

# ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

**From the Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF)**  
Department of Human Services

## National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, a time to renew our commitment to building brighter futures for children and youth in Pennsylvania who are waiting to be adopted. It's also a moment to celebrate all adoptions and to recognize the families, professionals and advocates who make a lasting difference in their lives.

Whether you're an adoptive parent, a child welfare professional or someone who simply believes in the power of belonging, this month is a chance to reflect, uplift and take action. For more information on National Adoption Month 2025, please visit [National Adoption Month | The Administration for Children and Families](#).

Once again, OCYF will be issuing \$65,000 in mini-grants to agencies and coalitions across the state to support recruitment and/or awareness events during the month of November. If you are having an event that you would like to have featured on the SWAN Facebook page, please contact Teresa Musser at [temusser@pa.gov](mailto:temusser@pa.gov) or Denise Sheffield [desheffiel@pa.gov](mailto:desheffiel@pa.gov). All requests must be in the form of a picture (jpg or png).

## Voluntary Resolution Agreement Between Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and the Federal Office of Civil Rights

In August 2025, OCYF submitted documentation verifying that all provisions of the Voluntary Resolution Agreement between the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Pennsylvania DHS/OCYF; therefore, OCYF is pleased to announce that OCR requirements have been satisfied. It should be noted that the closure of monitoring of this case does not preclude OCR from conducting any other complaint investigations or compliance reviews.

The VRA training, *Supporting Children and Families with Disabilities*, will continue to be accessible via the E-learn site at [e-learn.pitt.edu](http://e-learn.pitt.edu).

CCYAs should continue to follow the county procedures that were created as of a result of the VRA.

CCYAs should reach out to BEO with questions, concerns or other necessary communication.

Department of Human Services | Bureau of Equal Opportunity-Civil Rights Compliance

625 Forster Street, Suite 225

Harrisburg, PA 17120

BEO Mainline: 717-787-1127

BEO Email: [RA-PWBEOAO@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PWBEOAO@pa.gov)

## Citizen Review Panel

The Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) in Pennsylvania have successfully completed the recruitment of new members for the Northwest, North Central and Southeast Panels. These panels play a vital role in addressing both local and statewide concerns, offering valuable recommendations to improve child welfare services.

As the CRPs prepare to welcome their new members, OCYF, in collaboration with the CWRC, are actively developing plans for their orientation and for their participation in the upcoming Annual Fall All Panel Meeting. This meeting will provide each panel with the opportunity to present suggestions to the Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) on ways to strengthen Pennsylvania's child welfare system. It will also serve as a forum for continued collaboration among the panels, OCYF, and the Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC), fostering open dialogue and shared learning to advance child welfare across the state.

## Trauma Team

The OCYF Trauma Team is proud to announce the release of the Developing Trauma Sensitivity for Child Welfare Professionals training. This training explores what it means to be trauma-sensitive and is the second module in a series designed to support Pennsylvania's child welfare organizations in becoming Trauma-Informed and Healing-Centered. The OCYF Trauma Team extends thanks to their partners at the CWRC for their ongoing collaboration in this important work.

*Continued on p. 2*

Additionally, the CWRC has announced the release of the Trauma-Informed Supervision in Casework Practice in Pennsylvania course. This 6-hour in-person, Team-Based Learning™ module provides opportunities for skill growth and application, including developing plans and tools for immediate application by supervisors. It is about reexamining how and why supervisors do what they do, how they model trauma-informed behaviors, and how they can positively impact supervisees' well-being and that of children, families, and themselves by applying the principles of trauma-informed care. This training is one of many trauma-informed courses available through the CWRC as part of the OCYF Trauma Team's broader efforts. To access the full list of trauma-informed trainings, please visit the E-learn site at [e-learn.pitt.edu](https://e-learn.pitt.edu) under the Well-being section.

With gratitude, OCYF shares that the training grants with Lakeside Global Institute were discontinued in September of 2025. This marks the conclusion of a wonderful collaboration with the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse and the many dedicated trainers from Lakeside Global Institute who have educated child-serving providers across Pennsylvania. As the trauma-informed trainings offered through CWRC continue to expand, OCYF remains committed to education and to advancing trauma-informed care within Pennsylvania's child welfare system. The trauma-informed courses available through the CWRC remain free of charge to all OCYF licensed providers.

### **Final Rule, Separate Licensing Standards for Relative or Kinship Foster Family Homes**

On September 28, 2023, the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued a final rule amending regulations to allow Title IV-E agencies to claim Title IV-E federal financial participation for the cost of foster care maintenance payments on behalf of an otherwise eligible child who is placed in a relative or kinship licensed or approved foster family home when the agency uses different licensing standards for relative or kinship foster family homes and non-relative/non-kinship foster family homes. Prior to the publication of this new rule, federal regulations required Title IV-E agencies to use the same licensing standards for both kin and non-kin caregivers, disregarding the unique needs of kinship homes.

This new rule encourages Title IV-E agencies to develop separate kinship-specific licensing standards that place as few burdens on relative and kinship families as possible, limited to federal requirements only, such as the safety requirements in sections 471(a)(10)(A) and (a)(20) of the Social Security Act. In addition, the new rule requires

Title IV-E agencies to provide all licensed or approved relative or kinship foster family homes with the same amount of Foster Care Maintenance Payments that would have been made if the child was placed in a licensed or approved unrelated foster family home.

According to the federal rule, states may elect to establish separate kinship specific licensing standards that are in accord with recommended standards of national organizations for foster family homes related to:

- Admission policies, safety, sanitation and protection of civil rights;
- Use of the reasonable and prudent parenting standard; and,
- Procedures for criminal records checks, including fingerprint-based checks of national crime information databases.

OCYF consulted with DHS Executive Offices, including the Office of General Counsel, Office of Legislative Affairs and the DHS Executive Policy Office on the process to implement separate kinship-specific licensing standards. Upon consultation, it was determined that a legislative amendment would be required to allow for implementation of separate kinship-specific licensing standards.

OCYF continues to work closely with these offices on the process to introduce a legislative amendment. OCYF intends to share the proposed standards for comment and feedback from community partners. More information will be forthcoming in the next several months.

### **National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)**

NYTD collects information in the following areas: Baseline Population (every youth in foster care who reaches age 17), Served Population (any youth or young adult receiving independent living services regardless of age) and Follow-up Population (youth surveys at age 19 and 21, depending on Cohort period). October 1, 2025 marks the beginning of Cohort 6 for the Baseline Population. All youth who reach age 17 while in care **must** be registered and provided with an opportunity to complete a survey within the required 45-day window of their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. OCYF encourages youth to be compensated for completing their baseline survey. The 2026A reporting period will run through March 31, 2026.

The 2025B period for 19-year-old Follow-up Surveys ended on September 30, 2025, with all data from follow-up surveys and Served Population for this reporting period due by October 15, 2025. Counties can log onto [www.getnytdpa.org](https://www.getnytdpa.org) to enter their served and survey data.

*Continued on p. 3*

NYTD questions can be directed to Lindsey Glezen at [liglezen@pa.gov](mailto:liglezen@pa.gov) or 717-787-7056.

If you have new staff, need assistance with resetting your password, forgot your username or have other technical assistance questions related to NYTD, please contact the NYTD Help Desk at 800-436-4105 or [getnytd@pcqus.com](mailto:getnytd@pcqus.com).

### Chafee Education and Training Grant Programs

The Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG) application and instructions for the 2025–2026 academic year are available on PHEAA's website under [Chafee Education and Training Grant Program](#). The deadline to apply is March 31, 2026.

As a reminder, current ETG award recipients will automatically be enrolled for the next academic year and do not need to complete another ETG application. The ETG award amount cannot exceed the student's cost of attendance.

Questions regarding the ETG program can be directed to Lindsey Glezen at [liglezen@pa.gov](mailto:liglezen@pa.gov) or 717-787-7056. Youth who have questions related to their ETG application can contact PHEAA at 1-800-831-0797.

### Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program

The Fostering Independence through Education Program, known as FosterEd, requires Pennsylvania post-secondary institutions to award a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees for Pennsylvania resident youth who meet Chafee ETG eligibility requirements and have applied for all available federal and state grants. Tuition and mandatory fee waivers apply to both public (state) colleges and universities, community colleges, private post-secondary institutions and other eligible schools. Youth are eligible to receive waivers for five years, which need not be consecutive, or until age 26. All youth who apply for Chafee ETG are automatically evaluated for FosterEd.

In addition to the waivers, each post-secondary institution must appoint a Point of Contact (POC) to assist youth with eligibility, technical assistance and other resources that may be available to them on and off campus. County and private provider IL caseworkers/coordinators may be contacted by the POC to verify a youth's eligibility. This is a critical step in assisting youth with verifying their eligibility when entering post-secondary education and financial aid packages are being awarded.

Each post-secondary education institution is required to have their identified POC listed on their website. A list of POCs can be found on the Center

for Schools and Communities website at Foster Care Contact Directory at [Foster Care Contact Directory](#).

Additional information about the tuition waiver can be found at [PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program](#). Questions regarding FosterEd can be directed to Lindsey Glezen at [liglezen@pa.gov](mailto:liglezen@pa.gov) or at 717-787-7056.

### Credit Reports

The [Social Security Act §475](#) requires that CCYAs perform credit checks for all youth in foster care at age 14 and older by **all three** credit bureaus on a **yearly** basis. Each Credit Bureau has a specific contact person and a process to ensure foster care youths' credit history checks are completed appropriately. If you have questions regarding credit report requirements or need assistance obtaining a credit history from one of the Credit Bureaus, please contact Lindsey Glezen at [liglezen@pa.gov](mailto:liglezen@pa.gov) or at 717-787-7056.

### New Student Loan Repayment Loan Options

The US Department of Education announced the reopening of two student loan repayment plans to give borrowers more options to keep their payments affordable. Please share with anyone who might benefit from having this information.

The Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) repayment plans offer income-driven repayment (IDR) and credit for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) to eligible borrowers enrolled in the currently enjoined Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan, as well as other terms that borrowers may wish to consider.

- As income-driven repayment plans, Income-Contingent Repayment and Pay as You Earn set monthly payments based on borrowers' earnings and family size and have allowed borrowers to earn loan forgiveness after 20 to 25 years. Many public servants use them to keep their payments low as they work to earn Public Service Loan Forgiveness after just 10 years.
- The Income-Contingent Repayment and Pay as You Earn applications are available at [StudentAid.gov/idr](https://StudentAid.gov/idr).
- To apply, borrowers need to log-in to their [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) account and upload income information.
- The US Department of Education authorized new enrollments in the plans through regulatory changes.
- The Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) and Pay as You Earn plans will remain available to new enrollments until July 1, 2027.

### **Pennsylvania Permanency Barriers Initiatives – American Bar Association (ABA)**

#### *Pennsylvania Permanency Barriers Project and Education Barriers Project*

The ABA Pennsylvania Permanency Barriers Project and Education Barriers Project are actively seeking new projects or technical assistance counties.

These projects work collaboratively with key county stakeholders from the child welfare agency, court, education system, private providers, and community by providing intensive on-site assistance to counties for two to three years, depending on needs.

Technical assistance can range from one training to a few months of engagement. Please reach out if you would like to discuss the ways in which ABA may be of assistance.

Areas in which the ABA is available to help include:

- Improving collaboration and communication between CYF, court, attorneys and local providers;
- Integrating a kin-first culture;
- Providing hands-on court skills and testifying training for case workers;
- Incorporating a race equity lens in child welfare;
- Implementing trauma Informed court practices;
- Meeting the educational needs of youth in foster care;
- Improving school stability and education decision making;
- Special education advocacy; and
- Engaging parents in educational advocacy.

For more information on Permanency Barriers technical assistance please see: PA Permanency Project at [www.americanbar.org](http://www.americanbar.org) or contact Heidi Redlich Epstein at [heidi.epstein@americanbar.org](mailto:heidi.epstein@americanbar.org).

For more information on the Education Barriers to Permanency Project please see: Education Barriers to Permanency Project at [www.americanbar.org](http://www.americanbar.org) or contact Kathleen McNaught at [kathleen.mcnaught@americanbar.org](mailto:kathleen.mcnaught@americanbar.org).

