The Foster Care Crisis and Faith-Affirming Agencies

**THE FOSTER CARE CRISIS**

Kids in Foster Care

- 396,966 in 2012
- 437,283 in 2018

14 STATES AND D.C. experienced a decline in the number of foster homes from 2018 to 2019.

The decrease in non-relative foster homes was as high as 49%.

30-50% OF FOSTER PARENTS LEAVE THE SYSTEM EACH YEAR.

Each year, around 20,000 kids age out of foster care without an adoptive home.

The odds they face aren’t good.

- 20% WILL BE HOMELESS AT AGE 18.
- 50% WILL BE UNEMPLOYED AT AGE 24.
- 97% WILL NEVER GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE.

View footnotes: https://s3.amazonaws.com/becketnewsite/Foster-CareCrisisFaithBasedAgencies.pdf

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Faith-based agencies are crucial to finding homes and helping children. They serve children without regard to race, gender, or sexual orientation. Faith-based agencies work alongside secular and government agencies to recruit a diverse array of foster and adoptive parents.

**THE UNIQUE ROLE OF FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS**

- **82%** of families in one study pointed to faith or church support as a factor that facilitates successful fostering.
- **2.6** years longer than other foster parents.
- **36%** of the families recruited by one Christian organization said they would not have become foster or adoptive parents were it not for that organization’s efforts.

**Faith-based agencies perform vital work.**

**THE HARM TO CHILDREN IF FAITH-BASED AGENCIES CLOSE IS REAL.**

Boston stopped partnering with faith-based providers in 2006. One year later, the percentage of children who aged out of the Massachusetts foster care system rose by over 50% and has not returned to pre-2006 levels.

**Kids Who Age Out of Foster Care in Massachusetts**

- **Non-relative foster families:**
  - **IN 2011,** Illinois passed a law ending its partnerships with faith-based agencies.
  - **BETWEEN 2012 AND 2019,** Illinois lost 5,352 foster homes - the most significant decrease in any state that reported this data.