

Texas Responds to Needs of Children

The 81st Texas Legislature put the “Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act” into action by:

- Creating a financial assistance program for families caring for the children of relatives named the Permanency Care Assistance program. *Effective 10/1/2010*
- Extending adoption and permanency care assistance to certain youth up to age 21.
- Expanding the options for some youth to stay in foster care up to age 21.

Financial Assistance for Families

The Permanency Care Assistance Program provides financial assistance to relatives and close family friends who accept permanent custody of a child in state custody if they become the child’s verified foster home for at least 6 months and the relative becomes the child’s permanent managing conservator. *Effective 10/1/2010*

Learn More about Fostering Connections

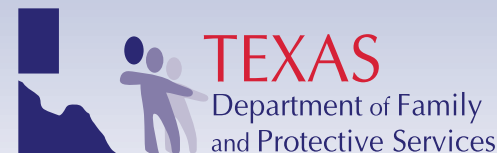
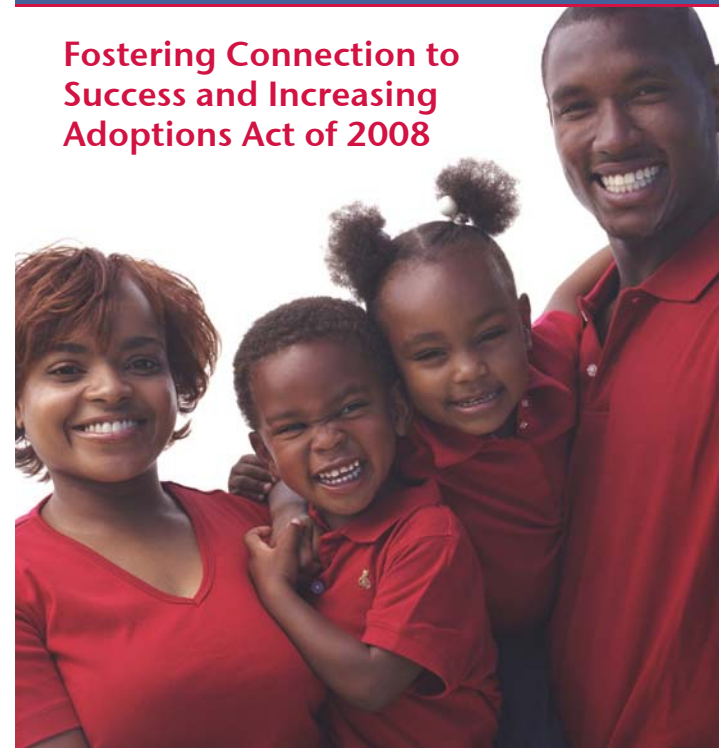
The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services public website:
fosteringconnections@dfps.state.tx.us



P20872-0000
Rev. 1-2010

Fostering Connections In Texas

Fostering Connection to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008



The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act of 2008

Improving the lives of children and youth in foster care by helping them get adopted or find a permanent home with grandparents or other relatives.

In 2009, the Texas Legislature provided funding and direction to make the federal Fostering Connection to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 a reality.

Fostering Connections in Texas:

- Extends federal support up to age 21 for certain youth.
- Promotes permanent homes with relatives or by adoption.
- Improves healthcare and education.

Promote Permanent Families

- **Assistance for Relatives** – Provides monthly payments to relatives who take legal custody of children when they cannot be returned home or be adopted. *Starting 9/1/2010*
- **Notice to Relatives When Children Enter State Care** – Helps relatives step in when children are removed from parents and placed in foster care. *Effective 6/1/2009*
- **Keeping Siblings Together** – Preserves family ties by making reasonable efforts to keep siblings together. *Current Texas practice.*



Support for Youth to Age 21

- **Foster Care for Older Youth** – Helps youth that turn 18 in foster care to keep getting federal support and residential services to increase their chances of success. This includes making sure youth have an up to date Transition Plan within 90 days of turning 18 or leaving extended foster care. *Current CPS practice*

Support for Adoption

- **Incentives for Adoption** – Increases incentives for states to find adoptive families for children in foster care.
- **Adoption Assistance** – Increases opportunities for more children with special needs to receive federally-supported adoption assistance. *Starting 10/1/2010*
- **Adoption Tax Credits** – Provides information during training to prospective adoptive parents. *Starting 6/1/2009*



Healthcare and Education

- **Education Stability** – Helps children and youth in state care or who are adopted or in permanent care assistance to reach their educational goals. States must make every effort to keep children in school. *Current CPS practice*
- **Health Care Coordination** – Improve health care for children in foster care by requiring states to provide more coordinated care. *Effective 4/1/2008-STARHealth*