

August 15, 2017

Dear Foster Parent/Guardian,

The Department of Children and Family Services seeks your help to improve the quality of health care for children in foster care. Your input is important.

DCFS is committed to quality health care for youth in care. We would like your help to determine what currently works and what does not work for you. To that end, would you please participate in a survey of 36 questions on the health care services for your youth in foster care? The last question is open for you to write in any comments. The survey is approximately 20 minutes of your time but the information is invaluable.

The reasons for this questionnaire are twofold:

- 1. DCFS developed HealthWorks to provide quality health care for the youth in care. While we can measure the number of times youth visit their primary care doctor or the Emergency Department, receive immunizations, etc. this information is just numbers. Your input is most vital because you interact most frequently with the health care system. The experiences you and your child/youth have helps us understand what works and what does not.**
- 2. As you may have heard, in 2018-2019, Medicaid will move all DCFS youth in care into "Managed Care." The new Managed Care Organization (MCO) will bring many positive changes, including one designated trained person to be responsible for Health Care Coordination of the children and youth in care.**

Below is the link to the survey [website](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PediatricCareSurveyFosterParent)  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PediatricCareSurveyFosterParent>.

Please go to the website and sign in. You may use your own computer or smartphone, the foster care support specialist's computer, your local library or another computer. If you need assistance, ask your caseworker to help you.

The surveys will generate a report that gives us the best ways of improving health care. No names or identifying information will be displayed.

We will keep your email address for the purpose of sending out the follow-up survey after the children and youths in care are enrolled in Managed Care for 6-12 months.

You are under no obligation to participate in the survey, and choosing not to participate will not affect your status as a foster parent.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me directly, [Paula.Jaudes@Illinois.gov](mailto:Paula.Jaudes@Illinois.gov).

Thank you very much for taking care of our children and youth. As a pediatrician caring for our children and youth, I have had the pleasure of meeting many dedicated and wonderful foster parents who work wonders with our youth. You are my heroes and I salute you.

Sincerely,

Paula Kienberger Jaudes, MD  
Medical Director  
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services  
Professor of Pediatrics  
University of Chicago