### **Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association (PSRFA)**

Since 1974, PSRFA has been supporting foster, adoptive and kinship families across Pennsylvania through advocacy, training, scholarships and resources. From 2007 to the present, the Scholarship Fund has awarded 64 scholarships totaling more than \$106,500. These awards

support high school seniors in Pennsylvania who are connected to foster care, adoption or kinship care, as well as children of parents who are active members of PSRFA. The scholarships help recipients pursue college or trade school opportunities and are made possible through the generosity of donations to the Annual Conference Silent Auction.

The 2025 PSRFA Conference is being held October 23–24, 2025, with the Silent Auction taking place the evening of October 23rd. The PSRFA annual conference will be held at the Red Lion Hotel in Harrisburg. This highly anticipated gathering welcomes all resource families, including foster, adoptive and kinship caregivers, along with health professionals and both public and private agency staff dedicated to permanency services.

A highlight of this year's conference will be keynote speaker Dominic Carter, a well-respected TV journalist, author of *No Momma's Boy: How I Let Go of My Past and Embraced the Future*, and a survivor of childhood abuse. His powerful story is expected to resonate deeply with attendees. For more information about this year's conference and to register, please visit the PSRFA website at [psrfa.org](http://psrfa.org).

PSRFA is excited to announce that the Quarterly Newsletter is back! If you know a resource family who has done something amazing and deserves to be spotlighted, or if you'd like to contribute an article, please contact Melissa Geesaman at [mgeesaman@psrfa.org](mailto:mgeesaman@psrfa.org).

PSRFA is also seeking new Board Members in the following regions:

**Region 4** – Lycoming, Union, Snyder, Montour, Columbia, Northumberland, Schuylkill, Berks and Lehigh Counties

**Region 6** – Clearfield, Clinton, Centre, Indiana, Cambria, Blair, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Fulton, Bedford, Somerset and Fayette Counties

**Region 7** – Erie, Crawford, Warren, McKean, Cameron, Elk, Jefferson, Clarion, Forest and Mercer Counties

For details on becoming a PSRFA member, newsletter submissions, board opportunities or event updates, please visit [psrfa.org](http://psrfa.org) or contact Melissa Geesaman, Executive Director, at [mgeesaman@psrfa.org](mailto:mgeesaman@psrfa.org).

### **CWEB and CWEL Programs**

*Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates (CWEB)*  
The CWEB program is now present in 22 schools across the state, which provides ample opportunity for senior social work majors to prepare for public child welfare employment. CWEB students

*Continued on p. 5*



complete child welfare coursework, enroll in Foundations training and engage in a child welfare practicum in one of the 67 county child welfare agencies. They are ready to join the workforce immediately following graduation. Students accepted into the program receive tuition and fees at the in-state rate for their senior year, fellowship payments during their internship, a bonus upon graduation and more. Upon graduation, a one-year work commitment in a Pennsylvania public child welfare agency is required. Through the spring term of 2024-2025, 39 students completed their studies and began agency employment. The application deadline for the spring 2026 term is November 30th. For more information, visit Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates at [Home | School of Social Work](#).

*Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL)*  
The CWEL Program strengthens Pennsylvania public child welfare services by providing graduate-level educational opportunities for current public child welfare professionals at 13 partner graduate schools. Seven programs offer a fully online course of study. Counties and OCYF approve students for either full-time or part-time participation; all students accepted into the program receive tuition and fees at the in-state rate, reimbursement for books, and other benefits. Full-time students are also granted educational leave from their jobs, and their county employers receive reimbursement for the student's salary and benefits. Upon graduation, a work commitment at their county agency is required. Through the spring term of 2024-2025, 54 students completed studies and resumed agency employment. Additional information is available at: [Child Welfare Education Leadership at Home | School of Social Work](#).

The CWEL and CWEL Teams are available to provide presentations to county commissioners, advisory boards, agency leadership teams, agency staff members and independent living programs. For more information and to schedule a presentation, please contact Laura Borish, CWEL/CWEL Agency Coordinator at [lbb14@pitt.edu](mailto:lbb14@pitt.edu) or 412-334-9122.

CWEL is hosting two virtual Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL) Program information sessions; one on **Friday, November 14, 2025, from 1:00-2:00 pm** and the other on **Friday, January 9, 2026, from 9:00-10:00 am**, for those county and state public child welfare workers interested in learning about the CWEL Program. Below are the details including the Zoom meeting links. There is **no need to register**, just join the meeting that best fits your schedule to learn more about this wonderful opportunity to earn your master's degree in social work through the Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL) Program.

November 14, 2025, from 1:00-2:00pm  
Join Zoom Meeting [pitt.zoom.us/j/97363127063](https://pitt.zoom.us/j/97363127063)  
Meeting ID: 973 6312 7063 Passcode: CWEL

January 9, 2026, from 9:00-10:00am  
Join Zoom Meeting [pitt.zoom.us/j/94751097725](https://pitt.zoom.us/j/94751097725)  
Meeting ID: 947 5109 7725 Passcode: CWEL

Additional information about the CWEL Program is available at: [Child Welfare Education for Leadership | School of Social Work](#)

### **Pennsylvania Kinship Navigator Program, KinConnector**

#### *Kinship Care Summit*

The second Kinship Care Summit was held on Saturday, September 13th, 2025, as a part of National Kinship Care Month, at the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg. This in-person event was also offered live stream and featured powerful video stories from kinship caregivers, followed by conversations with the families themselves and a panel of experts as a part of celebrating all kinship caregivers. For more information on the Summit and to view the kinship stories, please see [Department of Human Services Hosts Kinship Care Summit, Celebrates Caretakers and Connects Kinship Families to Resources | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#). Additional information about PA KinConnector can be found at [Kinconnector.org](https://kinconnector.org). Please feel free to contact Diane Michel at [dmichel@pa.gov](mailto:dmichel@pa.gov) or 717-705-2911.

