

Other National Organizations

Additional partners and national organizations working to improve the lives of children

Creating a level playing field for all children is a mission that CDF cannot accomplish alone. We often work with or refer people to many other organizations nationwide who are working to improve the lives of children. A list of some of them is below.

[AARP Foundation](#)

AARP Foundation Grandparenting Program helps grandparents and grandchildren have access to resources that strengthen their health, finance, and family connections. AARP Foundation serves grandparents and professionals in a variety of ways, including initiatives around work issues for grandfamilies, an online database that connects grandparents raising grandchildren and/or those seeking visitation with local supportive services and programs, and research about grandparenting.

[Alliance for Children and Families](#)

The Alliance for Children and Families provides services to nonprofit child and family serving and economic empowerment organizations in order to strengthen their capacities to serve and to advocate for children, families and communities.

[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

An organization of 62,000 pediatricians committed to the optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.

[American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law](#)

The ABA Center on Children and the Law, a program of the Young Lawyers Division, aims to improve children's lives through advances in law, justice, knowledge, practice and public policy. Areas of expertise include child abuse and neglect, child welfare and protective services system enhancement, foster care, family preservation, termination of parental rights, parental substance abuse, adolescent health, and domestic violence.

[American Public Human Services Association \(APHSA\)](#)

The APHSA is a nonprofit bipartisan organization of state and local human service agencies and individuals who work in or are interested in public human service programs. Its mission is to develop and promote policies and practices that improve the health and well-being of families, children, and adults.

[Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) (AECF)

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is devoted to developing a brighter future for millions of children at risk of poor educational, economic, social and health outcomes. AECF focuses on strengthening families, building stronger communities and ensuring access to opportunity, because children need all three to succeed. The foundation advances research and solutions to overcome the barriers to success, helps communities demonstrate what works and influences decision makers to invest in strategies based on solid evidence. As a private philanthropy based in Baltimore and working across the country, AECF makes grants that help federal agencies, states, counties, cities and neighborhoods create more innovative, cost-effective responses to the

issues that negatively affect children: poverty, unnecessary disconnection from family and communities with limited access to opportunity. Since 1948, these efforts have translated into more informed policies and practices and yielded positive results for larger numbers of kids and families.

[Association on American Indian Affairs \(AAIA\)](#)

AAIA promotes the welfare of American Indians and Alaska Natives by supporting efforts to: sustain and perpetuate their cultures and languages; protect their sovereignty, constitutional, legal and human rights, and natural resources; and improve their health, education, and economic and community development.

[Bazelon Center for Mental Health](#)

The mission of the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law is to protect and advance the rights of adults and children who have mental disabilities. The Bazelon Center envisions an America where people who have mental illnesses or developmental disabilities exercise their own life choices and have access to the resources that enable them to participate fully in their communities.

[Black Administrators in Child Welfare](#)

The Black Administrators in Child Welfare is an advocacy, membership, research, training and technical assistance organization. Registered as a 501C3, BACW was founded in 1971 and incorporated in 1975 in New York to respond to the need for culturally appropriate services for overrepresented African American children and families, and to provide a support network for individuals serving as executives managing child welfare and other human service agencies. BACW is the only child welfare organization that has been involved nationally in work not only addressing child welfare policy, practice, and research on behalf of African American children specifically but all children in foster care. BACW is committed to strengthening and supporting programs designed to promote the healthy development of children, youth and families. BACW supports communities that are serving all children with special attention given to those with a demonstrated interest in helping children of color.

[CASA \(Court Appointed Special Advocates\)](#)

The National CASA Association is a network of 1,000 program offices that are recruiting, training and supporting volunteers to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom and other settings. Independent research has demonstrated that children with a CASA volunteer are substantially less likely to spend time in long-term foster care and less likely to reenter care.

[Casey Family Programs](#)

Casey Family Programs' mission is to provide and improve—and ultimately to prevent the need for—foster care. This organization provides direct services and promotes advances in child-welfare practice and policy.

[Casey Family Services](#)

Casey Family Services is a fully licensed and accredited non-profit child welfare agency providing a broad range of programs to meet the changing needs of vulnerable children and

families. Casey has established a number of specialized and innovative community-based programs to help strengthen families and enable parents to provide the healthy, nurturing environments their children need to grow and thrive.

