

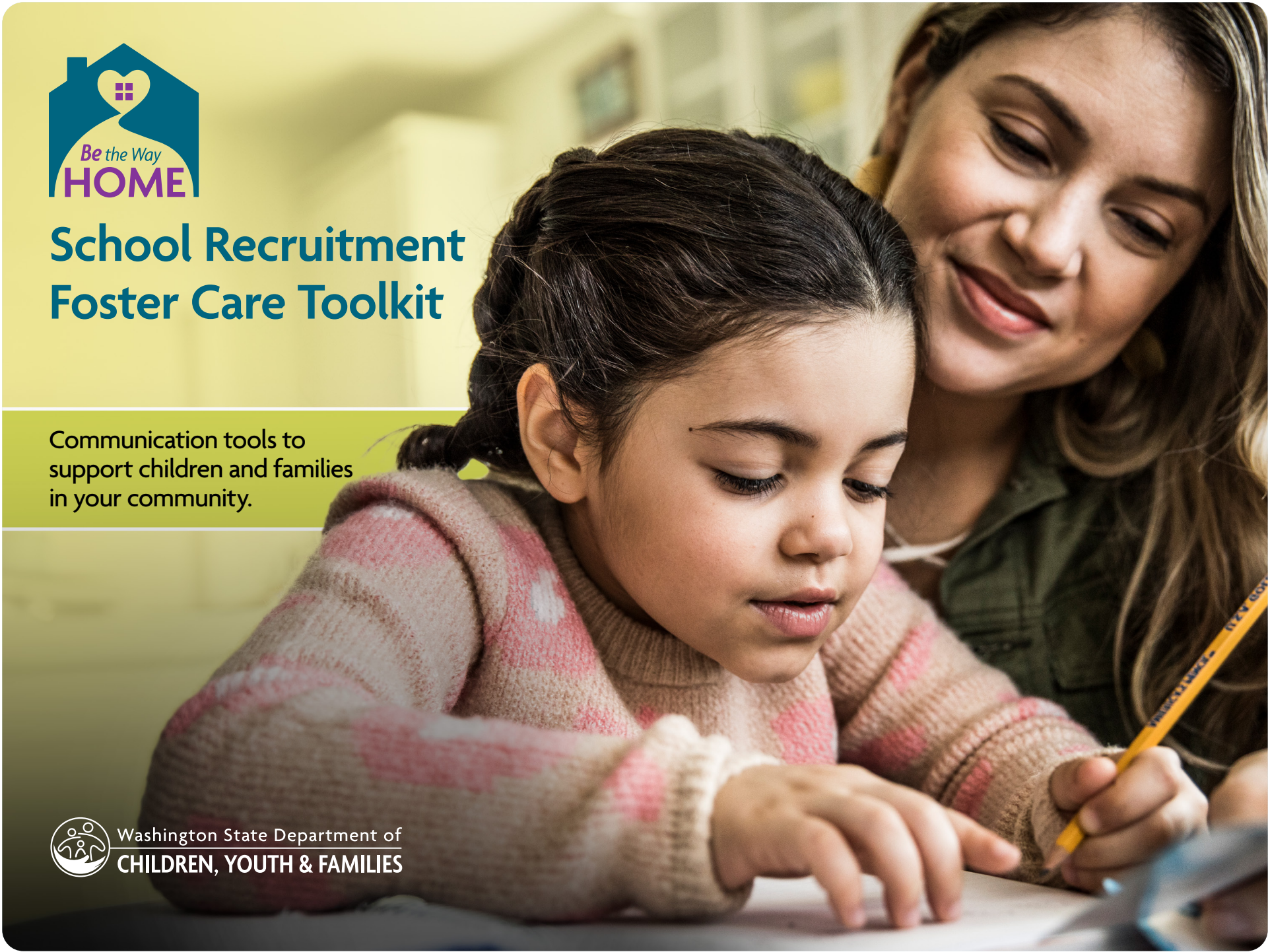


School Recruitment Foster Care Toolkit

Communication tools to
support children and families
in your community.



