

# Public Policy Agenda

## 2025-2026

Adoption Network Cleveland (ANC) envisions an adoption, foster care, and child welfare system in which all parties experience the best possible outcomes. During the 136th General Assembly, ANC will mainly focus its efforts on:



**Sibling Connections:** Research demonstrates that maintaining sibling relationships can provide positive support and improved outcomes for children involved in the child welfare system. **Siblings should be available to children and youth as a source of comfort and stability** as their living environments and caregiving relationships change. Therefore:

- Children in foster care should be placed with their siblings unless it is determined not to be in their best interest.
- In cases where siblings are separated: The appropriateness of continued separation should be considered and re-addressed frequently; at a minimum, during each case review; and diligent efforts should be made to maintain significant contact between siblings unless it is documented as not being in their best interest.
- If appropriate, siblings should be included in permanency planning discussions, and contact with siblings should be encouraged in any adoptive or guardianship placement.

**Child Welfare Funding:** As human services budgets continue to be strained, ANC remains committed to identifying and supporting creative ways to **protect and grow services and supports for adoptive and foster families, kinship caregivers, and youth**. Therefore our agenda includes items such as:

- Financial and other supports for youth in foster care to engage in higher education including college
- Strong caregiving supports to adoptive, foster and kinship families including accessible and affordable childcare.

**Ethical and Equitable Practices:** ANC promotes **respectful, nondiscriminatory policies that balance the rights of all parties** involved in the conception, birth and caregiving of a child, while maintaining a focus on the best interests of that child, into their adulthood. Personal growth and adjustment are enhanced where ongoing, cooperative and trusting relationships are developed for all parties in adoption, kinship, assisted reproduction including donor conception, and child welfare situations. Further, ANC believes **all adults have an inherent right to access records of which they are the subject**, regardless of whether they have been impacted by foster care, adoption, donor conception and/or misattributed parentage. Therefore our agenda includes items such as:

- Ethical and equitable practices in the facilitation of adoption processes including adoption advertising
- Accuracy and transparency and in all legal records regarding child's conception, birth and caregiving arrangement

**About Adoption Network Cleveland:** Adoption Network Cleveland recognizes adoption as a complex, lifelong and intergenerational journey for all those whose lives are touched by it. Founded in 1988, Adoption Network Cleveland provides programs and services to connect and empower all people impacted by adoption, foster care, donor conception and/or misattributed parentage and all related professionals.



For more information

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