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ODJFS Celebrates “Strengthening Minds. Uplifting Families.” as May’s National Foster Care Month Theme

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder is encouraging Ohioans to recognize National Foster Care Month, by celebrating Ohio’s foster caregivers, and to learn more about becoming a foster caregiver.

“The month of May gives us an opportunity to raise awareness and draw attention to how families can make a positive impact on the lives of foster children,” said Damschroder. “National Foster Care Month is also a great time to thank those caregivers who’ve opened their homes and hearts to foster youth, as well as the children services professionals who work tirelessly to find both temporary and permanent homes for children in need.”

This year’s National Foster Care Month theme is “Strengthening Minds. Uplifting Families.” It highlights the importance mental health plays in a foster youth’s overall well-being and long-term success. Many youth entering the foster system have experienced instability or trauma. Ensuring they have access to trauma-informed and individualized care, including addressing anxiety and depression, can ensure that mental health issues don’t prevent a child from growing to reach their full potential.

In his National Foster Care Month [proclamation](#), Governor Mike DeWine pointed to specialized services and support programs like OhioRISE that are helping to meaningfully address the mental health needs of children, youth, and young adults in foster care. OhioRISE includes in-home and community-based services for children with the most complex behavioral health challenges.

There are approximately 15,000 children and youth in Ohio’s foster care system.

For more information on becoming a resource family, visit FosterAndAdopt.ohio.gov.

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The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.