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE SCHOOL RECRUITMENT TOOL KIT

Introduction.....	3
School Recruitment Goals and Outcomes.....	4
How Your Toolkit Can be Used.....	5
Social Media Tips.....	6
Printable Flyers and Posters.....	7
Ways Anyone Can Support Foster Children and Youth.....	8



INTRODUCTION

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) recognizes the vital role schools play in the lives of young people, as well as the importance of collaborating with our school partners.

This school recruitment toolkit provides resources to increase awareness about the need for foster parents locally. In Washington state, more than 4,900 children in youth are in out-of-home care (foster care, kinship care etc.)

The more community members involved in foster care, the more likely it is that young people experiencing foster care will remain in their community if removed from family care.

Through this resource and by building relationships with schools statewide, we hope to:

- Increase awareness and understanding about the benefits of keeping children in their school communities
- Engage and recruit potential foster parents
- Build support networks for young people in care

In this kit, you'll find data, insights, and practical materials for supporting foster young people. This toolkit also offers valuable resources suitable for campus initiatives or social media outreach. Explore our website (<https://dcyf.wa.gov>) for more information about supporting young people experiencing foster care.

Schools are vital in supporting young people in foster care.

Providing stability in an otherwise uncertain period is crucial to achieving our goal of empowering foster young people. By helping them remain in their schools, we ensure they maintain crucial connections with both their families and supportive school network, resulting in better outcomes like improved mental health, better academic performance, and enhanced social relationships.

Our outreach to schools is grounded in the recognition that educational systems serve as a key resilience factor for young people facing adversity. Your school community can help keep kids with their support networks and foster the future. Together, we can bring consistency and offer support for these resilient individuals.

Every step you take to help spread the word can make a difference. **Start planning now!**



SCHOOL RECRUITMENT GOALS AND OUTCOMES

FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT GOALS



Increase awareness and understanding about the benefits of keeping children in their school communities



Engage and recruit potential foster parents



Build support networks for young people in care

58% of young people are being placed in kinship care

STABLE, CONSISTENT PLACEMENTS LEAD TO IMPROVED OUTCOMES



Improved Mental Health



Stronger Attachment Bonds



Enhanced Social Relationships



Better Academic Performance



Improved Physical Health



Reduced Behavioral Issues



Access to Long-Term Support



Positive Future Outcomes

STEPS TO BECOMING LICENSED

Choose Your Agency

You can choose to work with DCYF's Licensing Division or a Child Placing Agency (CPA)

Complete Training

All future foster parents are required to participate in pre-service training

Complete an Application

Contact a CPA or DCYF's Licensing Division (LD) to complete an application

Meet with Staff

You will be assigned an LD staff person known as your licenser who will complete your home visit and interviews

Licensing Timeframe

About 120 days from application to license

HOW YOUR TOOLKIT CAN BE USED

- **Share** – We encourage you to distribute the digital version of this toolkit among your staff to help amplify awareness about the pressing need for more foster parents in your school community.
- **Post** – Utilize the provided social media images on your school's platforms. Staff can also help us extend our reach by sharing these or posts from our Facebook page on their personal accounts.
- **Print** – Display our posters and flyers in your school. Reach out if you need any printed, we are happy to provide these materials.
- **Visit** – Explore our website to learn about the fostering process and find resources supporting both new and existing foster parents throughout Washington.

For school-specific information visit: <https://dcyf.wa.gov/foster-school>

- **Invite** – Use this kit to learn how to invite a Targeted Recruitment Specialist to talk to your school community about the critical need for foster parents. They can provide specific data and share specific requirements to support the young people in your school.



SOCIAL MEDIA TIPS

Together, we can amplify foster care awareness within our communities! Use the ready-to-share social media posts in this toolkit to educate and show support for local foster care in your community.

Here's how you can get involved:

- Share the Love: Spread the word by sharing our posts about foster care on your social media. A simple share can reach potential foster families and make a huge impact.
- Add a Personal Touch: Share your district's commitment to fostering care and encourage others to do the same.
- Use our Hashtag: Join the conversation by using our hashtags *#supportfosterchildren #bethewayhome #fosterthefuture*.

