

June is National Reunification Month! During the month FCC members, DCF and other child advocates from throughout Florida will spend time recognizing everyone in our system of care who work each day to help families to stay together or be reunited.

For all of us, the goal is to ensure all children in our state are in a secure, safe, nurturing and permanent family, whether through reunification with their birth family, adoption or kinship care.

As part of Reunification Month, many of our member agencies will be holding events around the state to celebrate the reunification of parents and their children, once it has been determined that they can bring their children home safely from temporary foster care, and the many professionals who support them.

While we celebrate this month, it is important to remember our priority continues to be ensure the safety of children. We want to ensure that children and families who have been reunified are afforded these continued protections. To that end, FCC has provided a few tips and resources that may be useful for your organization or to share with media and other stakeholders to educate them about reunification throughout the month.

- When children must be removed from their families to ensure their safety, agencies implement multifaceted strategies that build on family strengths and address concerns.
- Such strategies may include family engagement, maintaining family and cultural connections, connecting families to evidence-based services, regular and frequent visits among family members and with the worker, and parent education, among others.
- Returning children home often requires intensive, family-centered services to support a safe and stable family. Families continue to receive monitoring and judicial oversight for a minimum of six months after reunification occurs.
- Services are tailored to each family's circumstances and must address the issue(s) that brought the child and family into the child welfare system.
- When holding public events to celebrate Reunification Month, it's important to remember the challenges many of these families have faced. Protecting their privacy can be critical throughout the reunification process and even as they participate in celebrations throughout the month of June.
- Ensure agency leaders, support staff and any communications professionals continue to promote achieving safety and stability for all families in care.
- Promote the partnerships that happen between foster parents/families to ensure successful reunification. Do you have examples of foster families who are shining examples of helping

families reunite? You can share these success stories throughout Reunification Month, which will also protect the identities of the reunified children and families

- Promote the various resources available regarding reunification. A few are included below.

[Child Welfare Information Gateway Reunification Resources](#)

[The Center Reunification and Visitation Resources](#)

[QPI Video: Foster Parents Being a Crucial Link in Family Reunification](#)