### **Accurint**

Accurint is an online search tool available to every county throughout the state. It is able to assist with family finding efforts, contact information, criminal checks and identifying individuals for any type of family engagement meeting. Each county must have a county employee who is designated as their Accurint administrator. Administrators can be Accurint users or non-users. Non-user administrators do not count toward the county's allotment of users. Counties may have more than one Accurint administrator. If you or your staff would like training on the Accurint software, please contact Accurint Education Consultant, Jessica Kraft, at [Jessica.Kraft@lexisnexisrisk.com](mailto:Jessica.Kraft@lexisnexisrisk.com) or 937-286-7660. Additionally, you can look up trainings on the National Training Calendar at [LexisNexis® Risk Solutions Learning Center](#). If you have any questions about Accurint or to set up a non-user administrator account, please contact Jessica Andrews-Slagel at [jandrewssl@pa.gov](mailto:jandrewssl@pa.gov) or 717-787-2726.

### **Mandated Reporter Training Curriculum**

Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA) offers virtual and in-person, three-hour Mandated Reporter Trainings (MRT) at no cost to mandated reporters in Pennsylvania. PFSA also offers trainings with Spanish translators, American Sign Language and Certified Deaf Interpreter translations. PFSA also offers MRT for Amish Foster Parents and Amish Mandated Reporters conducted by an Amish instructor.

Trainings include, "Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse," which meets all the requirements for training on recognizing and reporting child abuse, as well as "Responding to Disclosures of Child Abuse" and "Recognizing and Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect," for mandated reporters who have taken Mandated Reporter Training before and need to take it again. The "Responding to Disclosures of Child Abuse" training is designed to help participants respond to disclosures of child abuse in a way that is sensitive and supportive to the child, but without tainting the child's memory. The "Recognizing and Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect" training helps participants recognize the signs of neglect, determine when and how to make a referral and increase understanding of General Protective Services and agency procedures.

All trainings utilize a child abuse recognition and reporting training curriculum approved by DHS in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), as well as approved by the Department of State (DOS) for persons requiring continuing education credit toward licensure or certification.

PFSA also offers a specialized Residential Care Facility Training (RCFT) for individuals who are employed by organizations and agencies licensed under Title 55, Chapter 3800, Child Residential and Day Treatment Facilities. The RCFT Program provides information to appropriately identify recordable, reportable and suspected child abuse incidents, as well as information about documentation, minimal facts interviewing and development and implementation of plans of supervision for staff who are under investigation of suspected child abuse. Additional information and training dates can be found on the PSFA website: [Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance](https://www.pfsa.org). For questions or to schedule a specific session for your organization, please email PFSA at [training@pfsa.org](mailto:training@pfsa.org).

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (PA-AAP) offers Mandated Reporter Trainings, specifically for Primary Care Physicians (and their staff), Hospitals, Emergency Medical Services and School Nurses, through their Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) program. To schedule in-person or virtual training

for medical professionals, contact PA-AAP at [scan@paaap.org](mailto:scan@paaap.org) or call 866-823-7226.

The Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC) continues to offer free virtual Mandated Reporter Training. It can be taken by visiting [reportabusepa.pitt.edu](https://reportabusepa.pitt.edu).

### **Waiting Child Segments**

The Department of Human Services, Office of Children Youth and Families funds five waiting child segments across the state designed to find adoptive families for older youth in need of families. Waiting child segments have proven to be successful over the years in helping find permanent homes for children in foster care and providing the opportunity to enhance child specific recruitment efforts across the Commonwealth.

If you'd like to feature a waiting child, please reach out to the representative listed below.

- *Waiting Child, KDKA-TV, Channel 2, CBS, Pittsburgh*  
Nikita Lewis at [nlewis@diakon-swan.org](mailto:nlewis@diakon-swan.org)
- *Val's Kids, ABC27 WHTM, Harrisburg*  
Alfredo Gonzalez at [algonzalez@diakon-swan.org](mailto:algonzalez@diakon-swan.org)
- *A Little Love, WBRE-TV, channel 28, NBC, Wilkes-Barre*  
Sarah Reiss at [sreiss@diakon-swan.org](mailto:sreiss@diakon-swan.org)
- *Finding Forever, WJAC, channel 6, Johnstown*  
Katie Juliana at [kjuliana@diakon-swan.org](mailto:kjuliana@diakon-swan.org)
- *A Family for Life, WSEE, channel 35, CBS and WICU, channel 12, NBC, Erie*  
Nic Landon at [nlandon@diakon-swan.org](mailto:nlandon@diakon-swan.org)

### **SWAN/IL Google Groups**

The SWAN/IL Listserv, hosted through Google Groups, serves as an excellent platform for network members to share confidential information, waiting families, waiting children, matching events and post-permanency resources. It also provides opportunities to seek advice from colleagues and announce upcoming events. Membership is limited to employees of county children and youth agencies, SWAN affiliate agencies or IL providers. If interested, please contact Isabel Madrigal at [imadrigal@diakon-swan.org](mailto:imadrigal@diakon-swan.org) or 717-558-1223.

### Interstate Compact Unit

The PA Interstate Unit does not have the ability to process USPS, FedEx or UPS "paper mail." When providing any case documents to the Interstate Unit, please use the unit's Resource Accounts, fax or the Interstate/County DocuShare collection. Case documents include request packets, completed Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) home studies, 100Bs, supervisory reports, Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA) documents, etc.

Resource Accounts:

[RA-PA-ICPC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PA-ICPC@pa.gov) for ICPC cases

[RA-PA-ICAMA@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PA-ICAMA@pa.gov) for ICAMA cases

Interstate Unit Fax Number:

717-425-5562

In a runaway situation, email Amanda Behe at [abehe@pa.gov](mailto:abehe@pa.gov) or Natalie (Primak) Mwaniki at [nmwaniki@pa.gov](mailto:nmwaniki@pa.gov).

### Clearance Verification Unit

Childline's Clearance Verification Unit (CVU) provides eligible individuals with the following three clearances: Child Abuse History Clearance, FBI Fingerprint Clearance and National Sex Offenders Registry (NSOR). The Pennsylvania (PA) Child Abuse History clearance can be submitted and paid for online through the Child Welfare Information Solution (CWIS) self-service portal at [Pennsylvania Child Welfare Information Solution](#). Applicants are able to view and print their results online.

CVU will also accept PA Child Abuse History Clearance applications in paper format for anyone who may not have access to the internet. Results for paper applications are mailed to the appropriate address noted on the form and within 14 days from the date that application is received in CVU.

