DEPARTMENT OF
Children & Family Services

HOPE STARTS HERE

A *Faithful* Home for Every Child

Church Ministry Toolkit

PROTECTION • PREVENTION • PRESERVATION • PERMANENCY

Simple ways Louisiana churches can strengthen children and families



Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
627 N. 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

October 2026

Thank You for Answering the Call



> Every church can do something.
> No church has to do everything.

A Message from DCFS Secretary Rebecca Harris

Dear Faith Leaders,

Thank you for answering the call to serve Louisiana's children and families. Your compassion and commitment remind families facing difficult seasons that they are not alone.

The Hope Starts Here Church Ministry Toolkit offers practical ways for churches to strengthen families, support caregivers and help children experience safety, stability and belonging. Behind every page is a child in need of hope and an opportunity for someone to show up.

Every church can do something. No church has to do everything. Please use this toolkit to identify where your congregation can serve, and encourage other faith leaders to join us.

Together, we can move Louisiana closer to a faithful home for every child.

For children and families,

Thanks!

Rebecca Harris
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services

Table of Contents

Welcome to Hope Starts Here	03
Protection	05
Prevention	08
Preservation	11
Permanency	14
Churchwide Ministry Ideas	17
Ready-to-Use Worksheets and Templates	20
National and Louisiana Resource Directory	28

Welcome to Hope Starts Here

Hope Starts Here invites churches to put faith into action by strengthening families, protecting children, supporting caregivers, and helping every child experience lifelong belonging. This toolkit provides practical ministry options that churches of every size can begin, expand, or sustain in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), community organizations, and one another.

A SHARED POSTURE:

Serve with families, not merely for them. Preserve dignity, build on strengths, honor family and cultural connections, and allow people with lived experience to help shape the ministry.

How to Use This Toolkit

01

Begin with the "Four-Part Ministry Framework" and identify one area that fits your church's gifts and capacity.

02

Review your chosen area. Each section includes low-barrier actions, structured ministries, deeper partnerships, safeguards and sample measures to help your church determine what it can do.

03

Meet with DCFS or a trusted local child- and family-serving partner before serving children or families involved with child welfare. Ask what is needed locally, rather than assuming what families need.

04

Use the worksheets, templates and resource directory to plan your next steps.



The Four-Part Ministry Framework

The shared goal remains the same: children are safe, families are strengthened, caregivers are supported and lifelong relationships are preserved or built.

Area	Ministry Purpose	What Success Can Look Like
Protection	Know how to make a report when a child's safety may be threatened. Strengthen the safe adults and systems surrounding children.	Concerns are reported appropriately; children receive safe, trauma-informed care; and caregivers and workers are supported.
Prevention	Help families address stress and concrete needs before a crisis becomes a safety emergency or foster care is necessary.	Families have trusted relationships, practical help, and timely connections to community resources.
Preservation	Help children remain safely with family when possible and support reunification, kinship care, and placement stability.	Parents make progress; family bonds remain strong; kinship and foster caregivers can sustain care; disruptions decrease.
Permanency	Help every child achieve and sustain a safe, legally secure, lifelong family and enduring connections.	Reunification, guardianship, or adoption is supported; older youth have permanent people; families receive post-permanency support.

Questions or Ready to Get Started?
Contact the DCFS Care Team at DCFS.CaregiverSupport@LA.GOV.



Keep the child at the center: A ministry activity is valuable when it advances safety, stability, well-being, family connection, or permanency—not simply when it produces a large event or donation total.









01
Protection



Protection

Safe children. Prepared adults. A community that responds.

A protection-focused ministry helps the church recognize and respond appropriately to child safety concerns while surrounding children, caregivers, and child welfare professionals with practical, trauma-responsive support. The church's role is to notice, report, cooperate, and care—not to investigate or manage a child welfare case.

Ministry Outcomes

- Church leaders and volunteers learn to recognize the signs of child abuse and neglect.
- Church leaders and volunteers know how and when to report suspected maltreatment.
- Children's ministries use strong screening, supervision, check-in, transportation, communication, and response practices.
- Children entering care receive essential items and a dignified welcome.
- Foster and kinship caregivers, residential providers, and child welfare workers receive dependable community support.