[Center for Law and Social Policy \(CLASP\)](#)

The Center for Law and Social Policy is a national nonprofit that works to improve the lives of low-income people. CLASP's mission is to improve the economic security, educational and workforce prospects, and family stability of low-income parents, children, and youth and to secure equal justice for all.

[Center for the Study of Social Policy \(CSSP\)](#)

For more than 30 years, CSSP has worked with policymakers and communities across the country to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children and families.

[Chapin Hall Center for Children](#)

Chapin Hall is an independent policy research center whose mission is to build knowledge that improves policies and programs for children and youth, families, and their communities.

[Child Trends](#)

Child Trends improves the lives and prospects of children and youth by conducting high-quality research and sharing the resulting knowledge with practitioners and policymakers.

[Child Welfare League of America](#)

CWLA is a coalition of hundreds of private and public agencies serving vulnerable children and families. Its focus is children and youth who may have experienced abuse, neglect, family disruption, or a range of other factors that jeopardize their safety, permanence, or well-being. CWLA also focuses on the families, caregivers, and the communities that care for and support these children.

[ChildFocus](#)

ChildFocus brings people, programs, and policies together to improve the lives of children and families. ChildFocus helps its clients develop practical, far-reaching strategies through a variety of services, including policy analysis, capacity building, program development, government and community relations, and strategic communications.

[Children and Family Research Center \(CFRC\)](#)

CFRC is an independent research organization dedicated to supporting and conducting research that contributes to keeping children safe, ensuring permanent homes for children, and supporting child and family well-being. Partnered with the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the university-agency partnership advances the safety, family permanence, and well-being of Illinois children.

[Children's Rights](#)

Children's Rights gathers and shares information that may be overlooked by the average person.

[Coalition on Human Needs \(CHN\)](#)

CHN is an alliance of national organizations that work together to promote public policies which address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations. The Coalition's members include civil rights, religious, labor and professional organizations and those concerned with the well-being of children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities.

[First Focus](#)

First Focus brings both traditional and non-traditional leaders together to advocate for federal policies that will improve the lives of America's children. Child health, education, family economics, child welfare, and child safety are the core issue areas in which First Focus promotes bipartisan policy solutions.

[Foster Care Alumni of America](#)

FCAA connects the alumni community to transform policy and practice, ensuring opportunity for people in and from foster care.

[Foster Family-Based Treatment Association \(FFTA\)](#)

The Foster Family-based Treatment Association strengthens agencies that support families caring for vulnerable children. The Association's membership is composed of agencies throughout North America currently operating treatment foster care programs.

[Foster Care to Success](#)

Foster Care to Success (FC2S) is the oldest and largest national nonprofit organization working solely with college bound foster youth. For over 30 years FC2S has helped foster youth navigate the tricky waters of academia, understand the importance of personal fiscal responsibility, determine achievable career goals, and create networks of friendship and support. Since 1981, over 50,000 foster youth have received information, advice, support or funding from Foster Care to Success, helping them to transition from care to adulthood through education.

[Futures Without Violence](#)

For more than 30 years, Futures Without Violence has developed innovative ways to end violence against women, children, and families at home and around the world. From domestic violence and child abuse to bullying and sexual assault, Future Without Violence's groundbreaking programs, policy development, and public action campaigns are designed to build respect and healthy relationships.

[Generations United \(GU\)](#)

Generations United is a national membership organization focused solely on improving the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational strategies, programs, and public policies.

[GrandFamilies of America](#)

Provides grandparents and relative caregivers of relative children with the necessary tools to navigate the complex government systems.

[Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative](#)

The mission of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative is to ensure that young people—primarily those between ages 14 and 25—make successful transitions from foster care to adulthood. We do this by working nationally, in states, and locally to improve policies and practices, promote youth engagement, apply evaluation and research, and create community partnerships. Our work creates opportunities for young people to achieve positive outcomes in permanence, education, employment, housing, health, financial capability, and social capital.

[National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonpartisan, mission-driven organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. The Alliance analyzes policy and develops pragmatic, cost-effective policy solutions. It works collaboratively with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build state and local capacity, leading to stronger programs and policies that help homeless individuals and families make positive changes in their lives.

[National Association of Social Workers](#)

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world with 132,000 members. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies.

[National Center for Children in Poverty \(NCCP\)](#)

NCCP promotes the economic security, health, and well-being of America's low-income families and children. NCCP uses research to inform policy and practice with the goal of ensuring positive outcomes for the next generation.