The Commonwealth's vendor for digital fingerprinting is IDEMIA (also referred to as IdentoGo or MorphoTrust). The fingerprint-based background check is a multi-step process. For general questions about FBI clearances, please contact the FBI Background Check Unit at 1-877-371-5422. For IDEMIA registration, processing, or billing questions, please contact IDEMIA/IdentoGo at 1-844-321-2101. To register online go to [Identogo.com](https://www.identogo.com) or call 1-844-321-2101 and listen to the options menu.

CVU is responsible for processing out of state clearances for resource parents, including adoptive and foster parents when a resource parent has resided outside of Pennsylvania within the past five years. Prospective foster and adoptive parents required to obtain an Out-of-State Child Abuse

clearance are **no longer required** to submit the clearance to ChildLine for interpretation **IF** the clearance shows *no result (or no record)*. Out-of-State Child Abuse clearances with **ANY** result or record, **are required** to be submitted to ChildLine for interpretation.

Visit Keep Kids Safe at [Keep Kids Safe | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#) for additional information regarding the clearance or call us at 877-371-5422.

### Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF)

P.O. Box 2675

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675

717-787-3984

[www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)

## CFSR Round 4 is Coming to Pennsylvania!

Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) are a joint local, state, and federal effort designed to:

**Ensure compliance** with federal child welfare requirements;

**Learn what is happening** with children and families in the child welfare system; and

**Help states** to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families.

CFSR involves the following phases:

### STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT

This phase collects and provides evidence to the federal government to demonstrate the effectiveness of the state's child welfare system.

### ONSITE REVIEWS

Assess the state's child welfare outcomes through case reviews and stakeholder interviews.

### PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PIP)

Develop a plan to address the state's areas needing improvement, implement it, and monitor our progress.

Planning and preparations are underway for CFSR Round 4 to begin in 2026.

**Look for more information to come as planning continues!**



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Human Services**  
Office of Children, Youth, and Families





### From the SWAN Prime Contract

*Diakon-SWAN, LLC/Voce*

#### Automated Cost-Time and Affiliate Budgeting Worksheet Training

SWAN technical assistance will be providing regional trainings this fall on the new Automated Cost-Time and Affiliate Budgeting Worksheet. The Cost-Time Report, which is shared quarterly, has now been merged with the Affiliate Budgeting Worksheet. This combined report brings together affiliate agencies' actual time to complete SWAN Units of Service with caseload and workload management. It provides a more complete tool to support time management, predict the agency's budgeting needs, and determine if more workers are needed to fulfill the projected staffing needs.

Affiliate supervisors, managers/directors, and administrative and fiscal staff are strongly encouraged to attend. Contact your SWAN regional technical assistant if your agency is interested in attending.

#### SWAN Legal Services Initiative (LSI) State Fiscal Year in Review 2024-2025

Upon the close of State Fiscal Year 2024-2025, which saw the implementation of the new SWAN Portal Version 3, data collected from the SWAN Portal indicates that SWAN LSI paralegals continue to impact the lives of Pennsylvania children in foster care by providing essential legal services and improving the efficiency of both the Juvenile and Orphans' Court processes across Pennsylvania.

From July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, SWAN LSI paralegals performed vital tasks related to the cases of **27,085 individual children**. This number is notably consistent with the 27,252 children served by LSI in SFY 2023-2024, reflecting the ongoing essential role that LSI paralegals play in the Pennsylvania child welfare system.

Diligent Searches remain an indispensable tool as counties rely on LSI paralegals to locate individuals and help identify connections for youth in care. In SFY 2024-2025, LSI paralegals completed a total of **18,972 diligent searches**, up from 18,197 searches in SFY 2023-2024. Approximately 47% of all searches were performed to support family finding or to identify permanent connections for children in care, while approximately 51% of all searches were performed for the purpose of locating a missing parent. During this time, **at least one Diligent Search was performed for 10,388 unique children**.

SWAN LSI staff's impact in the courtroom also

continues to be felt as county children and youth agencies across Pennsylvania depend on LSI paralegals to maximize the efficiency of both Juvenile and Orphans' Court processes. During SFY 2024-2025, LSI paralegals performed **93,559 total Juvenile Court activities**, including attending **19,774 hearings** and preparing **42,041 documents**. LSI paralegals also performed **16,866 total Orphans' Court activities**, including the drafting of **3176 petitions for termination of parental rights**. Additionally, SWAN LSI paralegals completed **1624 activities related to the adoption of a child** in Pennsylvania.

SWAN LSI looks forward to continuing our collaboration with county children and youth agencies and dedicated professionals across the network to achieve positive outcomes for children and families in Pennsylvania.

#### SWAN Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Search Guide Update

The *SWAN ICWA Search Guide* was recently updated to reflect changes to the Pennsylvania Rule of Juvenile Court Procedure 1203 and supporting amendments, which became effective on July 1, 2025. The adoption of Rule 1203 solidifies the importance of exploring, engaging and maintaining tribal connections for children involved in the dependency system. The [guide](#) is designed to help children and youth agencies comply with federal laws, regulations and guidelines when working with an Indian child or family.

This is a significant step towards strengthening compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act in juvenile court proceedings, particularly by requiring early inquiry into a child's potential Indian status. Documents within the Court of Common Pleas Case Management System have also been updated by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts to reflect these changes.

#### SWAN LSI Diligent Search Updates

SWAN LSI will be rolling out the SWAN Diligent Search Training in the coming months. In this training, participants will be guided through the comprehensive search packet, which outlines the search process and ensures compliance with the laws and regulations governing search and family finding practice. Participants will be able to define a diligent search, gain an understanding of the history of Diligent Search, and understand the purpose and types of searches required. Additionally, they will gain resources and information to streamline their individual agency search process. Stay tuned for this exciting training coming your way soon!

*Continued on p. 10*

In the meantime, to access a copy of the Ninth Edition of the *SWAN LSI Diligent Search Packet*, visit the [SWAN Permanency Toolkit](#) or contact your LSI coordinator for more information. This latest edition includes important and updated information to help ensure your agency is following both new and existing laws related to diligent search and family finding efforts.

### The Value of a Video

When looking for quick information—such as creating a great dish for a potluck or impressing a new boss—many of us turn to short tutorial videos online. These videos have become invaluable resources for learning a new skill or understanding a concept. They make learning engaging and accessible from anywhere.

