers and supportive communities, to reach their full, physical and emotional health potential; and

WHEREAS, children do best in a family setting, strengthening families strengthens our children and communities, and children can heal from traumatic experiences with the benefit of consistency and support; and

WHEREAS, when a family is in crisis, children's needs are often unmet, and they may undergo traumatic experiences such as abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS, to ensure safety and well-being 1,300 children in Rhode Island out-of-home care due to a family crisis; and

WHEREAS, 73% of children who are removed from the family home are placed with kinship caregivers, including grandparents, aunts, uncles, and adult siblings, who step forward to care for these children, and anchor them through times of family crisis; and

WHEREAS, for children without an appropriate kinship caregiver to care for them, our community of foster parents provide care and stability for these children and contribute to support and strengthen families in the hope that children in foster care can ultimately return to healthy, thriving families; and

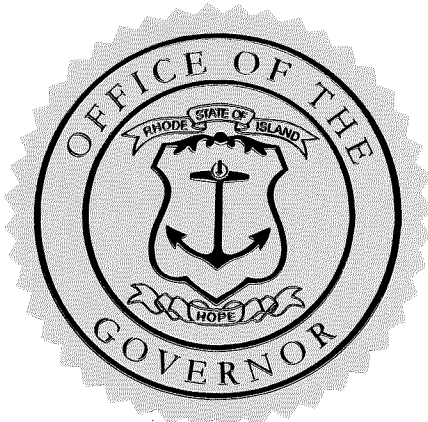
WHEREAS, we recognize the important role of foster caregivers, whether kin or community, as anchors for children in times of uncertainty, who positively impact those children and their families, increasing the potential for success and healing; and

WHEREAS, foster caregivers open their hearts and homes to provide nurturing care, despite difficulties and challenges, and they deserve our highest respect and validation, and for their voices to be heard, supported and recognized; and

WHEREAS, we must raise public awareness of the role of foster caregivers, acknowledge their priceless contributions to the health, safety, and well-being of Rhode Island's children and families, and encourage Rhode Islanders to consider being a foster caregiver so that every child can receive care in a safe and healthy home.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel J. McKee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as *Foster Care Awareness Month and Foster Parent Appreciation Month* in the State of Rhode Island and call on all residents to recognize foster caregivers, child welfare professionals, community organizations and the countless others who work tirelessly and collaboratively to ensure the safety and well-being of our children and families.

Given under my hand and the seal
of the Office of the Governor of the
State of Rhode Island, this 6th day of
May, 2025.



Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State