

## Recruiting Homes through Community Engagement

### **What are your current challenges in this area?**

1. Spending a lot of time at county fairs with a table and flyers; few real inquiries
2. African American homes
3. Homes for Muslim children
4. Homes for Burmese children
5. LGBT
6. No incentives (financial or otherwise) in some jurisdictions to refer foster parent; some voluntary agencies offer up to \$600 for foster parent referrals

### **What is working?**

1. Word of mouth
2. Offer MAPP class in foster parent home; other places in the community
3. \$100 for foster parent referral and \$200 for the first placement
4. Foster parent website seems to be a great draw for prospective foster parents
5. Talking to the community about the need
6. Recent PSA in one jurisdiction appears to have increased the number of Black and Spanish speaking homes (PSA was developed by an outside marketing firm that was hired by a voluntary agency to provide marketing strategies to increase African American and Spanish speaking homes for foster parents)

### **If money and permission were not a factor, what would you do differently to address this issue?**

1. Outreach to community organizations
2. Share experiences of foster parents – through presentations, panels, booklet of foster parent stories/reflections
3. Pay a foster parent to be a recruiter ([Foster Parent as Recruiters Step-by-Step Guide](#))
4. Thank you cards to send to foster parents
5. Allow youth placed in care to participate in activities such as panels, parties, volunteer opportunities with prospective foster parents (must be vetted/monitored by agency etc.)
6. Appreciation activities for foster parent

### **Do you have any lingering thoughts or questions about recruiting diverse homes through community engagement?**

1. When your staff is not diverse, how do you overcome the challenge to recruit a pool of diverse homes?
2. Who are our other partners and ambassadors in the community?