

513,000

Children in foster care

114,000

Children waiting to be adopted

24,407

Children aging out of foster care

22% of Children in Foster Care
Are Waiting to Be Adopted.

Why Is America Spending Only **1.3%**
to Find and Train Parents?

On October 3, 2007, leaders and practitioners in the field of adoptive and foster parent recruitment and training convened in Washington, D.C. and delivered this message to Congress, states, and the administration:

WHEREAS there is widespread consensus across the political spectrum in Congress, the states, and the administration that the foster care financing system is broken and must be reformed now, and that the child welfare system should provide more fully for the crucial neglected strategy of adoptive and foster parent recruitment, training, and support;

WHEREAS in 2005 there were 513,000 children in foster care in the United States who have been in foster care for an average of 2 years, 5 months; there were 114,000 children waiting to be adopted who have been in foster care for an average of 3 years, 6 months; and a record 24,407 children aged out of foster care without being placed with a loving, permanent family;

WHEREAS children have a right to grow up in a family;

WHEREAS the current federal foster care financing system creates incentives for states to keep children in foster care, rather than provide other services that safely enable families to rehabilitate and stay together or that move children more quickly into safe, loving, adoptive families;

WHEREAS 22 percent of children in state care are waiting to be adopted, yet states spend only 1.3 percent of available federal funds on adoptive and foster parent recruitment and training;

WHEREAS there is enough love, and there are enough families, in America to provide adoptive and foster parents for all children in foster care. There are 57.5 million married-couple households in this country – 500 for each child waiting to be adopted – and countless singles who could provide loving families. There are also three places of worship for each child waiting to be adopted and all of America's major faiths exhort their believers to care for children in need of families;

WHEREAS the signers of this statement and participants in the Families for All National Parent Recruitment Summit represent a growing field of inspired programs that provide successful models for adoptive and foster parent recruitment and training; and

WHEREAS America's child welfare service providers should never give up on children in foster care waiting to be adopted and should persevere with hope and urgency to provide these children a loving, permanent family to nurture, protect, and guide them;

THEREFORE, states must utilize more of the federal child welfare resources available to them for adoptive and foster parent recruitment, training, and support so that more children in foster care waiting to be adopted find the loving, permanent families that they need and deserve; and

The United States Congress must reform the federal foster care financing system now to ensure that states have the flexibility to provide the full array of services for children, including adoptive and foster parent recruitment, training, and support.

SIGNED:

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**Children in Foster Care Are Waiting for Families.
Congress What Are You Waiting For? Fix Foster Care Now!**

The Families for All National Parent Recruitment Summit

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National Council
For Adoption

www.adoptioncouncil.org