



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ODJFS Urges More Ohioans to Consider Becoming Foster Parents

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Gov. Kasich has recognized May 2016 as Foster Care Month in Ohio, and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is encouraging more Ohioans to consider becoming foster parents.

“Ohio has more than 13,000 children in foster care on any given day, and the foster parents who provide safe, loving homes for them are heroes,” said ODJFS Director Cynthia C. Dungey. “I encourage anyone interested in making a positive difference in the life of a child to consider becoming a foster parent. It’s a serious commitment, but it’s also extremely rewarding. It’s one of the most important things anyone can do.”

In Ohio, foster parents are licensed by ODJFS through a county public children services agency or private agency certified by ODJFS to approve and recommend foster parents. Foster parents must be at least 21 and able to meet a child’s basic needs. They also must complete training as part of a home study process.

Foster parents receive ongoing support and training, as well. Most children return to their parents or another relative within a year, but sometimes it takes longer. When foster parents take a child into their home, they agree to care for that child as long as is necessary. They often support the child and family after the child returns home, as well.

For more information about becoming a foster parent, call or visit your county public children services agency. A directory of county agencies is available at jfs.ohio.gov.

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