



Child Crisis Arizona  
*Safe kids. Strong families.*

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## **Child Crisis Arizona makes push for recruitment during Foster Care Awareness Month**

*Classes and meetings moved online to aid in process of becoming licensed.*

MESA, ARIZ. (May 1, 2020) – Child Crisis Arizona is changing the way they recruit foster parents during the corona virus pandemic in hopes of meeting the demand for more licensed foster homes in the future.

The agency has successfully moved their monthly meet and greet meetings for prospective foster parents online. Interested individuals can call 480-321-8499 or email [lisa.simmons@childcrisisaz.org](mailto:lisa.simmons@childcrisisaz.org) to sign up for the next meeting on May 5 or May 20. They'll be introduced to the process and find out what the next steps are.

There is always a need for more foster and adoptive families in Arizona but the corona virus pandemic, and the resulting stay at home order, are creating a unique situation. Historically, when children are out of school and away from mandated reporters, numbers of reports of child abuse go down. With an extended break from school like the one happening now, child welfare experts predict a spike in reports is coming. Many interested families may also put plans to become licensed on hold because they are focused on staying home. With the state's training available online, waiting is not necessary.

“With less people out, there are less eyes on vulnerable children,” said Torrie Taj, CEO of Child Crisis Arizona. “We want people to know there is a way they can help right now. Now, during National Foster Care Month, is a great time to take a good look at foster care and adoption.”

There are more than 13,000 children in foster care in Arizona. Families and individuals of all ages, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation are encouraged to consider opening their heart and home to a child in need. Child Crisis Arizona is ready to help. Virtual meet and greets begin at 6 p.m. and are held over Zoom.

For more information about foster care and adoption visit [childcrisisaz.org](http://childcrisisaz.org).

### **About Child Crisis Arizona**

For more than 43 years, Child Crisis Arizona (CCA) has served the Valley's vulnerable children and families and is committed to ending child abuse and neglect through prevention, education and intervention programs. CCA offers emergency shelters for children, teen moms and their babies, group home for teens in the foster care system, foster care and adoption services, as well community-wide parenting classes, workshops, support groups and early education programs for low-income families. Since 1977, Child Crisis Arizona has positively affected over 60,000 children and families. Our vision is “Safe Kids. Strong Families.”



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