

Youth News

October 2023



HELPING OLDER YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS
WITH HOUSING, FOOD & JOB TRAINING

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80% of America's
homeless population are
former foster youth.

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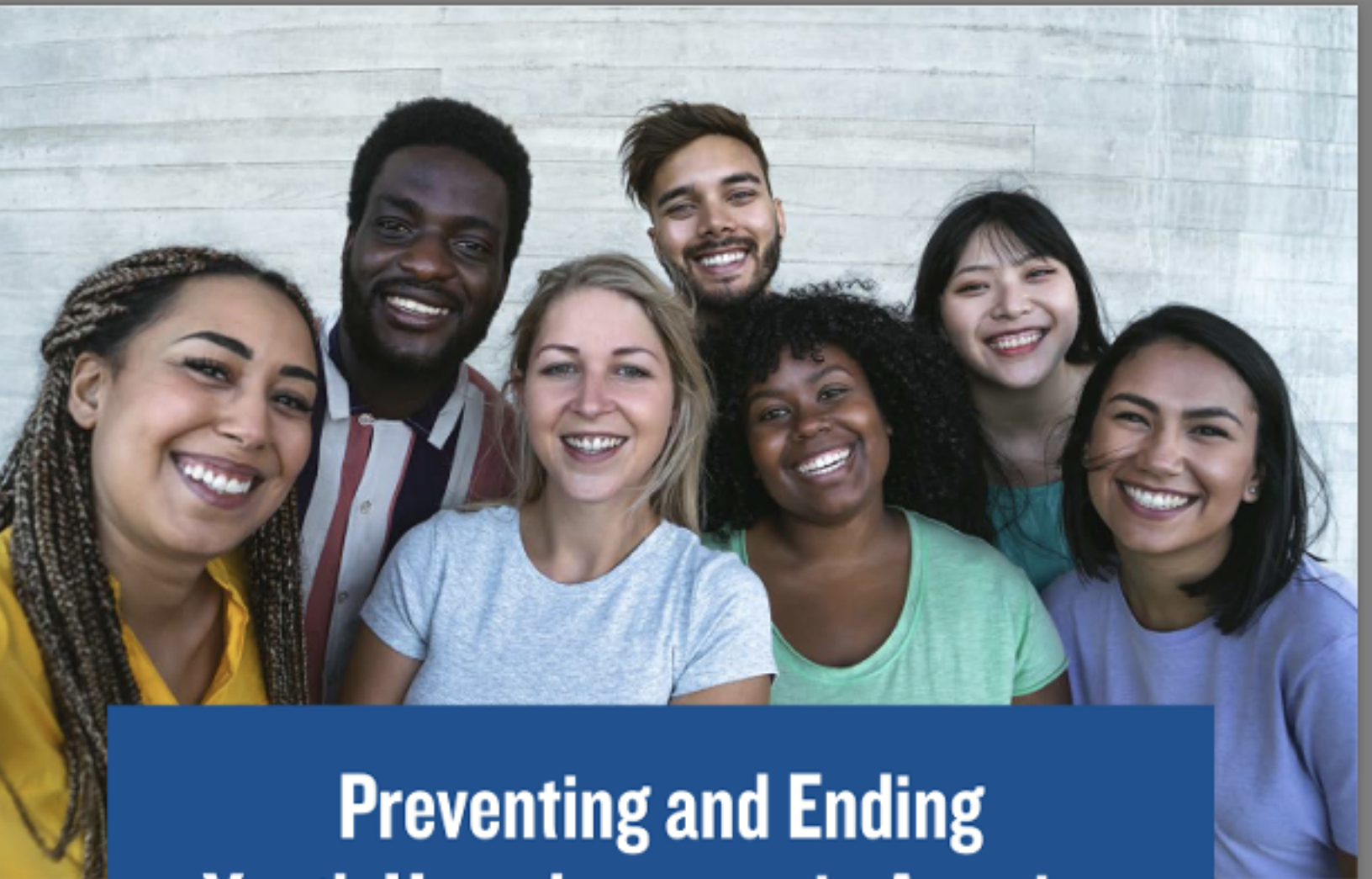
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You can be the wind beneath the next super star: Foster! Adopt! Mentor!



Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness in America

A Thrive by 25[®] Brief

All young people deserve to grow up in a safe and stable home. Yet individual, family, community and system challenges result in 1 in 30 youths ages 13 to 24 and 1 in 10 young adults ages 18 to 25 experiencing some form of homelessness over the course of a year.^{1,2} These youth face instability and trauma during an important developmental period,³ limiting their growth and creating costly effects for them and the communities in which they live.

This brief is the first in a series highlighting challenges and opportunities facing youth ages 14 through 24 as part of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Thrive by 25[®] efforts, a set of investments focused on

promoting basic needs, permanent connections, education and credentials, financial stability and youth leadership for young people.⁴

Casey is joining partners in the field, such as Funders Together to End Homelessness, to ensure young people have safe, stable housing while also connecting them with educational and economic opportunities. This brief analyzes youth homelessness and offers recommendations for how systems can make certain every young person has a place to call home — a safe and secure place to prepare for adulthood.



Youth News



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admin@whalers-creation.us



80% of America's homeless population are former foster youth. Shocking, right? Well, the good news is you can help. WHALER's Creation Crowd Funding is just one way to ensure so many youth are support with food, housing and job training.

Every child, teen and young adult needs love and support from caring adults regardless of age, they all want and deserves stability in their lives. Support our youth the best way you can: Foster! Adopt! Mentor!

Youth News strives to educate, motivate and inspire people to support older youth. One way you can help is with a monthly donations of \$10.00. Please donate online at: **www.whalers-creation.us**.

From city-to-city, coast-to-coast, and nation-to-nation our focus is: FAMILY:

Foster **A**dopt **M**entor **I**nvesting in **L**ives of **Y**outh

Your emails are welcomed at: admin@whalers-creation.us
or call (702) 235-5490

"I Support Youth."

La' Toria

Executive Director/Publisher





Youth News is an online magazine developed by teens, adults and senior citizens working together to bring readers Educational, Motivational, & Inspirational Stories for Adults and teens.

To volunteer please contact our editor at: admin@whalers-creation.us
or call (702) 235-5490

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Fridays at 3:00 PM (PST)