Ways the Church Can Get Involved

Start Now	Build a Ministry	Deepen the Partnership
Publish reporting information; train staff and volunteers; review child-safety policies.	Create a child-safety team and annual training calendar.	Develop agency-approved rapid-response teams for vetted needs.
Prepare age-appropriate welcome kits based on a current list of partner-identified needs.	Operate a scheduled resource closet with inventory standards.	Coordinate a regional network so supplies are available without duplication.
Encourage child welfare staff with notes or a meal approved by office leadership.	Adopt an office or unit for quarterly support.	Provide confidential wellness, retreat, or professional-support resources.
Invite DCFS to an information session.	Host foster/kinship caregiver orientation or training space.	Recruit and sustain certified foster homes for priority needs identified by DCFS.

Protection Ministry in Action

Child-Safe Church

- Appoint a leader to coordinate safeguards for children's ministries and outreach to children in foster care. Safeguarding decisions should not rest with one person.
- Work with DCFS to adopt written rules for screening, two-adult supervision practices, check-in/out, bathrooms, transportation, digital communication, photography, allegations, and records.
- Train all volunteers who serve children/youth before providing services and refresh annually.
- Post reporting instructions and practice a response scenario.
- Review incidents and near misses without identifying children publicly.

Dignity Welcome Ministry

- Ask the partner for age range, size, cultural, sensory, hair-care, and school needs without case details.
- Provide new, seasonally appropriate items in a backpack, duffel, or suitcase.
- Include comfort items for children and a practical meal or essentials for the receiving family.
- Use neutral, affirming notes; do not include promises, case assumptions, or identifying labels.

Care for the Care Team

- Ask supervisors what support is welcome and equitable.
- Provide individually packaged refreshments, appreciation notes, or an approved quiet space.
- Offer professional skills or resources—translation, printing, facility use, or event volunteers—through a designated liaison.
- Do not request case stories or access in exchange for support.

Helpful Tools

- DCFS child abuse/neglect reporting page and 24/7 hotline: http://dcfs.la/report
  - **Phone:** 855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437)
- Child Welfare Information Gateway mandated-reporting resources: https://www.childwelfare.gov/
- Foster the Family for ongoing caregiver support and welcome packages: https://www.fosterthefamily.org/





02 Prevention



Prevention

Supporting resilient families before crisis becomes separation.

Prevention ministry reduces isolation and helps families address concrete, relational, and practical stress before safety is compromised. It is voluntary, family-led, strengths-based, and connected to qualified community services. The aim is not to monitor families; it is to ensure no family faces crisis alone.

Ministry Outcomes

- Parents have trusted people to call before a situation becomes an emergency.
- Families obtain food, housing, utilities, transportation, childcare, health, recovery, employment, or other supports.
- Caregivers gain skills, encouragement, and social connection.
- Children remain safely with their families whenever possible.

Ways the Church Can Get Involved

Start Now	Build a Ministry	Deepen the Partnership
Map existing church services and list clear eligibility, hours, and contacts.	Create a coordinated family resource desk with warm handoffs.	Join or build a multi-agency community resource network.
Stock diapers, hygiene items, school supplies, car seats, or emergency groceries based on verified needs.	Operate a dignified choice-based pantry or resource closet.	Respond to vetted needs through a care-sharing platform or formal referral pathway.
Offer meals, lawn care, minor home help, or transportation through approved protocols.	Build volunteer teams around isolated parents.	Partner with a vetted host-family or family-strengthening organization.
Open existing budgeting, job, recovery, marriage, parenting, or support ministries to community referrals.	Offer evidence-informed classes with childcare and transportation.	Co-locate services with schools, family resource centers, or providers.

Prevention Ministry in Action

Family Resource Navigation

- Train navigators to listen, clarify the family's stated goal, and obtain consent before sharing information.
- Use VIA LINK's Louisiana Parent Line alongside local resource directories.
- Offer a warm handoff and a follow-up time chosen by the family.
- Record only minimal service data; do not create shadow case files.

Concrete Supports Fund

- Establish written rules for eligibility, approval limits, documentation, vendor payments, equity and conflicts of interest.
- Prioritize needs that help stabilize safety and caregiving: utilities, transportation, beds, work items, childcare, or housing barriers.
- Pay vendors directly when appropriate while preserving dignity and choice.
- Offer practical help alongside optional personal support and connections to other resources.

Family Friendship Teams

- Recruit small teams that offer meals, rides, errands, encouragement, and practical help.
- Let the parent name goals and preferred contact methods.
- Use a trained team lead, approved boundaries, and a simple service plan.
- If temporary hosting or childcare is contemplated, partner with a qualified program; do not improvise.

