

The logo features the letters 'NFPA' in a large, bold, blue serif font. A light blue wavy ribbon-like graphic passes behind the letters. Above the letters, there is a dark red oval shape. The background consists of light blue and white wavy shapes.

**NATIONAL FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION**

# NFPA

# Strategic Plan

*The National Foster Parent Association is the only national organization which strives to support foster parents, and remains a consistently strong voice on behalf of all children.*

# NFPA Strategic Plan

## Primary Activity 1: Promote the Delivery of Services and Support to Foster Families.

### Short Term Goals (1-2 years)

1. Identify state level and national issues/needs of foster parents
2. Develop tools to enable and encourage support systems
3. Identify ways the NFPA can provide information, tools, and supports to foster families
4. Support MARC Report
5. Enhance Communication
6. Better partnership in training and support services

### Long Term Goals (3-5 years)

ACTIVITY
Develop/administer a survey of foster parents to identify issues of importance to them at the state and national levels
Collect samples from state programs and use them to develop a template states can use to develop their own mentoring programs. Promote mentoring (or liaison) programs
Develop capacity to host an on-line discussion forum focusing on identified issues of interest.
Host focus groups at annual conference to determine ways NFPA can support families through programs and services. Focus groups will build on the results of the survey.
Work with state child welfare departments to distribute resources and relevant materials to state foster care managers.
Ensure an ongoing focus on cultural competence in all activities
Update Legal Resource Manual
Link foster care reports, resources, relevant books on website, and list professionals willing to share information
Develop/Disseminate Retention Recommendations

# NFPA Strategic Plan

## Primary Activity 2: Support Quality Foster Care by Promoting Excellence and Best Practice

### Short Term Goals (1-2 years)

1. Identify and study existing standards and best practices
2. Develop standards of quality foster care
3. Explore methods of identifying and supporting kinship and guardianship families

### Long Term Goals (3-5 years)

ACTIVITY
Recognize outstanding efforts of foster parents, associations and other organizations related to best practice
Promote partnerships between state and local (public and private) affiliates, state and local welfare agencies, and other associations
Identify best practices and standards and develop position statements to educate and promote
Place relevant articles in Advocate & on the NFPA web site
Promote NFPA accomplishments on NFPA and other web sites
Collaborate w/ other foster care organizations to develop and promote best practice
Build foster parent awareness of existing best practice documents
Ensure an ongoing focus on cultural competence in all activities
Define standards and best practices to ensure full understanding of terms
Identify members of an ad hoc committee to assist NFPA in establishing and defining standards and best practices
Develop training for state and local associations and organizations
Include foster families as defined by NFPA
Prioritization of delivery of best practices
Best practice accounting procedures to state affiliates

# NFPA Strategic Plan

## Primary Activity 3: Provide Services and Supports to State and Local Foster Parent Associations

### Short Term Goals (1-2 years)

1. Facilitate the establishment of public policy committees in each state
2. Secure funding to enable NFPA to offer support to state and local associations
3. Establish a national resolution for respect and consideration of foster parents (formerly Foster Parent Bill of Rights)

### Long Term Goals (3-5 years)

1. Secure NFPA staff dedicated to technical assistance and support of state and local associations
2. Support inactive state and local associations to become more involved in local, state and national activities
3. Support state associations in establishing partnerships with state and local child welfare agencies to enhance the provision of services and supports

ACTIVITY
Identify funding opportunities for state and local association support
Provide articles/info for state/local assn. newsletters
Provide info on current issues
Develop products, services, resources for associations
Provide T/A on program, operations, technology
Further define, explain responsibilities of Regional VP's
Develop FP Bill of Rights template for states to build on
Focus NFPA activities on Council of States' initiatives
Identify and initiate strategic alliances with other associations/organizations
Offer fund development training
Provide review and consultation for state/local association funding proposals
Organize annual meeting of state association Executive Directors
Assist state assns in obtaining state contracts
Conduct an assessment of affiliate needs
Hire staff for affiliate relations
Provide support at meetings of state and local affiliates
Work to establish a relationship with the state foster care managers