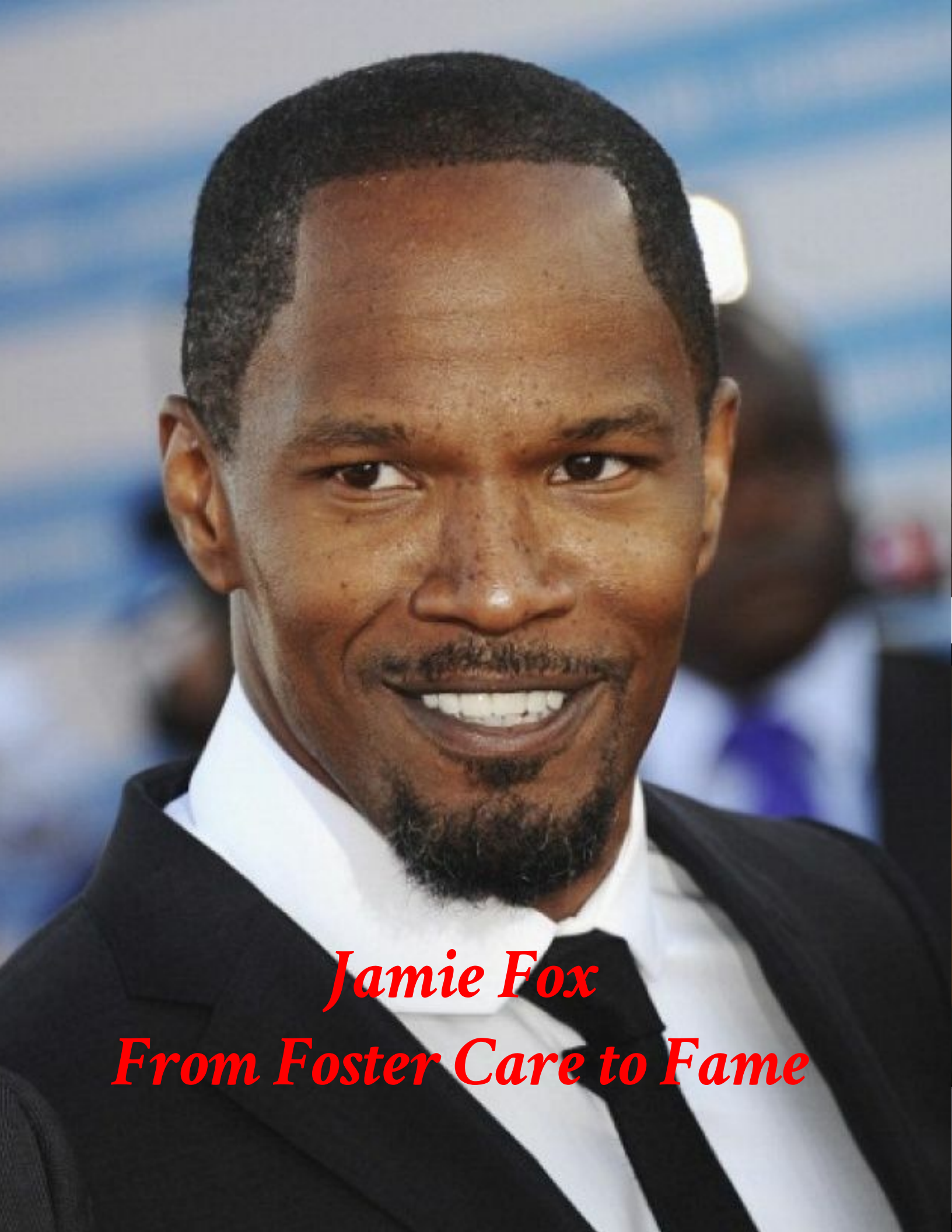


Hosted by: LaToria

7 Ways You Can Help a Child in Foster Care (Without Being a Foster Parent)

1. Mentor
2. Provide Respite Care
3. Volunteer at events
4. Sponsor a youth
5. Donate Supplies: clothes, shoes
books, backpacks, laptops, games
6. Donate: money, snacks, your time
7. Speak at events





Jamie Fox
From Foster Care to Fame





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Foster Care Facts

1. In the United States, there are approximately 423,000 children in foster care, according to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) report release.
2. The average age of children in foster care is 8 years old, and the average length of stay in foster care is approximately 20 months.
3. About 50% of children in foster care reunite with their birth families, while the remainder may be adopted or placed in other types of permanent homes.
4. Children in foster care are more likely to have experienced abuse, neglect, or other forms of trauma than children in the general population.
5. Youth in foster care have higher rates of mental health issues, developmental delays, and educational difficulties than their peers.
6. There is a significant shortage of foster families in many parts of the country, which can lead to overcrowding in group homes and other institutional settings.
7. Older youth in foster care, particularly those who age out of the system without being adopted or placed in a permanent home, are at greater risk of homelessness, unemployment, and involvement in the criminal justice system.
8. Foster care is a complex and multifaceted system that involves collaboration between child welfare agencies, courts, foster parents, birth families, and other stakeholders to ensure the safety and well-being of children in care.
9. Approximately 32% of children who age out of foster care will experience homelessness at some point in their lives. In 2021, approximately 69,000 children in foster care were waiting to be adopted.
10. Foster parents are typically between the ages of 25 and 54, but there are also many older foster parents who provide homes for children. In the US, 60% of children in foster care are placed in non-relative foster homes, while 23% are placed with relatives.

There is a critical need for foster families, particularly for older children, siblings, and children with special needs.

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More than **23,000 kids**
age out of U.S. foster care every year.



