



# all children all families



HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN  
FOUNDATION™

Finding permanent families for children by promoting fairness for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender foster and adoptive parents.

## our commitment...

Within the child welfare system, barriers separate the children in its care from the many qualified GLBT parents who wish to open their hearts, homes and lives to those children. With strong support from leading child welfare and adoption advocacy organizations, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's All Children – All Families initiative will:

- **Ensure** that public and private child welfare agencies have the tools to affirmatively welcome families headed by GLBT adults and are competent in supporting those families.
- **Educate** GLBT adults about foster and adoptive parenting, and provide greater access to agencies that treat all prospective parents equally.

**“Agency directors have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that GLBT families are welcomed and treated with absolute fairness and competence. Unless we’re fully committed, we’ll fail to adequately address the needs of our GLBT clients.”**

— **Janice Goldwater**, executive director, Adoptions Together

## what you can do...

- Are you an **administrator or service provider in a public or private agency?** See All Children – All Families’ “Promising Practices” Guide (fall 2007) and use it within your agency to improve practices with GLBT parents.
- If you’re a **policymaker, child welfare researcher or advocate**, stand up for fairness for GLBT families. Look for opportunities to address GLBT issues at conferences and coalition meetings, in publications and elsewhere.
- If you’re a **GLBT adult considering parenthood**, learn about adoption, foster parenting and the agencies that welcome and support you. Visit [www.hrc.org/family](http://www.hrc.org/family) for updates.

**We’d love to hear from you! E-mail us at [family@hrc.org](mailto:family@hrc.org) to share your successes and challenges.**

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More than half a million children in the United States are in the foster care system – with at least 100,000 waiting for adoption by loving, “forever” families.

Meanwhile gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are becoming parents in increasing numbers – often through adoption. Take a look:

- About **65,500** adopted children are being raised by gay or lesbian parents.
- And **14,000** foster children – or 3 percent of foster children nationwide – are being cared for by gay or lesbian parents.

**2** two million gay, lesbian and bisexual people are interested in adopting.\*

Only a small percentage of adoption agencies actively recruit adoptive parents who are gay or lesbian. Many GLBT people seeking to adopt feel unwelcome at agencies or that they’re treated like second-class applicants.

Unfortunately, some adoption agencies may have blatant anti-gay policies or philosophies – or they may subtly discourage applicants through their lack of competence with GLBT issues or failure to reflect GLBT inclusiveness in their applications, websites and other recruitment tools.

**“The All Children – All Families initiative is truly vital for agency staff and prospective GLBT parents. It’s key to reducing the number of children waiting for ‘forever’ families.”**

– **Dr. Ruth McRoy**, director, Center for Social Work Research, University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work

\*Statistics from the Williams Institute & Urban Institute, *Adoption and Foster Care by Gay and Lesbian Parents in the United States*, March 2007. Now available at: [www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/FinalAdoptionReport.pdf](http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/FinalAdoptionReport.pdf). Studies have not addressed the numbers of transgender people who have expressed an interest in adoption.



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## tools for you...

- The **“Promising Practices” Guide** will offer examples of effective practices for working with GLBT foster and adoptive parents. The new handbook includes sample policies and tips from leaders of welcoming agencies, researchers in the field and GLBT adoptive and foster parents.
- The **Agency Survey** will allow an agency to measure its own performance on key criteria related to policies and practices with GLBT-headed families, and offer recommendations for improvement.
- Our **Agency Database** will provide online guidance to prospective parents, with a special focus on agencies that excel in welcoming GLBT families.
- **Training & Education** Our training videos and online resources will offer agencies ways to further improve their competencies

with GLBT families. Plus, presentations at key conferences will bring together child welfare and adoption professionals to address GLBT adoption issues.

**“It’s simply unethical for social workers to deny a family based on personal or religious beliefs. There is no evidence that having GLBT parents is harmful. And getting in the way of helping to build GLBT families just hurts the children that we’re mandated to serve.”**

– **Sharon Roszia**, Kinship Center