



Executive Director's Report October 2025



Your Participation Could Make A Huge Difference

Plan Now to attend An Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill March 17, 2026

It is our plan to arrive in Washington, D.C., on March 16th and meet late afternoon or meet for dinner that evening. It is our hope to convene on the House Floor as a first order of business on the morning of March 17th.

The location is of great importance to stir our imaginations and remind us of what historically has held the promise of hope for issues that needed to be enacted in legislation. For too long now, the status quo of the lack of appropriate foster homes to meet the needs of children who imminently are at risk has been overlooked by those in the Nation's Capitol.

H.R. 4972 - Create Accountable Respectful Environments (CARE) for Child Act is aimed at increasing capacity, keeping sibling groups together, and providing a normalized home and community environment with opportunities for age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities and the same freedoms afforded peers living with families.

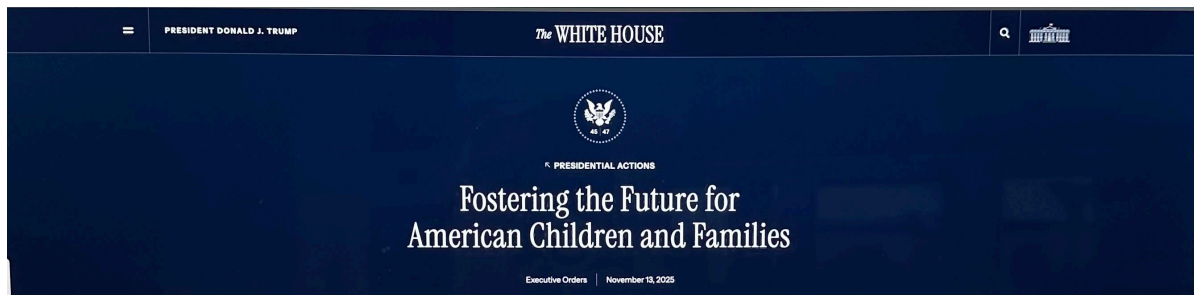
The Act also provides a system of checks and balances to ensure a child's ongoing safety and wellbeing in a cottage family home and makes such a child's placement eligible for foster care maintenance payments.

It is of great importance that you soon reach out to your Representatives in Congress to schedule a meeting regarding the need to support H.R. 4972 when you attend Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill on March 17, 2025.

Several members of CORE's legislative committee will be present for Advocacy Day and are available to accompany anyone to their scheduled appointment. Together we can do this. Together we must do this. The time is now!

Link for the Act: <https://steube.house.gov/press-releases/rep-steube-leads-bipartisan-effort-to-expand-housing-for-foster-children/>

On November 13, 2025, President Donald Trump, signed an executive order assigning the Secretary of Health and Human Services to take appropriate action within the next 180 to address identified needed modifications to Fostering the Future for American Children and Families



By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose and Policy. My Administration is dedicated to empowering mothers and fathers to raise their children in safe and loving homes. When crises prevent such an arrangement, our Nation's foster care system must be ready to serve children in need. Today's foster care system must be improved in a number of important ways.

Children often stay in foster care for years, and those who transition out due to age frequently face uncertain futures without the support systems essential to educational, career, and relational success. Many caseworkers are overburdened. Information systems are often outdated. Some jurisdictions and organizations maintain policies that discourage or prohibit qualified families from serving children in need as foster and adoptive parents because of their sincerely-held religious beliefs or adherence to basic biological truths.

Our Nation's children and youth — and the families who care for them — deserve better. To that end, my Administration, with special leadership from the First Lady, will harness Federal support, technology, and strategic partnerships to provide young Americans in or transitioning out of the foster care system with the tools they need to become successful adults.

Sec. 2. Modernizing the Child Welfare System.

a) The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, within 180 days of the date of this order, take appropriate action to:

i. update applicable regulations, policies, and practices to improve the collection, publication, utility, and transparency of State-level child-welfare data, including by improving collection of data and information indicative of child well-being and safety, eliminating duplicative or

unnecessary high-cost and low-value reporting requirements, and expanding and expediting child-welfare data publication;

ii. promote modernization of State child-welfare information systems and use of the most effective foster care management and outcome-tracking platforms, including by incorporating such modernization efforts as part of information exchanged with or technical assistance provided to States;

iii. expand States' use of technological solutions, including predictive analytics and tools powered by artificial intelligence, to increase caregiver recruitment and retention rates, improve caregiver and child matching, and deploy Federal child-welfare funding to maximally effective purposes and recipients; and

iv. publish annually a scorecard that measures and is used to evaluate State-level achievement of key outcomes and metrics that reduce unnecessary entries into foster care, decrease the time between reports of child maltreatment and investigations, reduce child injuries and fatalities caused by caregiver neglect and abuse, increase caregiver recruitment and retention, improve caregiver and child matching, reduce placement disruptions, decrease the average time that children spend in foster care, accelerate permanent placement for children, and increase partnerships and collaboration with appropriate non-governmental entities, including faith-based organizations.