Helpful Tools

- VIA LINK Louisiana Parent Line: 833-LA-CHILD (833-522-4453); text (225) 424-1533. https://vialink.org/
- Resources to help families meet their needs, build stability and keep children safe at home: http://dcfs.la/resources



Meeting practical needs with dignity can help families build stability and keep children safe.



03 Preservation



Preservation

Strengthen the family connections children already have.

Preservation ministry helps children remain safely connected to parents, siblings, relatives, fictive kin, and community. It includes support for in-home families, reunification, kinship caregivers, foster-care stability, and healthy relationships between caregivers and parents—all in alignment with the child's case plan and DCFS direction.

Ministry Outcomes

- Parents and kin have practical and relational support to meet children's needs.
- Children maintain safe relationships, routines, culture, school, faith, and community connections.
- Foster and kinship families receive wraparound support that reduces burnout and disruption.
- Reunification is treated as a milestone to support, not the end of community care.

Ways the Church Can Get Involved

Start Now	Build a Ministry	Deepen the Partnership
Celebrate and support kinship caregivers, and share Louisiana Kinship Navigator information.	Create a kinship care team or monthly support gathering.	Become a Kinship Navigator community partner or coordinate regional supports.
Provide meals, errands, and practical support to a referred foster or reunifying family.	Launch care communities with a trained team lead.	Support multiple families through a Family Advocacy Ministry.
Collect approved supplies for family visits or reunification transitions.	Provide agency-approved transportation, space, or visit supports.	Partner on parent mentorship or reunification services through qualified providers.
Offer recovery, employment, housing, parenting, or fatherhood ministries to referred parents.	Train leaders in trauma, grief, substance-use recovery, and family partnership.	Create coordinated service pathways with professional providers.

Preservation Ministry in Action

Care Community Around a Family

- Ask the caregiver or parent what help would actually reduce stress.
- Assign roles such as team lead, meals, errands, child-friendly activities, transportation, and prayer/encouragement.
- Use a shared schedule that reveals no case details.
- Commit for a defined period, review monthly, and continue through transitions when welcome.

Kinship Support

- Normalize that relatives and fictive kin may step in suddenly with little preparation.
- Help with beds, clothing, school enrollment logistics, meals, transportation, technology, and caregiver respite only through approved arrangements.
- Connect caregivers to the Louisiana Kinship Navigator, benefit screening, support groups, and legal resources.
- Include older kin caregivers; offer technology help and accessible meeting formats.

Reunification Ally Ministry

- Ask the parent and referring partner what practical support would help sustain reunification.
- Provide approved help with meals, transportation, school supplies, household essentials or family routines.
- Celebrate progress privately and with the family's consent.
- Continue offering support after reunification, when welcomed, without monitoring or managing the family.

Foster Caregiver–Parent Partnership Support

- Encourage caregivers to speak respectfully about parents and preserve the child's connections as directed.
- Support approved exchange of school information, photos, comfort items, traditions, and child routines.
- Avoid taking sides or interpreting court decisions. Refer questions to the caseworker.
- Offer neutral hospitality for approved shared activities only when all parties and DCFS agree.

Helpful Tools

- Contact the DCFS Care Team: DCFS.CaregiverSupport@LA.GOV
- Louisiana Kinship Navigator: http://dcfs.la/kinnav
- DCFS foster caregiver resources: http://dcfs.la/fcresources
- Louisiana CASA: https://www.louisianacasa.org/
- CAFO More Than Enough wraparound-support resources and church assessment: https://cafo.org/morethanenough/
- Trauma-informed and adoption/foster-competent training from qualified providers.
- Crossroads Trauma-Informed Care: https://www.crossroadsla.org/



04 Permanency



Permanency

A safe, stable and strong family with enduring relationships for every child.

Permanency ministry supports the child's legally approved permanency goal and the lifelong relationships that reinforce belonging. Reunification is the preferred permanency outcome when safely possible; other paths can include guardianship and adoption. Ministry continues after the legal milestone because families and young adults need durable community, not a finish-line celebration followed by silence.

Ministry Outcomes

- Children achieve safe permanency without unnecessary delay.
- Families considering foster care, guardianship, or adoption receive accurate information and realistic support.
- Adoptive, guardianship, reunified, and kinship families remain connected to help after legal permanency.
- Older youth leave care with permanent relationships, practical skills, and a supportive network.

