



On the next page is a fact sheet about CAFAP onto this urgent message and asking you to contact your legislators to ask that the CAFAP foster, adoptive and relative caregivers' support contract be left in the CT state budget.

Several weeks ago, there were several versions of cuts to the state budget that were generated to attempt to close the budget gap in CT. Among those cuts were several funds that were cut or eliminated regarding support for the caregiver families. Among those cuts were eliminating CAFAP's contract for support.

Please peruse the fact sheet and write to your legislator asking him or her to keep the contract intact so that you can continue to receive support services. Please tell them your personal story of how CAFAP's support, training and advocacy services have been helpful to you.

Thank you for all of your support. Please feel free to contact (jean.fiorito@cafap.com) or Wendy Sander (wendy.sander@cafap.com) if we can be of assistance.

CT Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents Makes A Difference!!

A document highlighting the possibility of eliminating CAFAP's contract with DCF along with other cuts to the budget was recently released. We remain hopeful that this cut will not be made. In the event that the contract is eliminated foster and adoptive parents and relative caregivers will no longer receive the support services they deserve in an effective and efficient manner, thereby decreasing the likelihood of well-trained and supported caregivers for the children in the child welfare system.

During SFY 2008, CAFAP accomplished:

- Provided training for approximately 1360 foster, adoptive and relative caregiver families in order to increase their skills in caring for children, helping the children with their issues and preparing the children for lifetimes of success.
- Referred 2206 families to DCF regarding their interest in becoming a foster or adoptive family.
- Paired 628 newly licensed foster, adoptive and relative caregiver families with mentors who are experienced foster, adoptive and relative caregivers.
- Responded to 13,413 callers to CAFAP community liaison staff with assistance regarding foster care, adoption and relative caregiver issues.
- Sent informative quarterly newsletters to over 7500 recipients per quarter.
- Provided website information to 300 unique users per week with an average of 174 page views per day.
- Provided attorneys to 163 families to assist with mediation and formalized open adoption agreements at no cost to the families.
- Over \$90,000 in in-kind services and goods to foster, adoptive and relative caregiver families and children.

Facts about CAFAP and its services:

- CAFAP received the prestigious Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute Angels in Adoption award for its work in supporting foster, adoptive and relative caregiver families in September, 2008 in Washington, DC. Senator Mary Landrieu (LA) called the program "a model for the country".
- Most of the services provided by CAFAP are mandated by the federal court order in the case of Juan F. vs. Rell.
- CAFAP staff earns approximately 60% of the wage a DCF employee receives.
- The administrative/benefit rate for CAFAP staff is approximately 14.8%. The same rate for DCF staff is 48%.
- CAFAP's anticipated contract amount for FY 2010 has been reduced by DCF already by approximately 3.3%. This is three times the amount of reduction the appropriations committee suggested for non-profit contracts in CT.
- This cut is coupled with a new requirement of a 6% match by CAFAP. This match represents \$121,000 per fiscal year. No other contractor who contracts with DCF is required to provide contract matching funds.