

F.A.S.T.
FLORIDA'S
FOSTER
ALLEGATION
SUPPORT TEAM

Support is available to
foster, adoptive, and
relative caregivers.

1-800-FAST-119
FAST@FloridaFAPA.org

**We Need Foster Parents'
Voices and Insights!**

**Florida Foster Parents:
Please Participate in the Survey!**

- The survey is anonymous and asks about your experiences in foster parenting and support needs.
- Your feedback will help improve services for foster parents.
- The first 150 participants receive a \$25 gift card!
- Scan the QR code to access the survey.



FLORIDA
INSTITUTE
FOR CHILD
WELFARE

For more information please
contact lee18@fsw.edu

**BE THE
DIFFERENCE**

foster ♥ adopt ♥ advocate ♥ support

Letter from our President: Lynda Thompson

It was great seeing everyone at the Florida FAPA Summer Education Conference! We hope that you gained skills and knowledge that will help you work with our children in care. We hope to see you again at the DCF Summit in September.

As most of you know, summer brings it's own set of challenges for us. Remember to use that sunscreen and watch your little ones around pools, ponds and open water. Also, don't forget to prepare ahead for tropical storms and hurricanes. July brings fireworks, picnics and family fun, please be careful and enjoy!

We are only a phone call away if you need help with allegations or need information. Our F.A.S.T line is monitored 24 hours a day.

Please call us at 1-866-913-0977 or Email us: info@floridafapa.org

We hope you have a great summer and look forward to hearing from you.

Legislative Updates

Last year, we were successful in getting \$26 million in the State budget to provide every foster parent a \$200/month child care stipend for children ages 0-5 (not yet enrolled in Kindergarten). This was a huge win and something that took many years to achieve. Unfortunately, childcare costs vary across the State and by age and while the \$200/month is a big step forward, it does not solve the problem entirely.

Because this was just "fixed" last year, there wasn't much of an appetite by Legislative leaders to address it, but we are hopeful in the next couple of years that we can convince Legislators to help solve the childcare issue once and for all, with our goal to be for the State to pay all childcare costs for children in care.

We realize that there are additional related concerns like having enough open spaces at high quality childcare centers and being able to access those spots throughout the year, these are concerns that the State is very much aware of and continues to look at.

Finally, because the \$200 childcare stipend is distributed by the CBCs, it has been rolled out differently across the State and we have heard anecdotally that some of you are not receiving the payment, have received it late, or stopped getting other benefits from your CBC when this program rolled out.

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2023 Summer Education Conference Highlights



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



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