Ways the Church Can Get Involved

Start Now	Build a Ministry	Deepen the Partnership
Host a DCFS-led foster/adoptive information session.	Develop a church recruitment and discernment pathway.	Recruit for specific local needs identified by DCFS, including teens and sibling groups.
Celebrate adoption, guardianship, and reunification with the family's consent.	Provide post-permanency meals, support groups, childcare, and practical help.	Build a multi-year preservation fund and adoption-competent referral network.
Invite adults to mentor or support older youth in foster care.	Create relational, education, employment, transportation, and life-skills teams.	Offer enduring relational support beyond age 21 with youth choice and clear boundaries.
Support child-specific recruitment events only under agency leadership.	Provide approved event space, hospitality, and volunteers.	Build networks that identify relational connections while protecting privacy and youth voice.

Permanency Ministry in Action

Foster and Adoptive Family Recruitment

- Ask DCFS which children and caregiver capacities are most needed locally.
- Use accurate messages: fostering is temporary care with reunification support; adoption is not the goal of every foster-care case.
- Invite interested households to official orientation and training; do not privately screen or promise placement.
- Recruit the support teams alongside the caregiving families.

Post-Permanency Care

- Contact families and ask what support would be helpful and sustainable during their next steps.
- Offer peer groups, meals, transportation, tutoring, respite, and flexible benevolence.
- Maintain referrals to adoption-competent clinicians and kinship/adoption support services.
- Recognize grief, identity, and family complexity; avoid "happily ever after" expectations.

Older Youth and Lifelong Connections

- Partner with or build a mentoring network in your church.
- Let youth define goals and choose relationships; do not make promises that cannot be kept.
- Build a team around education, employment, housing readiness, transportation, health care navigation, holidays, and emergency support.
- Plan for long-term support: birthdays, graduations, moves, job changes, and setbacks after program completion.

Child-Specific Events and Storytelling

- Follow DCFS approval requirements for all profiles, photographs, media, invitations and contact with children or youth.
- Center youth voice, strengths, interests, privacy, and emotional safety.
- Never publish trauma histories or use children as fundraising content.
- Prepare volunteers to interact naturally—not interview children or ask why they are in care.

Helpful Tools

- Louisiana DCFS foster and adoptive parent information: http://dcfs.la/lafoster
- C.A.S.E. Adoption Competence National Directory and post-permanency resources: https://adoptionsupport.org/national-directory/
- National Council for Adoption post-adoption resources: https://adoptioncouncil.org/post-adoption-support/
- CAFO resources on aging out, wraparound support, and church foster-care ministry: https://cafo.org/aging-out/
- Approved mentoring, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), education, workforce, or extended-foster-care partners available locally.

05
Churchwide Ministry Ideas

Churchwide Ministry Ideas

Many churches already have ministries that can serve children and families. The opportunity is to intentionally connect those assets to partner-identified needs.

Existing church asset	Possible child-and-family application	Key safeguard
Small groups	Care teams, meals, errands, friendship, prayer when welcomed.	One trained lead; consent; confidentiality; no case advice.
Food ministry	Choice pantry, emergency groceries, reunification meal train.	Dignified access; dietary/cultural needs; consistent hours.
Facilities	Training, support groups, supervised events, professional services.	Written agreement, insurance, accessibility, approved supervision.
Transportation	Work, treatment, school, court, training, or family logistics.	Approved role; screened drivers; insurance; car-seat and contact rules.
Children/youth ministry	Inclusive programming and belonging for children in foster/kinship/adoptive families.	Trauma-responsive volunteers; caregiver consent; no public disclosure.
Education ministry	Tutoring, devices, school supplies, FAFSA/career help.	School/agency approval; screened mentors; youth goals guide support.
Recovery ministry	Peer support, transportation, meals, childcare through approved arrangements.	Qualified leadership; privacy; emergency/referral protocols.
Professional network	Legal referral, counseling, dentistry, repairs, employment, finance.	Verify credentials; define pro bono scope; avoid dual relationships.
Older-adult ministry	Kinship support, meals, friendship, technology help, intergenerational connection.	Accessible design; background screening based on role.
Benevolence fund	Concrete supports that stabilize families and permanency.	Written criteria, equity review, documentation, vendor controls.

Ministry Calendar Ideas

January - March: Family Stability

Utilities, tax preparation referrals, job readiness, mentoring recruitment.

April: Child Abuse Prevention Month

Abuse reporting education, protective factors, parent support, resource mapping.

May: National Foster Care Month

DCFS information session, foster/kinship family care teams, worker appreciation.

June: Water Safety

Water safety education, swim lessons, life jackets and active supervision.

July - August: School Stability

Supplies, uniforms, tutoring, transportation, technology.

September: Kinship Care Month

Kinship recognition, benefits navigation, grandfamily support.

