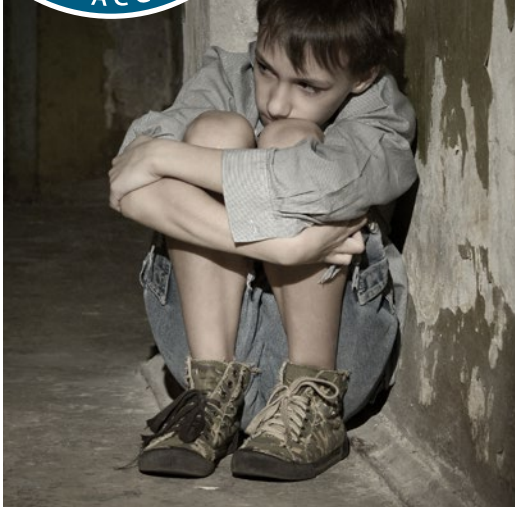




Government-Run Foster Care Is Failing Kids

There is a better way.

Protect Kids | Preserve Families | Get Government Out of the Way



THE TRAGEDY

400,000 children languish in foster care across the country. 70 percent of them are there because of neglect, not from sexual or physical abuse.

When crisis strikes at home, many of us turn to our family or church for support. But for too many parents, that safety net isn't there—and life can spiral out of control. Addiction, domestic abuse, incarceration, illness, unemployment, homelessness; it's during these crises that kids are at risk as their parents struggle.

Government bureaucracies aren't helping. They cannot accomplish what's right for kids and families. But there is a proven solution.

THE PROVEN SOLUTION

Since 2002, SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN and its thousands of volunteer families has offered support and hope for families in crisis. SAFE FAMILIES doesn't take kids from their parents. SAFE FAMILIES gives parents peace of mind that their children are protected and nurtured while they get clean, sober, working and back on their feet. The goal is to strengthen and preserve biological families without all the bureaucratic bullying, taxpayer spending or government dependence.

Through private charity, not government coercion, **SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN** meets three critical objectives:

- Protect:** A safe alternative to foster care custody that greatly reduces the number of kids entering the child welfare system.
- Prevent:** A safe, temporary home for a child while a parent in crisis gets help and support, preventing abuse and neglect without the threat of losing custody.
- Nurture:** An extended volunteer family to offer help, advice and support to parents who never had a social safety net to rely on.

THE SAFE FAMILIES WAY:

- Volunteer families are extensively screened and trained
- Volunteer families are never paid or asked for money
- Biological parents maintain full custody of their kids
- Parents and kids are safely reunited as quickly as possible

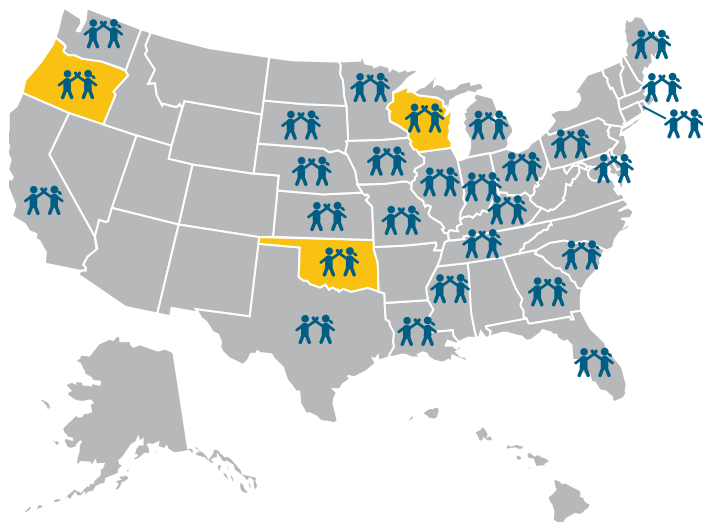
THE ROADBLOCK— GOVERNMENT

To change lives, Safe Families needs government out of the way so private volunteer families can help children and families in need without state intervention. In a recent poll, 71% of registered voters responded that they would be more likely to support legislators who work to bring Safe Families to their community.



- Denise Gonzales
Division of Child
Protection, Illinois
Department of
Children and
Family Services

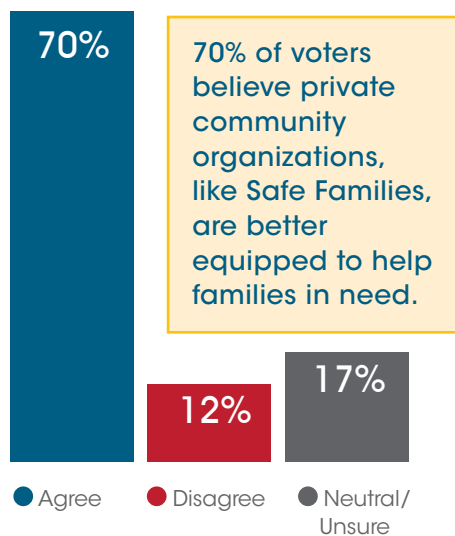
"Safe Families
sounds too
good to be
true, but it
really works."



WHY SAFE FAMILIES STEPS IN

Homelessness	24%
Parental crisis, family conflict	16%
Medical crisis/hospitalization	15%
Lack of family support	11%
Respite	9%
Referral by child welfare agency	6%
Mental health issues	6%
Substance abuse	4%
Domestic Violence	3%
Job loss	3%
Prison	3%

VOTERS PREFER PRIVATE CHARITY OVER GOVERNMENT



SAFE FAMILIES: More Kids Helped, More Families Succeed

	Private Charity— Safe Families	Old-Style Government Foster Care
Cost per child served	\$1,500 - mostly or entirely private funding	\$25,000+ taxpayer-funded
Average compensation	\$0 to volunteer family	\$6,000 to foster parents
Average time child spends in care away from parent(s)	29 days	702 days (23.4 months)
Portion of kids that return home	90%	51%

To bring SAFE FAMILIES to your state:

TheFGA.org @TheFGA

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