Recruiter videos are a powerful way to showcase youths' unique qualities. Two- to three-minute clips can be created by recruiters (and youth) and submitted to PAE for inclusion on the youth's [AdoptPAkids](#) page. This allows waiting families and caseworkers to view personalized videos at any time, helping them connect with the youth's personality and interests.

If you've made a recruitment video, email [PAE@diakon-swan.org](mailto:PAE@diakon-swan.org) to request the submission form. For guidance on creating a video, check out *Tip #7 – Submitting Recruitment Videos* in the [Strategies for Permanency](#).

A new PAE workshop on recruiter videos will be held December 8 as part of the Statewide PAE workshop series this fall. For questions, consult your supervisor or contact your agency's SWAN RTA or any PAE coordinator.

### Keeping Contact Information Up to Date

It is essential to keep worker contact information on the CY130 and CY131 current. Here's why:

- **Child Specific Recruitment (CSR) Worker Contact Information (CY130):** The CSR worker is the main contact for PAE active children on [the AdoptPAkids website](#). Accurate contact details facilitate better communication about potential matches. If a CSR referral ends, this info should be updated to prevent unnecessary inquiries and notifications.
- **Family Worker Contact Information (CY131):** The family worker listed here receives electronic match results and inquiries when their family is considered for a match with a youth. Current details help streamline communication, increasing matching success.

Additionally, remember to put the child/youth and family on hold as soon as a match is identified. Before invoicing any Child Specific Recruitment or

Family Matching services, ensure that the contact information on both forms is accurate by checking the SWAN Portal. This small step can significantly enhance the matching process! If you have questions, reach out to your supervisor, your agency's SWAN RTA or any PAE coordinator.

### Save The Date for the 2026 PA Farm Show!

*January 10-16 in Harrisburg, PA.*

Milkshakes, baby goats, rodeos, unique food, parking passes and more! The Pennsylvania Farm Show is an opportunity for SWAN to interact with the public and raise awareness about foster care, adoption and permanency. Consider volunteering to help staff the SWAN booth. **Sign-up information will be coming in November!**

Questions? Contact PAE coordinator [Alfredo Gonzalez](#). To learn more about the Farm Show in general, check out [last year's recap video](#).

### Working With Incarcerated Parents

The Pennsylvania State Roundtable's Dependent Children of Incarcerated Parents Workgroup reminds us in their mission statement that, under the law, "incarcerated parents have the same rights, as parents who are not incarcerated, to fully participate in the court process, to fully participate in case planning, to require the agency to make reasonable efforts towards reunification, and to have visitation and contact with their children."

In the past year alone, the Superior Court vacated termination orders on two cases, finding that the agencies involved failed to meet their burdens under 2511(a). In both cases, the record displayed that agencies made minimal efforts towards reunification with parents who were incarcerated.

SWAN LSI recognizes how essential it is to work with incarcerated parents throughout the life of a child welfare case and how engagement with incarcerated parents can impact permanency for children in care.

The fifth edition of the [SWAN LSI Incarceration Resource Manual \(IRM\)](#), remains a valuable, comprehensive tool for child welfare professionals to use for case planning with incarcerated parents and as a resource to support the county agencies' efforts to engage with these parties. The manual provides protocols for each county correctional facility in Pennsylvania, including:

- Guidance on written and telephone communication to support contact between the incarcerated parents and children;
- Visitation schedules or video visitation to support parent-child visitation; and

*Continued on p. 11*

- Services available to the incarcerated parent to support reunification and permanency efforts.

While the IRM is focused on sharing information specific to the county prison facilities in Pennsylvania, we recognize that there are dependent children who may have a parent confined to a state or federal prison facility. There are many resources available to assist in case planning for parents incarcerated in these facilities. We've compiled a list of links that are included in the SWAN LSI IRM. If you have any questions about this resource, or have updates about a facility's protocols, contact [lsiirmupdates@diakon-swan.org](mailto:lsiirmupdates@diakon-swan.org).

### SWAN Permanency Toolkit Adds New Independent Living Program Section

The SWAN Permanency Toolkit has been expanded to include a new Independent Living Program (ILP) section. This addition is designed to strengthen collaboration between SWAN and Independent Living (IL) workers, enhancing older youths' engagement in permanency planning.

The section highlights the importance of actively involving IL workers as part of the permanency team, particularly when developing and implementing SWAN Units of Service such as the Child Preparation Plan and Child Specific Recruitment Plan. By coordinating efforts, SWAN and IL professionals can deliver more cohesive and effective services for youth.

Key features of the new ILP section include:

- **Directory of IL Contacts** – Direct link to county agencies and private providers to support outreach and meeting invitations.
- **Independent Living Program Overview** – A concise summary of IL services and supports.
- **Program Overviews and Resources** – Information and related materials for the *Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program*, *Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board (YAB)*, *National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)*, *Chafee Aftercare Services*, *Older Youth Retreat*, and the *Chafee Education and Training Grant Program*.
- **Downloadable Youth-Focused Materials** – Resources created with input from youth and professionals, including a SWAN brochure developed by the YAB that explains SWAN services in youth-friendly language.

By integrating IL resources, the Toolkit promotes a holistic, youth-centered approach to permanency planning and reinforces shared responsibility for successful outcomes as youth prepare to transition from care.

The new section is available at [swantoolkit.org](http://swantoolkit.org) under Section 14: Independent Living Program.

### ACT 101 Training: Save the Date

The next *Act 101 of 2010 Training Program for Court and Agency Appointed Authorized Representatives* is planned for

**Wednesday, January 7, 2026,  
from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at**

300 Corporate Center Dr.  
Camp Hill, PA, 17011.

*(Note: This meeting space is in the building adjacent to the SWAN prime contractor's office.)*

Per Act 101, counties and agencies shall appoint an Authorized Representative to fulfill the duties of Act 101 regarding adoption searches and requests for information. This training is designed for newly appointed Authorized Representatives.

A registration link will be provided closer to the training by your SWAN RTA. Questions about the Act 101 Training can be directed to Technical Assistance Division Manager [Kelly Weston](#).

