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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Indiana Department of Child Services raises awareness during Foster Care Month

*Observance meant to recognize those currently in Indiana's foster care system*

**INDIANAPOLIS (May 1, 2019)** – Today marks the beginning of Foster Care Month, a nationally recognized observance acknowledging the foster parents, volunteers, child welfare professionals and other community members who help children in foster care throughout the country.

During the month of May we recognize those who help provide a safe haven for the estimated 442,000 kids and teens nationwide who can no longer stay in their own homes because of abuse or neglect. As of March 2019, 14,516 of those children were in Indiana.

Loving adults who take in those children while DCS works with their families to create a safe environment are the champions of the child welfare system, DCS director Terry Stigdon said.

“Foster parents open their homes and their hearts to children in Hoosier communities who are in need of safety and stability,” Stigdon said. “I am encouraged by how many people come together to make a difference in the lives of our children, and this month gives us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate them.”

Several counties throughout Indiana will hold events to raise awareness about the foster care system. Click [here](#) to find out how you can get involved.

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**About Indiana DCS:** *The Indiana Department of Child Services engages with families and collaborates with state, local and community partners to protect children from abuse and neglect and to provide child*



*Indiana children will live in safe, healthy and supportive families and communities.*

*support services. Indiana Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 800.800.5556. Child Support Customer Service  
Kidslines: 800.840.8757 or 317.233.5437. [www.in.gov/dcs](http://www.in.gov/dcs)*



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