

DHS News

The Pulse of Social Work in Maryland

You are here: [Home](#) [DHS News](#) [Adoption and Foster Care](#) Maryland Awarded Federal Grant to Establish National Model for Foster Family Development

Maryland Awarded Federal Grant to Establish National Model for Foster Family Development



August 6, 2021
Media Contact: Katherine Morris
katherine.morris@maryland.gov

Maryland Awarded Federal Grant to Establish National Model for Foster Family Development

Five Counties Selected by the Maryland Department of Human Services will Pilot the Center for Excellence for Resource Foster Parenting

BALTIMORE, MD – The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) announced that the State of Maryland was awarded a four-year grant by the federal Children’s Bureau to create a Center of Excellence for Foster Family Development – the only grant of its kind awarded in the country.

The program being created by the Department of Human Services will serve as a national model for states on the selection, development, and support of foster families who will work in close collaboration with birth families to preserve and nurture critical parent-child relationships and support safely reunifying birth families with their children.

Five local Departments of Social Services in Prince George’s, Montgomery, Carroll, Frederick, and Baltimore counties were selected by DHS to implement this innovative approach to foster care services.


“The Children’s Bureau has entrusted Maryland with developing a new model for transforming the role that resource foster parents play in the lives of children and families who are struggling,” said Lourdes R. Padilla, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Human Services. “We are putting in place programs that work toward breaking the cycle of multi-generational dependency. By addressing the needs of the entire family, we help ensure that when children and parents leave our care, they have the tools needed to thrive.”

The federal Children’s Bureau set forth priorities for child welfare to help strengthen families, prevent maltreatment, and prevent unnecessary family disruptions. The vision for a re-imagined child welfare system includes a foster care system that supports entire families in contrast to one that acts as a substitute for parents. This is based on an understanding that most families can learn to care for their children in safe and healthy ways even when foster care is necessary. In Maryland, resource foster families will play an important role in supporting parents’ efforts to regain custody of their children.

“I am honored that Maryland was chosen to implement this grant. It supports the practice transformation we have underway,” said Michelle L. Farr, Executive Director of the Social Services Administration at the Department of Human Services. “This exciting project is being designed by Maryland to change the way child welfare agencies across the


LATEST **POPULAR** **COMMENTS**

 [Calvert County Officials Sign An Agreement To Enhance The Protection, Safety and Well-being of Children](#)
NOVEMBER 30, 2023

 [Talbot County Department of Social Services Hosts Thanks for Giving Event for Foster and Adoptive Parents](#)
NOVEMBER 17, 2023

 [DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES RELEASES DRAFT SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT REPORT FOR 2024](#)
OCTOBER 2, 2023

 [Maryland Congressional Delegation Welcomes Maryland Secretaries of Agriculture and Human Services at U.S. Capitol to Discuss Federal Farm Bill Priorities](#)
JULY 24, 2023

 [State of Maryland Encourages Precautionary Action To Protect Identity In Wake Of Wide-Reaching Cyber Attack](#)
JUNE 17, 2023

December 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

[« Nov](#)

nation recruit, train, and educate resource foster families and the way in which they support vulnerable families in need of assistance."

The participating local Departments of Social Services at Prince George's, Montgomery, Carroll, Frederick, and Baltimore County, will target neighborhoods and communities with the highest rates of removal, and recruit resource foster families who will be committed to partnering with birth parents and addressing the challenges those parents and families have faced. By nurturing and strengthening parent-child relationships and supportive community connections and resources, Maryland's Center for Excellence For Resource Foster Family Development will support the successful reunification of vulnerable children and their families across the state thus keeping families safe and together.

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) is the state's primary social service provider, annually reaching more than one million people. Through its 24 local departments of social services, the agency pursues opportunities to assist people in economic need, provide preventive services, and protect vulnerable children and adults in each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. Additional information may be found at dhs.maryland.gov.

###

Filed in: [Adoption and Foster Care](#), [DHS News](#)

Recent Posts

[Calvert County Officials Sign An Agreement To Enhance The Protection, Safety and Well-being of Children](#)

[Talbot County Department of Social Services Hosts Thanks for Giving Event for Foster and Adoptive Parents](#)

[DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES RELEASES DRAFT SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT REPORT FOR 2024](#)

[Maryland Congressional Delegation Welcomes Maryland Secretaries of Agriculture and Human Services at U.S. Capitol to Discuss Federal Farm Bill Priorities](#)

[State of Maryland Encourages Precautionary Action To Protect Identity In Wake Of Wide-Reaching Cyber Attack](#)

[Maryland Department of Health promotes "Medicaid Check-In" campaign to educate Marylanders about redetermination and action required by Marylander participants](#)

[Governor Wes Moore Announces Expansion of Electronic Benefits Transfer Card Fraud Reimbursements](#)

[Governor Moore Announces Maryland Department of Agriculture Initiatives to Establish New Market Connections Between Farmers, Watermen, and Maryland Food Banks](#)

[Governor Moore Announces Electronic Benefits Transfer Reimbursements for Fraud Victims](#)

[Maryland Department of Human Services Receives Federal Approval For Comprehensive Plan to Reimburse SNAP Benefits Fraud Victims](#)

Share

