

Join the call for supporting children in foster care.



From the desk of Jennie Sheperd, Director of Recruitment, Utah Foster Care

Special Call From Governor Cox

Governor Cox is urging Utah citizens of all faiths to answer the crucial need for more licensed Foster Parents in the state of Utah. Next week Governor Cox will hold a press conference to issue this call. Please consider joining other faith leaders by adding your name to the letter stating the needs and inviting families to show up for Utah's most vulnerable children.

Utah's Urgent Needs

We find ourselves amidst a local and national shortage of foster homes, leaving children without the safe and loving environments they so desperately need. The shortage of foster homes in Utah is not merely a statistic, it represents the lives of children who need our protection the most. Despite the tireless efforts of child welfare professionals, currently licensed foster parents and advocates, the demand for foster homes continues to outpace the supply—leaving children older than 9 and sibling groups especially vulnerable. Additionally, Utah is in need of more homes open to providing permanency to waiting children, giving critical support from positive adults in the lives of youth transitioning to adulthood. We are asking representatives of our diverse faith communities to address this pressing issue, one that transcends religious boundaries and relies on our shared values of kindness and compassion to solve.

The need for quality foster homes has been addressed by state leadership. Governor Cox spoke to this need in his 2023 State of the State Address when he shared the “significant plan to support current foster families and to recruit new families to open their homes and their hearts to Utah’s most vulnerable children. We believe that with your help, Utah can be the first state in the nation to have no children waiting for a foster family”. He called for Utahns to become licensed to provide foster care and to help foster families with childcare, meals, and support.

Our plea to the interfaith community echoes this call. As leaders within our faith communities, your voice carries immense weight and influence. We invite you to use your platform to raise awareness about the critical shortage of foster homes and to inspire members of your congregations to take action.

Specifically, we ask you to join Utah’s interfaith community in this effort by adding your signature to Utah Foster Care and Raise the Future’s formal recruitment letter that will be shared during National Foster Care Month in May. This formal statement is attached to this email and will be shared on social media platforms,

with faith congregations around Utah, and at community events during May. We believe this unified call to action will increase awareness about the urgent need for foster homes in Utah and bring together Utahns to address the needs of the vulnerable children in our state.

Additionally, we ask that you share this statement with your members, urging them to consider opening their hearts and homes to foster children, especially teenagers and sibling groups. Encourage them to explore the possibility of becoming licensed foster parents or to support existing foster families in whatever capacity they can. Encourage them to find out more about the need for youth transitioning to adulthood to have permanency and supportive relationships with adults. By coming together as a community, we can make a profound difference in the lives of these vulnerable children and provide them with the love, stability, and support they need to thrive.

We want to express our sincere gratitude for your unwavering dedication to serving others and making a positive impact in our communities. Your leadership and guidance are invaluable, and we are confident that by working together, we can create a brighter future for the children of Utah.

Please reply to our email by May 25th, 2024 if you would like to add your signature to the recruitment letter linked below. Let us know how you would like the signature to read, ex: Canyon Hills Presbyterian. The recruitment letter will be shared statewide at the end of May and will be re-published in Fall of 2024.

[Interfaith Foster Care Call to Action.pdf](#)

With heartfelt sincerity,

Utah Foster Care

Raise the Future