

CHOSEN AFFIRMING FAMILY

For LGBTQ youth in the Cuyahoga County foster care system

For those that qualify for this program we:

- Measure existing relationships & level of well-being of the youth
- Work on affirmation and acceptance for the youth and for the family to help build new affirming relationships & heal lost relationships
- Guide families and caregivers to increase knowledge of LGBTQ services/ supports and understand how to use them
- Carry out Family Finding, and search for important and invested supports for the youth
- Conduct youth-centered, Family Team Meetings / create youth-specific plans and tools



We engage:

- Biological family, adult supporters, and professional team members
- Chosen affirming family members, including fictive family

We hope to:

- Support youth to increase their overall physical and emotional health and well being
- Increase family & caregiver use of LGBTQ resources and supports
- Increase acceptance and decrease rejection of youth's unique Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression (SOGIE)
- Ensure that any youth in foster care can move toward permanency and decrease risk to that youth of aging out of the system or engaging in high risk behaviors
- Increase relational permanency – gaining social capital and long term supports surrounding the youth, as a support network
- Increase legal permanency - Helping youth out of foster care and into a permanent home, with kin, or chosen family

- **Send referrals to mary@kinnectohio.org OR call Mary at (216) 314-0308, with questions www.kinnectohio.org | 216.692.1161**

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Cuyahoga County
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