

Supporting Our Anchors

DCYF's Peer to Peer Traditional Family Mentor Program



Foster Parents are a critical resource for Rhode Island's most vulnerable children. Rhode Island recognizes the value and contribution of ALL resource families, but further, understands the need to build supports to surround Traditional Foster Families.

Program Overview: **Supporting Our Anchors** is a statewide DCYF facilitated peer to peer support program for Traditional licensed Resource Families. Peer mentoring, coupled with consistent communication, guidance, and training, are the most powerful ways to support Resource Families. The program seeks to provide system guidance to Resource Families in the process of matching and placement, clarification regarding Resource Family's role, responsibilities and expectations, support regarding strengthening the Resource Family and Biological family connection and how to advocate and communicate for themselves and the child (ren) in their care.

Peer to Peer Mentors: All Peer Mentors have lived experience as Resource Families who have been licensed with the Department and understand the unique challenges that resource families face.

All newly licensed Resource Families will be offered a Peer Mentor; however, this program is entirely voluntary. Mentors will support families with:

- System Navigation
- Communication with DCYF staff and members of the foster child's treatment team
- Strengthening birth family relationships.
- Connection to available community resources, support groups and training opportunities

For additional information please contact the DCYF Recruitment Development Support team at DCYF.RDS@dcyf.ri.gov or call (401)952-0262 .