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**Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800-800-5556**

## **Innovative Strategies for Foster Care Recruitment Grant Request for Application**

### Key Dates

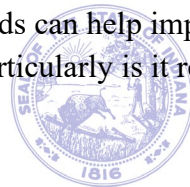
Release Date: 12/02/2022  
Application Deadline: 01/20/2023  
Award Notification: 02/28/2023

### Background

The Indiana Department of Child Services leads the state's response to allegations of child abuse and neglect and is responsible for ensuring the well-being and safety of the children in its care. When children are unable to remain with their primary families due to unresolvable safety concerns, DCS prioritizes placing children in family-based settings that are well equipped and supported to meet the needs of children while they await permanency. DCS closely monitors placement stability and timely permanency attainment of youth in its care and strives to provide substitute-care homes that are safe, stable, and supportive of each child's unique needs and permanency plan.

### Purpose

The purpose of this grant is to help support the recruitment of high-quality foster parents by Indiana's Licensed Child Placing Agencies (LCPAs). DCS recognizes the critical role that LCPAs play in locating, training, licensing, and supporting high-quality foster parents around the state, and is issuing this grant application to provide resources for LCPAs to improve, enhance, and develop new recruitment initiatives, particularly as they may relate to locating foster parents who are willing to foster youth with challenges related to their mental health, emotional health, physical health, and behavioral health. DCS hopes that this grant application helps identify and license foster parents who are able to provide the necessary safety and stability for these youth to make progress in their treatment and improve their overall functioning and well-being. In addition, DCS hopes that these grant funds can help improve the placement stability and timeliness of permanency attainment, particularly as it relates to reunification, of the foster youth



*Children will live in safe, healthy and supportive families and communities.*

of the state. In addition, DCS hopes that these grant funds will help reduce the state's usage of residential treatment and group-care settings while better ensuring all Hoosier children have safe, stable, and family-based homes in which to live. Applications that speak to addressing these specific goals will be given special consideration.

### Eligibility Requirements

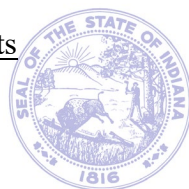
Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be an Indiana-Licensed Child Placing Agency (LCPA) with a current LCPA contract with Indiana DCS.
- Must not be on a referral hold with the DCS at the time of grant application.
- Must be able to enter into a state grant agreement. The approved state boilerplate for this agreement can be reviewed here: <https://www.in.gov/idoa/files/2022-Grant-Template.docx>

### Key Program Components

1. The Foster Care Recruitment Grant is intended to provide flexible funding to further the foster-parent recruitment, support, and retention efforts of the state's LCPAs. As such, applications should include information related but not limited to:
  - Hiring of staff to improve the agency's capacity to recruit, train, and support high-quality foster parents, particularly those willing and able to successfully foster challenging youth of all ages, but especially older children and teens.
  - Enhancement, improvements, and/or expansion of existing foster-parent recruitment strategies.
  - Development of new and innovative foster-parent recruitment approaches.
  - Additional supports for existing and new foster parents to improve their capacity to provide stability and safety to youth with behavioral, emotional, medical, developmental, and/or mental health challenges.
  - Research and data-driven approaches to address identified gaps in the state's foster care system.
  - Evidence-based strategies to better support foster parents and improve youth outcomes related to safety, stability, and permanency attainment.
  - Foster-parent retention efforts to better ensure existing high-quality and currently licensed families are retained and able to continue to provide family-based supports to children in need.
  - Recruitment and support of families willing to adopt Indiana's children whose parental rights have been terminated and who are currently waiting to be successfully matched to pre-adoptive families.

### Documentation and Reporting Requirements



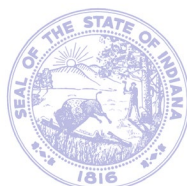
LCPAs awarded funding through the Foster Care Recruitment Grant must be able to clearly document how awarded funds were used in ways consistent with the application submitted by the agency. Such documentation must be available upon request and should include where applicable:

- Documentation including salary information related to the hiring of new or repurposing of existing staff to achieve the applicant's goals related to the Foster Care Recruitment Grant.
- Receipts, invoices, or other documents related to the purchasing, leasing, renting, or development of tools or resources used to achieve the applicant's goals related the Foster Care Recruitment Grant.

### Data Collection

Documentation using data of the effectiveness of the applicant's foster care recruitment efforts and any modifications must be submitted to DCS within twelve (12) months of the agency's Foster Care Recruitment Grant award. This should include where applicable information related to the number of foster parents recruited, trained, licensed, and/or retained, as well as data around the outcomes of DCS-referred youth to the LCPA and how they may have changed as a result of the agency's Foster Care Recruitment Grant award.

Applicants must email their completed application form to Assistant Director of Administrative Services, Rebecca Chauhan at [Rebecca.C Chauhan@dcs.in.gov](mailto:Rebecca.C Chauhan@dcs.in.gov) by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 20th.



*Protecting our children, families and future*

## **Innovative Strategies for Foster Care Recruitment Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What size of grants expected to be made? Is there a cap?**

\$2 million total state funds will be available and awarded based on the number of applicants and scoring of proposals. There is not a cap for each award.

### **Will DCS award grants based on program size or solely quality of the proposal?**

Each application will be objectively scored, and awards will be made based on scoring.

### **Is there an overview of allowable budget items? Is there a budget template?**

Applicants are asked to propose a budget based on the cost needs of their innovative program ideas. Scoring will be based on quality of proposed program and reasonableness of the accompanying budget.

### **What is the total amount to be awarded to all agencies?**

A total of \$2 million in state funding will be available for the applicant pool.

### **What is the time period of availability of funds?**

Grant agreements must be signed and funds encumbered before June 30, 2023 and may be spent through June 30, 2024.

### **Will grant funds count against an agency in future cost reports?**

This grant program is funded by state appropriation and is not part of the federal programs supported by DCS.

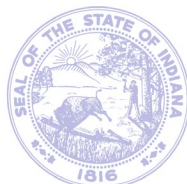
### **What measurable outcomes should agencies expect to have?**

Measurable outcomes will differ for each innovating program idea. Applicant programs with quantifiable measurable outcomes will receive higher scores than those with vague or qualitative outcomes.

### **How will funds be disbursed to awardees?**

Grant funds will be paid in arrears, as cost reimbursement, when invoiced to DCS.

Additional questions should be emailed to [Rebecca.Chauhan@dcs.in.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Chauhan@dcs.in.gov) by Friday 12/16.



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