October: National Foster Youth Voice Month

Listen to youth, elevate their voices and include them in decisions.

November: National Adoption Month

Balanced permanency education, post-permanency support, youth voice.

December: Holiday Support

Family-led holiday support that protects dignity, privacy, culture, and parent-child relationships.

Recommended Core Team

Pastoral/Executive Sponsor

Provides authority, alignment, and accountability

Ministry Lead

Owns operations and is the primary partner contact

Safeguarding Lead

Oversees screening, training, incident response, and policy compliance

Volunteer Coordinator

Matches people to roles and monitors reliability

Resource Coordinator

Manages donations, benevolence, inventory, and logistics

Family Voice Advisor

Helps ensure dignity, relevance, and accessibility

Data/Learning Lead

Tracks minimal, non-identifying measures and quarterly learning

06
Ready-to-Use Worksheets and Templates

Worksheet A: Church Asset and Calling Inventory

Identify your church's strengths, resources and capacity, then choose an initial area of focus.

Our church's strongest existing ministries are:

Skills/professions represented in our congregation include:

Facilities, vehicles, funds, technology, or supplies we can reliably offer:

Times/days our volunteers are genuinely available:

Children and families our congregation already knows how to serve well:

Areas requiring training or a qualified partner before we proceed:

Our focus areas will be:

- ☐ Protection
- ☐ Prevention
- ☐ Preservation
- ☐ Permanency

The one need we will address first is:

We will know our first 90 days were useful when:

Worksheet B: One-Page Ministry Charter

Define the ministry's purpose, responsibilities, safeguards, resources and measures of success.

Ministry name:

Executive sponsor:

Ministry lead:

Partner organization and contact:

Population/families served:

Problem identified by the partner:

Services we will provide:

Referral and consent process:

Volunteer screening and training:

Confidentiality and records approach

Emergency and mandated-reporting procedures:

Budget and in-kind resources:

Measures and review date:

Worksheet C: Partner Listening Guide

Use these questions to understand local needs, appropriate roles and partnership expectations.

- ☐ What are the three most urgent needs children and families face locally?
- ☐ Which needs are appropriate for churches to address? Which are not?
- ☐ What would dependable partnership look like to families and workers?
- ☐ How should referrals, consent, communication, and service closure work?
- ☐ What screening, training, insurance, confidentiality, or documentation is required?
- ☐ What common church approaches unintentionally create problems or duplicate services?
- ☐ How can parents, caregivers, and young people with lived experience shape the ministry?
- ☐ What data can be shared, and what information must remain confidential?
- ☐ Who makes decisions when a request changes or a safety concern arises?
- ☐ When will we review the pilot together?

Partner Priorities and Notes:

Worksheet D: Volunteer Interest and Role Matching

Match each volunteer's interests, availability and experience with an appropriate ministry role.

Name: _____ Phone or Email: _____

Church/Community Affiliation: _____

Availability: ☐ Weekdays ☐ Evenings ☐ Weekends ☐ On call only

I am interested in:
□ Meals or groceries
□ Errands or home help
□ Transportation
□ Tutoring/education
□ Care-team leadership
□ Resource navigation
□ Professional services
□ Event hospitality
□ Foster/kinship/adoptive caregiving
□ Mentoring older youth
□ Child welfare worker support
□ Donations/fundraising
□ Administrative or data support
□ Prayer/encouragement when welcomed

Skills, languages, credentials, or lived experience I choose to share:

_____

_____

I understand that interest does not authorize service. Placement in a role depends on partner need, screening, training, supervision, and applicable policy.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Worksheet E: Family Support Request and Service Plan

Document a partner-approved request, assigned support, consent and follow-up using minimal information.

USE ONLY WITH PARTNER APPROVAL: Collect the least information needed. This form is not a child welfare assessment or case record. Adapt it with the referring partner and church counsel.

Request or reference number (avoid names when possible):

Referring partner/contact:

Date received and requested completion date:

Family's stated need and preferred outcome:

Services approved:

Services declined or referred elsewhere:

Family's preferred contact method and consent confirmed:

Assigned volunteer/team lead:

Safety, accessibility, language, dietary, cultural, or scheduling considerations shared with consent:

Completion date and family/partner feedback:

Follow-up date or closure:

Template A: Care Team Support Schedule

Assign team roles and establish how often each type of support will be provided.