#### SWAN Prime Contract

200 Corporate Center Drive Suite 100B  
PO Box 959

Camp Hill, PA 17011

Ph: 717-236-8490 | Fax: 717-236-8510

[www.diakon-swan.org](http://www.diakon-swan.org)

[www.dhs.pa.gov/AdoptPAkids](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/AdoptPAkids)



**From the PA Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC)  
Independent Living (IL) Project  
University of Pittsburgh**

### Older Youth Retreat

The Older Youth Retreat was held at the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown Campus July 28 – August 1, 2025. There were 89 youth in attendance on the first day, representing 28 counties. You can view a recap of the older youth retreat at [payab.pitt.edu/videos/2025RetreatVideo.mp4](https://payab.pitt.edu/videos/2025RetreatVideo.mp4).

Next year's retreat is already set for July 27 - July 31, 2026, so mark your calendars! Please feel free to contact Meghan O'Hare, [meo43@pitt.edu](mailto:meo43@pitt.edu) with any questions regarding the event.

### Older Youth Training and Resources

There are several sources of information related to older youth maintained by the Child Welfare Resource Center. These include:

- PA Youth Advisory Board website, which includes information for youth and staff: [payab.pitt.edu](https://payab.pitt.edu)
- PA Child Welfare Resource Center website: [pacwrc.pitt.edu](https://pacwrc.pitt.edu)
  - Including webinars specific to older youth: [pacwrc.pitt.edu/Webinars.htm](https://pacwrc.pitt.edu/Webinars.htm)
- PA Youth Advisory Board Facebook page: [facebook.com/PAYouthAdvisoryBoard](https://facebook.com/PAYouthAdvisoryBoard)

### SAT Waivers

As another year of school has begun, many of our high school juniors and seniors will not only be looking to achieve their high school diploma or GED certificate, but they may be considering their options regarding post-secondary education. The process of applying for college admission can be expensive. Costs may include SAT fees and institutional application fees. To reduce this financial barrier, the College Board provides SAT fee-waivers to various agencies to distribute to qualified, economically disadvantaged students who plan to take the SAT tests.

As a reminder, the Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC) is one of the agencies designated to distribute SAT fee waivers. Below you will find some additional information about the waivers, as well as the Resource Center's process on how to obtain a waiver code for your youth.

- The Child Welfare Resource Center will be distributing SAT Reasoning and SAT Subject Test Electronic Fee Waiver codes to help

Pennsylvania's older youth continue their higher education.

- All forms can be found at [Staff Resources: Education Services | Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board](#). Completed forms should be emailed, as an attachment to Julie Hill, [jah721@pitt.edu](mailto:jah721@pitt.edu). Please keep in mind the deadline for each testing date and allow enough time to process the paperwork.
- Upon receipt of the request, an electronic fee waiver code will be sent to the requestor.
- Students receive two (2) College Application Fee Waivers on their College Board account after they take an SAT test using a fee waiver code. The same code can be used for both SAT tests.

In previous years, the high absentee rates raised concerns from the College Board. Test-day absenteeism among fee-waiver recipients not only results in a monetary loss, but it also results in lost opportunities for students. Below are four main concerns students have identified as reasons for missing the test.

- Access to transportation / directions
- Better preparation and more confidence
- A closer test center location
- More encouragement and reminders

With this in mind, please make every effort is made to ensure youth have the support they need to be prepared to take the test.

Specific questions regarding the SAT waiver should be directed to the College Board: SAT Customer Service at (866) 756-7346.

Questions regarding how to obtain an electronic fee waiver code may be directed to Julie Hill at [jah721@pitt.edu](mailto:jah721@pitt.edu).

### PA Statewide Youth Advisory Board

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay connected!

### 2025 YAB Leadership Summit

The Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board (YAB) held its 2025 Leadership Summit on June 11–12 at the Child Welfare Resource Center. Youth from across the state participated in workshops focused on college readiness, housing, aftercare resources, and networking. These sessions empowered youth to influence policies that directly affect their lives, contributing to a more youth-centered child welfare system.



### **YAB and Citizen Review Panel (CRP): Empowering Foster Youth for Independence**

YAB proudly serves as Pennsylvania's fourth Citizen Review Panel, with regional boards advancing key initiatives. This year's recommendations centered on *Normalcy*, *Parenting*, *Budgeting*, and *NYTD*.

- *Normalcy*  
The Northeast YAB developed creative outreach tools, including stickers titled "What's Your Normal?" These link to valuable resources that educate youth on their rights.

#### **WHAT'S YOUR NORMAL?**



[Youth Rights Resources - Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board.](#)

- *Pregnancy and Parenting Youth*  
The Southwest YAB is leading efforts to support parenting youth in care. Their work includes education on parental rights, pregnancy and birth planning, postpartum support, and specialized training for youth in foster care who are parents.
- *Budgeting*  
The Southeast YAB is enhancing financial literacy through the *5 Budgeting Steps* initiative, now featured on the YAB website at [Money Management Resources - Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board](#). These steps include:
  - Track income and expenses
  - Determine needs vs. wants
  - Limit food orders and eating out
  - Identify and reduce spending "leaks"
  - Save even small amounts for unexpected expenses

### **NYTD Engagement**

YAB is expanding youth awareness and involvement in the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD). A new presentation is being distributed to counties and regions to educate youth on the importance of participating in NYTD

surveys. The NYTD Council is looking to engage youth at the local level to ensure their voices are heard.

### **Seasonal Support for Youth in Care**

Change in seasons and holidays can be a particularly difficult time of year for youth in foster care—marked by feelings of disconnection from birth families and siblings—please remember that resources are available. Visit the [YAB website](#) for tools and guidance to support youth during this season.

### **YAB Consultants**

The PA Youth Advisory board is seeking consultants for the North Central, South Central and Northwest regions. The purpose of the YAB consultants is to ensure grass roots advocacy efforts for older youth initiatives are supported at the local and regional levels. The consultants coordinate all activities and communication for the regional Youth Advisory Boards including quarterly meetings, statewide YAB meetings, community services events and legislative initiatives. For more information, please contact Carl Butler [CLB379@pitt.edu](mailto:CLB379@pitt.edu) at the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center or 717-795-9048.

