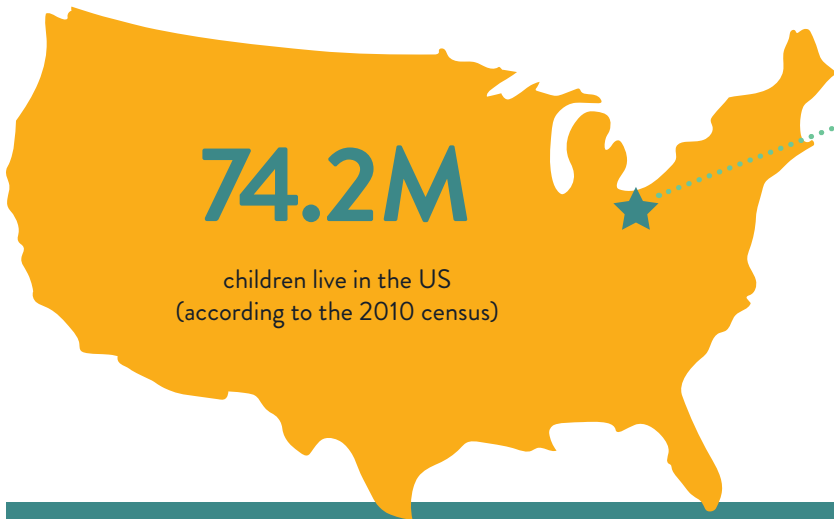


THE FACTS

Most people don't know a "foster kid." To them, perception is reality. Children's Action Network is working to combat the negative stereotypes too often associated with youth in foster care by sharing stories of individual success and spotlighting the potential of foster youth. Hollywood can help. Through the power of your story telling and the size of your audience, you can help inform opinions and shape attitudes to support this population.



423,997

children live in the foster care system, roughly the population of Cleveland, Ohio!

1 in 175

children in the U.S. are in the foster care system.



KEY: = 10,000

52% MALE
48% FEMALE



20K "age out"

OF FOSTER CARE EACH YEAR

2% American Indian/ Alaskan Native	22% Black or African American	22% Latino	1% Unable to Determine
0% Asian	>1% Pacific Islander	44% White	8% 2 or more races



70% of foster youth aspire to go to college yet only 15% will attend and fewer than 3% will earn college degrees.

65% OF FOSTER YOUTH EXPERIENCE

7 or more

SCHOOL CHANGES (K-12)

1 in 5

Americans are interested in adoption from foster care, however that does not translate to the number of children adopted. (Survey by The Dave Thomas Foundation)



Large percentages of people are interested in adoption, but they don't know enough about the process to seriously consider becoming an adoptive parent.

BUT DID YOU KNOW...

\$0

ADOPTING CHILDREN FROM FOSTER CARE CAN BE VIRTUALLY — free! —

Many agencies **do not charge for the services** they provide to families who are adopting a child from foster care. In addition, a growing number of companies and government agencies offer **adoption assistance** as part of their employee benefits packages, including time off for maternity/paternity leave, financial incentives, and other benefits. Congress has also made **federal tax credits** available for foster care adoptions to help offset required fees, court costs, and legal and travel expenses. In 2012, the maximum federal tax credit for qualifying expenses was \$12,170.

These types of benefits enable more families to adopt children from foster care into their homes.



Congress has streamlined the foster care adoption process through the enactment of the **Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997**. This law stipulates that children in foster care, who cannot be reunited with their birth parents, are freed for adoption and placed with permanent families as *quickly as possible*.

THERE ARE MANY FEDERAL AND STATE SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE FOR FOSTER CHILDREN AFTER ADOPTION THAT CAN INCLUDE CASH SUBSIDIES, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, AND SOCIAL SERVICES.



Households in the U.S. that have at least 1 child younger than 18.



Households in the U.S. that have at least 1 FOSTER child younger than 18.

122,216

FOSTER CHILDREN ARE READY TO BE PLACED FOR adoption.

55%

of foster youth have a case goal to reunify with parent(s) or principal caretaker(s).

34 MONTHS

Average wait time for adoption.

31 MONTHS

Average length of stay in foster care.



There have been many **successful individuals** that have grown up in foster care including Michael Oher, Eddie Murphy, and Colin Kaepernick; all proof that talented, successful and hardworking foster children are out there waiting for a **chance to bloom**.