

Adoption Connection

DCFS Quarterly Newsletter for Adoptive Families



July 2024

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Adoption Q&A

Will my adopted child receive financial assistance for college because he/she was adopted from foster care?

Maybe. If the child was adopted after the age of 16 and meets the eligibility requirements, he/she may qualify for the Educational Training Vouchers. Please see the attached Chafee flyer.

Is counseling/therapy available for my adopted child?

Yes, if your child has Medicaid through the adoption subsidy. Counselors/Therapists who accept Medicaid will need to be identified first. Please call your regional subsidy worker for further assistance and/or a referral. The worker directory is attached.

Will Medicaid pay for the cost of braces for my adopted child?

No, in most cases. However, please discuss with your child's orthodontist if the procedure is medically necessary.

Once I adopt, can I move to another state?

Yes. You are considered the legal parent of the child and do not have to remain in Louisiana. If you receive an adoption subsidy, the subsidy follows you and your child. Please notify your subsidy worker so that the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance Administrator can be informed in order to have your child's Medicaid transferred to the other state and to update your mailing address in our system.

Send your questions to dcsf.adoptions@la.gov for future issues, or call a DCFS Adoption staff member for immediate needs.

Let's Talk About Adoption

When Grandparents Adopt

by Andrew Adesman, M.D. and Christine Adamec

Millions of children around the world are currently being raised in "grandfamilies." In this excerpt from a new guidebook, learn how to make sense of your new role and explain this unique form of kinship adoption to your child.

What is a grandfamily? It's a family unit in which a grandparent (or sometimes two grandparents) is the head of household and is also actively parenting one or more grandchildren.

Grandfamilies are often formed under stress. Grandparents may step in as the result of a crisis, such as a parent's arrest, substance abuse, or children being removed from the home because of child abuse or neglect. Someone must immediately take charge of the children, and so the grandparents decide they will now assume this role. Whatever the reason, it's very scary and very stressful.

If you find yourself raising your grandchildren—perhaps with very little notice—you might feel disoriented at first. You might miss your past role of a "normal" indulgent grandparent: someone who said yes to nearly everything, from an extra cookie to a spontaneous trip to the zoo. And you might feel alone, perhaps out of step with the much-younger parents around you. But in fact, you're not alone.

Continue reading at: <https://shorturl.at/39xNx>

DCFS News Corner

LA 211, Louisiana's Statewide Network, connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in their community. Support is available 24/7, and it's FREE and confidential. Visit louisiana211.org, or text your Zip Code to 898-211

State Offices will be closed July 4-5 and September 2

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Supporting LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care

There are approximately 175,000 youth ages 10-18 in foster care in the United States. Of these youth, an estimated 5-10%, and likely more, are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ).

Like all young people, LGBTQ youth in foster care need the support of a nurturing family to help them negotiate adolescence and grow into healthy adults. However, LGBTQ youth in foster care face additional challenges. Despite these challenges, LGBTQ youth—like all youth in the child welfare system—can heal and thrive when families commit to accepting, loving, and supporting them as they grow into their potential as adults.

[Continue reading](#) to learn more .

DCFS Adoption Highlight

Nyla is a teenager with a cool sense of style and fashion, who loves basketball and electronics. Nyla prefers to be called "DJ" because she really loves music. She is fun to be around, enjoys being with family and friends and helping other children with homework and encouraging them.

DJ is looking for a forever family who is willing to give unconditional love and help help her reach her fullest potential. Contact Angela Williams at 504-568-8992 or Angela.Williams.dcf4@la.gov for more information.



Resources for Adoptive Families

- [DCFS's Adoption Page](#)
- [Center for Adoption Support and Education](#)
- [Louisiana 211](#)
- [National Training and Development Curriculum \(NTDC\) for foster and adoptive parents](#)

Be Prepared

Hurricane Season: June 1 - November 30

Hurricane season is here, and according to the National Hurricane Center, 2024 is expected to be an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. Being Louisiana residents, we must take some preliminary precautions. According to [Red Stick Ready](#), below are steps to take before a hurricane to help you be prepared.

Make an Emergency Plan

Develop a plan with your household members that outlines what to do, how to find each other, and how to communicate if a hurricane strikes. You can use GOHSEP's [Get a Game Plan](#) to ensure you've thought of everything.

Create an Emergency Kit

- Have a 3-day supply for each person in your household.
- Include water, non-perishable food, medication, cash, disinfectant supplies, personal hygiene items, personal identification and important documents, supplies for your children, and pet supplies in your kit.

Prepare Your Home

- Trim or remove damaged trees and limbs.
- Secure loose items and clear gutters.
- Fuel your vehicles, generators, and gas cans. Consider purchasing a portable generator and additional gas cans.
- Check your insurance coverage. Keep a copy with you - paper or electronic.

We want everyone to stay safe this hurricane season, knowing from experience how devastating these storms can be even if you are not in the direct path. Go to [Red Stick Ready](#) or [Get a Game Plan](#) for more information. We pray for a safe and uneventful 2024 hurricane season for all.