#### **PA Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC)**

403 E. Winding Hill Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
717-795-9048  
[www.payab.pitt.edu](http://www.payab.pitt.edu)

# ABA Education Barriers to Permanency Project

*A project of the American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law*

The **ABA Education Barriers to Permanency Project** improves school experiences and outcomes for children in foster care to promote permanency and life success.

## Key Principles

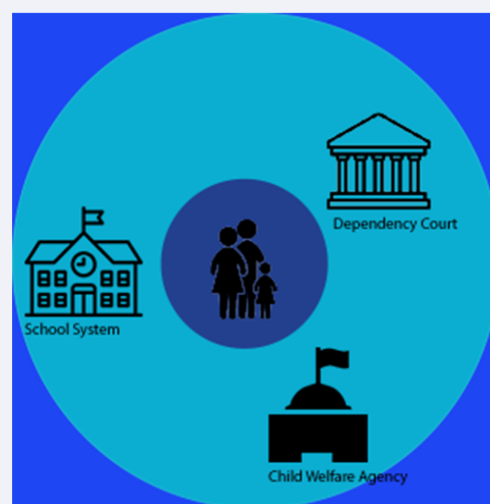
1. **School stability strengthens placement stability** and often speeds permanency for children and families.
2. **School success guides life success.** Focusing on the full educational experience (including needs and supports) improves school and life outcomes.
3. **Child welfare agencies, schools, and courts must work together** to create a support network for students in foster care.

## How the Project Helps

The Education Barriers project can:

- ✓ **Identify strengths and challenges** child welfare agency, education, and court systems experience supporting education success for children in care.
- ✓ **Develop strategies, practices, and policies** to address challenges and improve education success for children in care.
- ✓ **Provide targeted technical assistance** to address needs and train educators, child welfare staff, and the legal community.
- ✓ **Collaborate on a long-term reform strategy** to address barriers and needs and implement reforms (see Full project components, right).

## A Collaborative Approach



### Full project components:

1. Identify education barriers.
2. Recommend and implement changes.
3. Work with child welfare, education, and court systems to develop and implement new policies and procedures.
4. Monitor improvements and changes.
5. Measure and report project results.

## Get started today

The ABA Education Barriers to Permanency Project can work with your jurisdiction to promote permanency for children in foster care by addressing children's education needs. Contact us to get started or to learn more.



Kathleen McNaught, 202/662-1966



Kathleen.McNaught@americanbar.org



<http://www.abaeducationbarriers.org>

# ABA Permanency Barriers Project

*A project of the American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law*

The ABA Permanency Barriers Project works with you to reduce the time children spend in foster care before achieving permanency.

## Principles

1. Permanency begins on Day 1.
2. Small steps add up to change.
3. Full stakeholder engagement is key to realize and maintain system reform.

## Project Approach

### 1 Focus on System Change

ABA staff help local stakeholders develop individualized county action plans. The action plans are based on a thorough assessment of needs, which includes:

- Case file review
- Court observation
- Data analysis
- Focus groups with stakeholders

### 2 County-Driven, County-Owned

Each jurisdiction encounters unique challenges. We form a county Advisory Board and issue-based subcommittees made up of lead decisionmakers, including:

- Child welfare agency administrators and staff
- Behavioral health providers
- Juvenile and family court judges
- School administrators
- Agency, parent, and children's attorneys
- Others, as identified by county

### 3 ABA as Neutral Facilitator and Strategic Partner

ABA staff are on site monthly working to develop and implement reforms.

- Our attorneys bring extensive firsthand knowledge and national perspective to guide your county.
- We ensure all stakeholders join the effort as equal partners.
- We focus on system barriers and engagement between the legal and nonlegal communities at both the county and state level.
- We provide individualized attention, which can include refining court and agency procedures, providing legal analysis, and conducting trainings.

### 4 Improved Outcomes

At the end of this two-year project, you will see:

- More efficient and effective pathways to permanency for every case;
- A reduction of time in foster care for children in your county; and
- Improved communication, network building, and stakeholder collaboration.

## Measurable Results

At the end of the two-year project each county receives a final project report that summarizes results and provides recommendations to sustain system change. To date, the project has:

- ✓ served **55** different counties in **four** states,
- ✓ reduced the time children spend in foster care in all four states by an average of **nine months**,
- ✓ realized a positive impact on more than **3,000** children,
- ✓ saved counties and states over **\$30 million** in foster care costs.

## Targeted Technical Assistance

As an alternative to the two-year model, we provide targeted technical assistance on permanency matters through on-site trainings, developing local protocols, facilitating meetings, and other solutions to address local challenges. ABA technical assistance can range from a one-day training to a multi-month engagement.

## Get Started Today

The ABA Permanency Barriers Project can work with your county to promote permanency for children in foster care.

**For more information, contact:**  
Heidi Redlich Epstein, 202-662-1725  
[Heidi.Epstein@americanbar.org](mailto:Heidi.Epstein@americanbar.org)

*This project is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families.*





**We're seeking ONE Board Member from each region:**

**Region 4:**

Lycoming, Union, Snyder, Montour, Columbia, Northumberland, Schuylkill, Berks, Lehigh

**Region 6:**

Clearfield, Clinton, Centre, Indiana, Cambria, Blair, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Fulton, Bedford, Somerset, Fayette

**Region 7:**

Erie, Crawford, Warren, McKean, Cameron, Elk, Jefferson, Clarion, Forest, Mercer

**Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association  
Is Seeking Volunteer Board Members!**

**What Board Members Do:**

- Support PSRFA's mission to uplift foster, adoptive & kinship families
- Attend virtual/in-person Board meetings and vote on key matters
- Help grow Membership, plan Conferences, fundraise, and advocate legislatively
- Connect with families, agencies & partners in your region
- Serve a 3-year term (renewable)

**Who Can Serve?**

At least ⅔ of Board Members must be foster, adoptive, or kinship caregivers. Others may be professionals, advocates, or community members who share our commitment.

**Why Join?**

Make a meaningful impact on children and families across Pennsylvania. Shape programs, influence policy, and expand vital resources.

**Interested?**

Contact: Melissa Geesaman, Executive Director [mgeesaman@psrfa.org](mailto:mgeesaman@psrfa.org)