



# Our Caregivers Speak

*Highlights from the 2021 DCYF Caregiver Survey*

## WHY SURVEY CAREGIVERS?

Every year, the Research and Data Analysis Division surveys a representative sample of DCYF foster and kinship caregivers. Their voices tell us about strengths, opportunities for improvement, and impacts of the system on the lives of children, parents, and caregivers.

### About the Survey



Interviews Aug 2020 to Aug 2021



Conducted by phone (908), online (434), and mail (3)

601 Foster caregivers

744 Kinship caregivers

85% Response rate

## HIGHLIGHTS

### *High Satisfaction with Support, Training, Licensing*



Nearly

8 of 10

Caregivers said they can get help when they ask for it



9 of 10

Caregivers said training prepared them to care for the basic needs of children



Over

9 of 10

Caregivers said licensing staff were knowledgeable and treated them respectfully

### *Improved Kinship Caregiver Experience*

Among kinship caregivers, statistically significant increase in positive responses for being treated like part of the team. No decreases for any question.

Differences are small, but kinship caregivers now more positive than foster caregivers in several areas – a different pattern of responses from 2020, when foster caregivers were generally more positive.

### *Are you treated like part of the team?*

Positive Responses Over Time



# Our Caregivers Said...

“

We became foster parents to make a difference, to see if we could fill the gap. We had no idea what we were getting into, but even with the hardest cases we still feel blessed and we would never give up on a child. In the end, some kids will go home and some will be adopted into other families. We're just a chapter in the book, we're not the entire book. We want these kids to maybe look back and say, 'Hey I remember when I did this or I was taught that by these people.' That's all we could hope for.  
- Foster Caregiver

They could be more transparent and more forthcoming with what services are available.  
- Kinship Caregiver

Our licensor stays up-to-date on things.  
- Foster Caregiver

I feel like there is really good communication. They keep their appointments. They work around our school schedule. They are very positive. They really have a good relationship with the child.  
- Kinship Caregiver

My caseworker is fabulous. We work very well together. She responds to my needs and concerns very quickly.  
- Kinship Caregiver

The Alliance has quite a bit of training online and it has been so helpful. I really like trainings in person, but right now trainings by Zoom is where it's at. – Foster Caregiver

A lot of information is on a need-to-know basis, and the social workers try really hard to share with you. Some workers are really good at explaining why they can't sometimes share info with you.  
– Foster Caregiver

They listen to us and consider our input with what the children need.  
– Kinship Caregiver

Trainings have been great at educating me on the impacts of trauma and being open-minded, creative, and flexible in my parenting.  
– Foster Caregiver

”