Sample Social Media Posts

- Join us in making a difference! Our school district needs your support to give every child and youth a loving home. Learn about fostering today. *#supportfosterchildren #bethewayhome #fosterthefuture*
www.dcyf.wa.gov/foster-school
- Together, we can change a child's future. Become a foster parent in our school district and be a champion for local young people in need. *#supportfosterchildren #bethewayhome #fosterthefuture*
www.dcyf.wa.gov/foster-school
- Together, we can build a brighter future for young people experiencing foster care. Join our school district's foster care initiative and make a positive impact in our community. *#supportfosterchildren #bethewayhome #fosterthefuture*
www.dcyf.wa.gov/foster-school
- Empower local young people through foster care! Supporting kids in our community means brighter futures. Join us and make a difference. *#supportfosterchildren #bethewayhome #fosterthefuture*
www.dcyf.wa.gov/foster-school

- Create a ripple effect of positivity in your community! By fostering locally, you help young people maintain essential connections and a sense of belonging. Join us in making a lasting impact. *#supportfosterchildren #bethewayhome #fosterthefuture* **www.dcyf.wa.gov/foster-school**
- Keep young people close to their roots! Fostering locally means giving local young people the stability of staying in their communities. Be a part of their journey to success. *#supportfosterchildren #bethewayhome #fosterthefuture* **www.dcyf.wa.gov/foster-school**
- Strengthen our community one child and youth at a time. Fostering with our school district keeps kids connected to their friends, schools, and support networks. Be a part of this vital mission! *#supportfosterchildren #bethewayhome #fosterthefuture* **www.dcyf.wa.gov/foster-school**

Sample Social Media Graphic



Helpful Website Links

- DCYF's Webpage for Prospective Foster Parents: **www.dcyf.wa.gov/foster-school**
- National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention Flyer – The Role of Schools in Supporting Children in Foster Care: **www.promoteprevent.org/sites/www.promoteprevent.org/files/resources/The%20Role%20of%20Schools.docx.pdf**

PRINTABLE FLYERS AND POSTERS

Get the attention of potential foster parents with the DCYF flyers and posters created just for schools.

For Digital Versions click on hyperlinks below, if you would like printed versions, please email the Foster Recruitment team at dcyf.caregiverrecruitmentandretention@dcyf.wa.gov.



School Recruitment Flyers Grades K-5

- PPS_0014A
www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/PPS_0014A.pdf
- PPS_0014B
www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/PPS_0014B.pdf
- PPS_0014C
www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/PPS_0014C.pdf
- PPS_0014D
www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/PPS_0014D.pdf

Social Media Graphics

- Download social graphics for school recruitment at <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/foster-school>

School Recruitment Flyers Grades 6-12

- PPS_0013A
www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/PPS_0013A.pdf
- PPS_0013B
www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/PPS_0013B.pdf
- PPS_0013C
www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/PPS_0013C.pdf
- PPS_0013D
www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/PPS_0013D.pdf

Foster Care Virtual Information Sessions

- PPS_0013E Foster Parent Information Session
www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/PPS_0013E.pdf

WAYS ANYONE CAN SUPPORT FOSTER CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Become a Short- or Long-Term Foster Parent

Commit to caring for children for a few days, weeks, or until they are reunited with their families or adopted.

Learn more at <https://dcyf.wa.gov/foster-school>.

Provide Respite Care

Offer short-term care to give foster parents a break. This can be a few hours, a weekend, or longer. Review *Become a Respite Provider (PPS_0090)*: www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/PPS_0090.pdf.

Adopt a Legally Free Child or Youth

Open your home to a child or youth whose parental rights have been terminated and are seeking a forever family.

Learn more at www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/adoption.

Learn About the Foster Care System

Educate yourself about the child welfare system, foster care processes, and the needs of children and families.

Volunteer with Organizations

Help out at agencies or nonprofits that serve children and families involved in foster care.

Donate to Foster Care Closets

Provide new clothes, hygiene products, school supplies, or toys to foster care resource centers.

Start a Meal Train

Coordinate meals for foster families in your community to ease their daily responsibilities.



