



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

1515 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-683-4DHS (4347)
www.phila.gov/dhs

Commissioner

CYNTHIA F. FIGUEROA

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Heather Keafer 267-275-2637

Heather.Keafer@phila.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More Foster Parents Urgently Needed for Children and Youth

PHILADELPHIA, PA February 26, 2018 –The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) urgently needs more resource parents to provide foster care to children and youth.

The call for more resource parents is part of the department's campaign to meet the needs of the more than 6,000 Philadelphia children and youth who have been placed with the department due to abuse or neglect.

Efforts to increase the network of resource parents is getting a boost from NBC 10/Telemundo 62 which will host a phone bank on March 1 where more than 20 experts will be on hand to answer questions about becoming a resource parent.

"Every child deserves to be loved, and to grow up in a safe and healthy environment," said Ric Harris, President and General Manager of NBC10 and Telemundo62. "With nearly 6,000 youth in Philadelphia living in foster care at any given time, NBC10 and Telemundo62 are committed to raising awareness about the need for families to provide loving homes for these children. We are proud to partner with the Philadelphia Department of Human Services and to host a phone bank at our studios to increase the network of resource parents in the city."

"Our children and youth need dedicated resource parents who can provide loving, stable homes," said DHS Commissioner, Cynthia F. Figueroa. "There is no 'one size fits all' resource parent." Commissioner Figueroa said, "The children and youth we serve are diverse, and we need resource parents that can provide welcoming homes to all children."

Children and youth who are placed with DHS include 1,500 teens, children with behavioral or medical needs, and sibling groups. Increasing the number of loving foster homes will help children and youth make critical family connections and support needed to overcome their life challenges.

Commissioner Figueroa stressed that, "We as a system alone can't do this—we need you to lend a hand to help children and youth in foster care."

Interested individuals are encouraged to learn more by calling 215-683-5709 or email to dhs.fosteringphilly@phila.gov.

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The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) is the county child welfare agency. We lead, support, coordinate and implement services to prevent and address child abuse and neglect; and operate juvenile justice programs for Philadelphia.
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