70%

of foster kids would like to go to college.

Only

3%


of kids who age out will earn a college degree

and

1 in 4


won't graduate from high school or get a GED.

60%



of boys who age out or are legally emancipated have been convicted of a crime.

1 in 2



kids who age out will develop a substance dependence.

7 in 10



girls who age out will become pregnant before age 21.

32%

of children who reached 18 in foster care were waiting in the system for more than

3 years

**You can change their future.
Adopt teens from foster care.**

chlss.org/fostercareadoption



Children's Home Society of Minnesota



Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

*Stats from National Foster Youth Institute

How to Become a Foster Parent

Becoming a foster parent involves several steps, which may vary depending on your location. Here are some general steps to become a foster parent:

1. Contact your local foster care agency: The first step is to get in touch with your local foster care agency. You can find the agency in your area by searching online or contacting your state or county department of social services.
2. Attend an orientation session: Most agencies require prospective foster parents to attend an orientation session to learn about the foster care system, the needs of children in foster care, and the process of becoming a foster parent.
3. Complete the application process: After attending the orientation session, you will need to complete the application process, which includes background checks, home inspections, and training.
4. Complete training: Foster parents are required to complete training before being licensed. The training covers topics such as child development, the impact of trauma on children, and how to work with birth families.
5. Receive licensure: Once you have completed the application process and training, the agency will evaluate your application and decide whether to grant you a foster care license.



From Foster Care to Forever Family



Emma

Four Siblings in Foster Care and Caring Couple Become a Family of Six



Kayla's story: From 16 foster homes to 1 forever family

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a clear glass jar. The jar is filled with various US coins, including pennies, nickels, and dimes. A white rectangular paper sign is taped to the front of the jar. The sign has the word "PLEASE" written in red, uppercase letters, and the word "GIVE" written in large, bold, black, uppercase letters below it. Two horizontal red lines are drawn under the word "GIVE". The background is dark and out of focus.

PLEASE
GIVE

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Focus Coach Denny Maheux



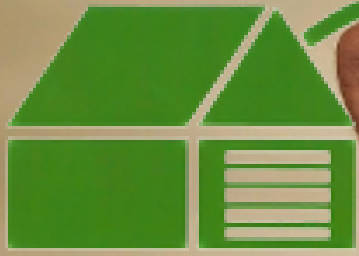
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Board of Directors**

Faster! Adapt! Mentor!



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US Adoption Resources

- Centers for Disease Control International Adoption Health Guidance
- U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs Adoption Process
- AdoptUSKids.org
- Child Welfare information Gateway
- Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI)

Additional Resources

- Adoptive Families Magazine
- Adoptive Parents Committee
- American Academy of Adoption Attorneys (AAAA)
- Child Welfare League of America
- The Center for Adoption Support and Education
- Dave Thomas Foundation
- Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute
- International Social Services
- National Adoption Center
- National Council for Adoption (NCFA)
- North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)



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and let our storytellers read a bedtime story to your loved ones.





FAMILIES FIRST ACT

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- **Paid Leave** – Provides up to 10 days of emergency paid sick leave for COVID-19 related reasons
- **Enhanced Unemployment Insurance** – Extends unemployment benefits to workers laid off amid economic contraction brought on by COVID-19
- **Expanded Food Assistance Programs** – Provides food to low-income pregnant women and mothers with young children, helps local food banks meet increased demand and offering home-delivered meals to low-income seniors, ensures children who depend on free and reduced-price meals at school continue to have access to nutritious foods in the event of extended school closures
- **Increased Medicaid Funding** – Boosts federal support for states to respond to expected increased volume and absorb unexpected costs that will deliver approximately \$35 billion to states, including an estimated \$440 million to Connecticut



Foster! Adopt! Mentor!

When you support these amazing youth with your love and encouragement. You maybe the motivation behind the next mega superstar!

EVERY KID IS
ONE CARING
ADULT AWAY
FROM BEING
A SUCCESS
STORY.

—Josh Shipp



KFAM

Youth Radio

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