Role	Name	Commitment
Team lead	_____	Weekly check-in; coordinates with family/partner
Meals	_____	Frequency: _____
Errands/home help	_____	Frequency: _____
Transportation	_____	Only as approved; frequency: _____
Children or youth support	_____	Only as approved; activity: _____
Encouragement or prayer	_____	Family preference: _____
Backup	_____	Covers cancellations and urgent logistics

Family's top three preferences/goals:

_____

_____

_____

Boundaries and activities not authorized:

_____

_____

Review date:_____ Partner contact:_____ Team lead:_____

Template B: Church Action Planner

Identify practical ways individuals can serve based on their interests, skills and capacity.

I can...	Possible Role
Open my home	Learn about becoming a certified foster/adoptive caregiver or an approved respite/host-home resource.
Surround a family	Join a care team for meals, errands, transportation, tutoring, or encouragement.
Strengthen parents	Offer resource navigation, mentoring, recovery support, employment skills, or practical help through an approved ministry.
Stand with kin	Support grandparents, relatives, and fictive kin with supplies, navigation, technology, meals, and community.
Invest in a young person	Mentor, tutor, employ, teach life skills, or become a lasting connection through an approved program.
Use my profession	Provide vetted legal, clinical, dental, financial, housing, repair, education, or employment assistance.
Equip the church	Lead safeguarding, training, volunteer coordination, communications, data, or prayer.
Give resources	Fund concrete family needs, care teams, post-permanency support, or approved partner programs.

Template C: Confidentiality and Dignity Commitment

Establish clear expectations for protecting the privacy, dignity and safety of children and families.

As a Hope Starts Here volunteer, I will:

- ☐ Access only the minimum information necessary for my approved role.
- ☐ Not share names, photographs, locations, case details, prayer requests, or stories without proper authorization.
- ☐ Not post about a child or a family on social media, even without a name, when details could identify them.
- ☐ Use respectful, strengths-based language about parents, children, relatives, caregivers, and workers.
- ☐ Refer questions about a case to the designated partner contact.
- ☐ Secure or return records as directed and report any privacy concern immediately.
- ☐ Not condition assistance on participation in religious activity.
- ☐ Follow mandated-reporting law and the ministry's safety response procedure.

Volunteer: _____ Date: _____

Ministry Lead: _____ Date: _____

07 Resource Directory

National and Louisiana Resource Directory

These resources can help churches move from ideas to quality partnerships. Availability, cost, requirements, and local implementation vary. Verify current fit with Louisiana DCFS and local partners before adopting a model.

Louisiana Connections

DCFS Care Team — Support and assistance for foster and kinship caregivers.
DCFS.CaregiverSupport@LA.GOV

Louisiana DCFS — Official DCFS website — Official entry point for child welfare, family support, reporting, and local offices.
https://dcfs.la.gov/

Report Child Abuse or Neglect — 1-855-4LA-KIDS (1-855-452-5437), 24/7.
http://dcfs.la/report

Foster & Adoptive Parents — Official information for prospective and current caregivers.
http://dcfs.la/foster-adoptive-parents

Foster Caregiver Resources — State tools and information for current foster caregivers.
http://dcfs.la/fcresources

VIA LINK Louisiana Parent Line: 833-LA-CHILD (833-522-4453); text (225) 424-1533.
https://vialink.org/



Gather your leadership team and congregation to discuss practical ways your church can help. Consider your capacity, budget, volunteers and available resources, then choose a realistic commitment your church can sustain.

Church Mobilization and Wraparound Support

Christian Alliance for Orphans — More Than Enough — Church assessment, strategy hub, wraparound support, care sharing, aging-out, and ministry resources.
https://cafo.org/morethanenough/

Promise686 — Family Advocacy Ministry training, technology, content, and coaching for church-based support teams.
https://www.promise686.org/

Wait No More — Church foster/adoptive ministry startup resources and links to assessments and models.
https://waitnomore.org/how-to-start-a-foster-adoptive-family-ministry/

Foster the Family — Practical welcome packages and ongoing support for foster, adoptive, and kinship families.
https://www.fosterthefamily.org/

Permanency and Post-Permanency

Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) — Adoption-competent training, support resources, and a national clinician directory.
https://adoptionsupport.org/

National Council for Adoption — Post-Adoption Support — Articles, webinars, guides, videos, and toolkits for post-adoption support.
https://adoptioncouncil.org/post-adoption-support/

Administration for Children and Families — Children's Bureau — Federal child welfare information, policy, grants, and initiatives.
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb



Every church can make a meaningful difference by choosing a commitment that fits.

DEPARTMENT OF

Children &
Family Services

www.dcfs.la.gov