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ACTIVITY
Develop guidelines and training for state and local associations on the use of contracted funds
Provide training on nonprofit laws relating to advocacy, contracting, etc. for state and local associations
Develop strategy for expansion of state and local association contracts
Utilize electronic means to facilitate communication between and among state associations for the purposes of networking and exchange of ideas and knowledge
NFPA research potential funding resources for state/local assn.
Ensure ongoing focus on cultural competence in all activities
Suggest activities of focus for state and local associations such as working on state Bills of Rights, advocacy training for foster parents, monitoring legislation, etc.
Recreation discounts: theme parks, movies, airlines
Education scholarship for foster parents
Credit card available to foster parents to generate revenue for NFPA
Compile list, geographically, of experts on issues related to foster care
Provide technical assistance to state affiliates on developing resources; health insurance
Develop/distribute guidelines on effective state associations
Retention recommendations
Board members visit states and work with state presidents
Frequent communication with constituents

# NFPA Strategic Plan

## Primary Activity 4: Develop and Provide Education and Training, Information, Dissemination of Information to Members and Public

### Short Term Goals (1-2 years)

1. Develop a training team that can travel to states to provide training
2. Provide low or no cost training at state foster parent conferences
3. Provide Board and Committee Training

### Long Term Goals (3-5 years)

1. Facilitate diversity training at each state foster parent conference
2. Facilitate training for bilingual/bicultural foster parents
3. Engage/hire education and training specialist
4. Within five years, child welfare organizations in the country will be aware of the existence of NFPA

ACTIVITY
Develop curriculum that addresses cultural barriers
Develop & distribute cultural self-assessment tool
Implement NFPA training program
Standardize NFPA product format (packaging)
Staff training
Create a market for NFPA products and services
Establish line items in the NFPA budget for education/training
Develop new materials and update current materials
Explore other venues for providing training
Clarify lines of communication
Develop training for foster parents on working with birth families
Regional conferences
Ensure an ongoing focus on cultural competence in all activities
Research information related to foster care to constituents
Online training
Joint training – foster parents and case workers
Provide information issues before annual meeting
Board candidates provide stand on issues
Monthly newsletter

# NFPA Strategic Plan

## Primary Activity 5: Advocate at the Local, State and National Levels; Promote Networking and Collaboration

### Short Term Goals (1-2 years)

1. Consistently send positive statements/messages re: foster care
2. Coordinate networking and collaboration among other foster care partners (i.e. birth and kinship families)
3. Explore legal avenues for increasing level of involvement in advocacy

### Long Term Goals (3-5 years)

1. Ensure NFPA presence in D.C. to enhance a strong, consistent advocacy pressure
2. Establish an annual foster parent/foster care public policy conference in D.C.
3. Advocate for and support foster parent issues
4. Enhance the capacity of state and local associations to advocate

<b>ACTIVITY</b>
Establish strong communication relating to public policy issues
NFPA presence at national conferences
NFPA member of national organizations – CWLA, NFCC, NACAC, FFTA, CASA, FCAA, NICWA
Timely awareness of current public policy issues (NEEDS CLARITY)
Identify public policy chair in each state
Develop and deliver training to states on advocacy
Identify advocacy organizations willing to assist in planning 2007 conference advocacy sessions
Develop and offer on-line advocacy training
Identify public policy objective to be advocated at 2007 conference
Develop plan for enhancing NFPA's presence in D.C.
Identify funding to support NFPA presence in D.C.
Explore hiring staff for D.C.
Plan annual public policy conference in D.C.
Explore possibility of developing a political action committee

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ACTIVITY
Explore engagement of lobbyist
Establish best practice to assist states in partnering efforts (i.e. public child welfare organizations)
Call for advocacy sessions/activities for 2007 conference
Provide training on proposed legislative objectives/agenda
Conduct Hill visits to advocate for foster care issues
Ensure an ongoing focus on cultural competence in all activities
Educate national legislators on foster care
Address nationwide issues
Established presence with local associations
Become THE voice
Legislative links on web site
Monthly newsletter
Provide vehicle on web site, Issues Page, to allow for voting, e.g. on position statements