

CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) facilitates action-oriented committee meetings for directors and child welfare staff at all levels to learn of best and promising practices in the region and beyond. The committees include: Directors Committee, Foster Care Committee, Wednesday's Child Committee, Independent Living Specialists, and Child Welfare Data Group. Learn about the important work of several of these programs below.

FOSTER CARE COMMITTEE

Resource Parent Recruitment & Retention

Kids Need Families



Kids Need Families Social Media

Online community and resource center for current and future foster and adoptive parents. COG maintains an active presence on social media on behalf of local members who are unable to develop and sustain their social media pages, due to local laws.

Families Like Yours



Families Like Yours Video Reception

COG produces the Foster Parent of the Year video to recognize outstanding foster parents in each jurisdiction and as a recruitment tool.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SPECIALISTS WORKGROUP

Youth In Transition



Y.E.S. Conference

Summer conference for youth aging out of foster care. COG coordinates the conference which provides critically important networking and soft-skills training for students aging out of foster care and entering their first year of college or trade school.

Trailblazers Fund

COG raises funds to meet additional needs of foster children outside of what the counties may offer to include: tuition for educational enrichment, camps, vocational training program tuition assistance, college textbooks, and more.

WEDNESDAY'S CHILD ADOPTION COMMITTEE

Child-Specific Adoption Recruitment



The PicMe Project

Professionally produced slideshow capturing candid and posed moments of local foster children who are waiting to be adopted. COG coordinates photo sessions with volunteers and promotes the slideshows on social media.

Wednesday's Child TV Program

Weekly television broadcast on NBC4 highlighting a special needs child, teenager, or sibling group waiting to be adopted. COG coordinates the television series featuring some of the region's longest waiting children in foster care.

Other committee initiatives:

Match Party
Regional Adoption Exchange
Friends of Wednesday's Child Fund

CHILD WELFARE DATA WORKGROUP

Quality Assurance



Annual Analysis of Local Trends in Foster Care

COG authors an annual report for child welfare directors to learn of emerging trends in foster care and consider proactively adapting programs and practices based on findings.

Learn more: mwcog.org/childwelfare



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments