



## Support Strong, Healthy Families for All Children

*Join us in championing strong policy solutions*

**Keeping Kids in Families** raises the collective voice of advocates nationwide who are urging Congress to **Act Now** on practical solutions that build community capacity to strengthen and empower families.

Keeping Kids in Families is a campaign guided by a public-private partnership among three national organizations – the *American Public Human Services Association (APHSA)*, the *Alliance for Strong Families and Communities*, and the *National Organization for State Associations for Children (NOSAC)* that serves as a catalyst for collective action on policy and practice reforms that promote the ability for all kids to grow up in safe, loving and permanent families.

### The Reality

Public child welfare systems play a significant role in child and family well-being. This work is done in partnership with the three branches of government and with private community-based partners. And while the shared responsibility for this work has resulted in better outcomes for children and families, there remains an urgent need to align the federal financing structure with current proven practices.

For too long, federal funding has not kept pace with evolving practice and innovations that provide early, holistic interventions to minimize risks and increase parents and caregivers' ability to provide stable environments for their children. Now is the time to adopt a modern, comprehensive approach that helps us do a better job of helping families, much earlier.

### The Solution

Keeping Kids in Families works to create solutions that keep the best interests of children and families at the center of decision-making. We are advocating for policy solutions that:

- Ensure children grow and thrive in safe loving families.
- Provide supports and services to intervene earlier, strengthen and support parents and caregivers, and prevent the need to remove children from their homes.
- Maintain accountability to better outcomes for children and families.
- Promote the ability for states to scale up and target funding towards what works (investing in outcomes) and to address emerging needs, such as the current opioid epidemic.

## THE FAMILY FIRST ACT

Congressional leaders are drafting **bi-partisan** legislation that aligns with the Keeping Kids in Families campaign.

The proposed legislation, *The Family First Act*, is designed to expand federal funding for prevention services, support keeping kids with their families, and ensure that when out-of-home treatment is needed, they meet a child's immediate safety, well-being, and therapeutic needs.

The Family First Act also calls for evidenced informed-based and trauma-focused, upstream investments in family services and kinship placement and supports to reduce costly and traumatic stays in foster care.

This legislation promises a major step forward in ensuring children's access to appropriate treatment when needed.

We believe this proposal is timely and important, and urge support to ensure that it ultimately meets the needs of all children and families.

## JOIN US

We hope you will join us in championing federal child welfare finance reform. Please let us know how we can be a resource for you as we work together to ensure that every child has a safe and secure, caring, permanent family.



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