Sec. 3. Fostering the Future. The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Office of the First Lady and heads of other relevant executive departments and agencies (agencies) shall, within 180 days of the date of this order:

a) establish a "Fostering the Future" initiative to develop partnerships with agencies and leading private sector organizations, academic institutions, and non-profit entities to create new educational and employment opportunities for individuals who are in or are transitioning out of the foster care system;

b) develop a plan to launch, in conjunction with the National Design Studio, a "Fostering the Future" online platform to help individuals who have been in foster care by assessing their current needs, providing guidance regarding accessing Federal, State, and local programs and services for which they are eligible, including housing, education, employment, healthcare, and mentoring services offering a searchable database of those and other available resources, and generating customized plans that support their self-sufficiency and success;

c) develop a strategy to reallocate funds returned by States from Federal programs designed to assist individuals transitioning out of foster care so that such returned funds are used to promote educational success, occupational advancement, and financial literacy and self-sufficiency for individuals transitioning out of foster care

d) increase flexibility in Education and Training Vouchers to expand access for individuals transitioning out of foster care to short-term, career-focused, and credential-awarding programs; and

e) facilitate, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Education, State use of educational scholarships created through tax-credited donations to scholarship-granting organizations for children in foster care.

Sec. 4. Maximizing Partnerships with Americans of Faith. The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Director of the White House Faith Office and the Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, shall:

a) take appropriate action to address State and local policies and practices that inappropriately prohibit participation in federally-funded child-welfare programs by qualified individuals or organizations based upon their sincerely-held religious beliefs or moral convictions; and

b) take appropriate action to increase partnerships between agencies and faith-based organizations and houses of worship to serve families whose children have been placed in foster care or are at risk of being placed in foster care.

Sec. 5. General Provisions.

a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

i. the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof;

ii. or the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

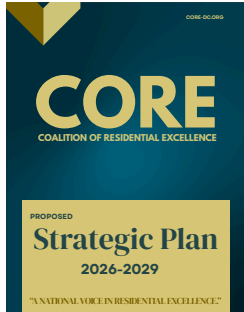
b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

d) The costs for publication of this order shall be borne by the Department of Health and Human Services.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 13, 2025.



[CORE Committee Sign-Up Form – Fill out form](#)

Together We Strengthen and Enrich the Coalition of Residential Excellence - Honestly, We Cannot Do It Without you.

From my perspective, the most beneficial aspect of CORE is shared knowledge. Having been involved in child welfare related work for the past 55 years, I've been associated with many organizations with the expressed intent of promoting best practice and support for those serving children and families from hard places.

Invariably, despite the motivational rhetoric associated to an organization's purpose, the energy and focus often had more to do with the bottom line: The focus centered on state reimbursement rates as opposed to program improvement and the best interests of children.

Perhaps it is because quality residential care and educational achievements go hand-in-hand in providing a pathway to a child's future, the quest for providing both are paramount in the purposes of our organization.

Across the past eight plus years as Executive Director, I have observed that the members of the Coalition of Residential Excellence are a close knit group. The professionalism and commitment to best practice is descriptive of programs in our membership. Meaningful friendships are developed and shared knowledge becomes commonplace.

I recently sent out the 2026 - 2029 Strategic Plan for CORE. The Strategic Plan includes the following four standing committees:

- Legislative
- Finance
- Communication
- Conference / Education

Along with the distribution of the November ED Report, I will attach a copy of the 2026 - 2029 Strategic Plan. Please look carefully at the plan while considering where your interests lie. Please click on the link to complete the sign-up form.



Welcome New Member

A Kid's Place of Tampa Bay is located in Brandon, FL. The program has been operational for the past sixteen years. Brad Gregory, CEO of the organization has been with the program for the last eight years.

There are five group homes on their main campus and two independent living homes for young adults aging out of the foster care system (ages 18 to 23) located elsewhere on their campus. All placements are made through the State of Florida Department of Children and Families.

A Kids Place is based on a live-in House Parent model where sibling groups can stay together in a family-like setting. This includes family style meals, outings, and other day-to-day activities that every child deserves.

The agency is licensed as a Child Caring Agency (CCA) - At-Risk Home. The home serves children birth through eighteen. The cottages are staffed with live-in married couples. In addition, they credit their ability to attract highly qualified individuals because their pay scale and benefits are on the upper end of industry standards.

Although identified as an "at risk home," A Kid's Place is not a treatment center and they only serve children who can safely function in an open setting. Educational services and programs are provided to residents through the public school system.

In addition, a satellite Hillsborough County classroom for children in grades K-5 that offers small classes and provides individual attention is provided by a Hillsborough County teacher, allowing children to thrive and better enabling them to succeed once they return to mainstream public school. The agency employs an Academic Supervisor and two tutors so all children can experience academic growth and success. The classroom is set up more like a coffee-house environment with a relaxed atmosphere.

Residents in care have opportunities to participate in extracurricular school activities. Internal and external case managers work together with House Parents, staff and licensed professionals to create step-by-step plans to improve the physical, mental, and social-emotional health of each child, according to their needs, i.e., employment, clubs, dances or athletics. Residents have opportunities to experience age-appropriate community activities. For example, children take driver's education and many of the older students have their own car when they leave the program.

When a child turns 18, they can achieve stability and success through the independent living program. This allows them to live in close proximity to younger siblings and receive the help they need to develop life and job skills they need to transition to full independence.

Though not yet in place, plans are in the making to add an equestrian program. The average length of stay is 15 months.

In addition to state licensure, the facility is accredited by CARF. The most recent accreditation study was conducted in June 2025.