[National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights \(NCGCR\)](#)

NCGCR is a coalition of grandparents, citizens, and agencies that advocate and lobby for legislative changes that protect the rights of grandparents to secure their grandchildren's health, happiness and well-being. NCGCR is committed to monitoring agencies that affect grandchildren at the city, county, state and federal levels and to protect the rights of grandparents and the needs of grandchildren who are at risk.

[National Conference of State Legislatures \(NCSL\)](#)

NCSL is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staff of the nation's 50 states, commonwealths and territories. NCSL provides research, technical assistance and opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas on the most pressing state issues. NCSL is an effective and respected advocate for the interests of state governments before Congress and federal agencies.

[National Foster Care Coalition \(NFCC\)](#)

National Foster Care Coalition is a unique partnership of member organizations and individuals dedicated to improving the lives of children, youth, and adults in and from foster care through political and public will building. NFCC members advocate on behalf of children, youth, and families involved with the foster care system; support local, regional, and national foster care initiatives; offer significant levels of training and technical assistance; and provide education and

information about foster care to decision makers at the local, state, and federal levels. NFCC also believes that youth involvement must be an integral component of all child welfare efforts.

[National Indian Child Welfare Association \(NICWA\)](#)

NICWA is a national voice for American Indian children and families. It provides a comprehensive source of information on American Indian child welfare and focuses specifically on the tribal capacity to prevent child abuse and neglect. NICWA improves the lives of American Indian children and families by helping tribes and other service providers implement services that are culturally competent, community-based, and focused on the strengths and assets of families.

[National Network for Youth](#)

The National Network for Youth is committed to ensuring that opportunities for growth and development are available to youth everywhere. The youth we work with face greater odds due to abuse and neglect, homelessness, lack of resources, community prejudice, differing abilities and other life challenges. For that reason, we are working to create a community of agencies, people and resources to champion the needs of the youth of today and the leaders of tomorrow.

[North America Council of Adoptable Children \(NACAC\)](#)

NACAC promotes and supports permanent families for children and youth in the U.S. and Canada who have been in care—especially those in foster care and those with special needs. NACAC focuses its program services in four areas: public policy advocacy, parent leadership capacity building, education and information sharing, and adoption support.

[The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice](#)

The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice aims to provide a centralized national focal point that pulls together and links the various activities and research that are currently underway, maximizing the awareness and usefulness of new products and learnings, and using the best available knowledge to guide practice and policy.

[The National Immigration Law Center \(NILC\)](#)

The National Immigration Law Center protects and promotes the rights and opportunities of low-income immigrants and their family members. NILC staff specialize in immigration law and the employment and public benefits rights of immigrants.

[Rights4Girls](#)

Rights4Girls is a human rights organization focused on gender-based violence against vulnerable young women and girls in the U.S. Rights4Girls advocates for the dignity and personhood of young women and girls - so that every girl may possess the right to be safe and live a life free of violence and exploitation. Based in Washington, D.C., Rights4Girls works to make the lives of U.S. young women and girls a human rights priority.

[Urban Institute](#)

The Urban Institute gathers data, conducts research, evaluates programs, offers technical assistance overseas, and educates Americans on social and economic issues to foster sound public policy and effective government.

[Voice for Adoption](#)

Voice for Adoption (VFA) develops and advocates for improved adoption policies. Recognized as a national leader in special needs adoption, VFA works closely with federal and state legislators, as well as other child welfare organizations, to make a difference in the lives of the 102,000 children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted and the families who adopt them.

[Youth Law Center](#)

Using a range of strategies, YLC works to eliminate abuse and neglect of children, reduce out of home placements and incarceration, and assure that those who are removed are held in safe and humane conditions. YLC takes action to ensure that the legal rights of vulnerable children are protected, and that they receive the support and services they need to become healthy and productive adults.

[Youth Villages](#)

Youth Villages is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to helping emotionally and behaviorally troubled children and their families live successfully. We help more than 23,000 children and families each year from more than 20 states and Washington, D.C. Our Evidentiary Family Restoration™ approach involves intensive work with the child and family, a focus on measuring outcomes, keeping the child in the community as safely as possible, and providing accountability for families and funders. The EFR approach produces lasting success for children with success rates twice that of traditional services at one-third the cost of traditional care.

[ZERO TO THREE](#)

ZERO TO THREE is a national nonprofit organization that provides parents, professionals and policymakers the knowledge and know-how to nurture early development.