



## **Annual Pennsylvania Permanency Conference**

### **Permanency Award Category Descriptions**

#### **County Collaborative Recognition**

This award recognizes a collaborative effort between a county court and a county children and youth agency that expedites permanency through adoption, formal kinship care or permanent legal custodianship. This nomination should focus on demonstrating best practice and consistent decision-making, not necessarily the number of finalizations achieved.

#### **Philanthropy Recognition:**

The individual, business, church or organization nominated for this award should demonstrate a charitable contribution or volunteer efforts that promote the permanency of children in foster care. The works or endeavors undertaken can be in the form of awareness; recruitment; financial aid; non-financial donations (e.g., time, banquet facility, photographers); endowments; gifts; scholarships; and other charitable support that is not recognized in any of the other award categories.

#### **Permanency Advocate Recognition:**

This category recognizes a dynamic individual or organization that does not fit the criteria of the other categories. Nominees may include parents; judges; attorneys; and other individuals or organizations that, through their professional or volunteer efforts, have had an impact on system change, judicial improvement, service delivery or family support either locally or throughout the state of Pennsylvania. This person or organization demonstrates a commitment to building cooperative relationships that expedite the process of finding permanency through adoption, formal kinship care, permanent legal custodianship or independent living for children in the child welfare system.

#### **Youth Advocate Recognition:**

The individual nominated for this award must be a current or former foster youth who has raised awareness about the challenges of foster care. Nominations should describe the youth's efforts in leadership, innovation and advocacy on behalf of themselves and/or their peers in the system.

### **Independent Living Professional Recognition:**

The individual nominated for this award should work in a public or private child welfare agency\* and should demonstrate support for and commitment to older youth.

Nominations should document how the individual has helped youth transition from substitute care and into successful contributing members of society.

### **Permanent Family Recognition:**

Families nominated for this award will have provided legalized permanency for a child or children in the child welfare system through adoption, formal kinship care or permanent legal custodianship. Additional consideration may be given to families who show commitment to our children through the level of energy they devote to advocating and promoting permanency, and who can communicate their experiences and perspectives to other parents and professionals.

### **Permanency Teamwork Recognition:**

Teams nominated for this award should exemplify a collaborative effort that promotes permanency for children with special needs. Teams will be considered for their work in any facet of the permanency continuum, including: Preparation, Legalization, Finalization and Post-permanency services. Teams may include public and private child welfare workers\*, support group members, Post-permanency providers, foster or formal kinship parents, advocates, independent living workers, and other individuals. The team must include two or more individuals who do not work for the same agency, organization or entity.

### **Permanency Professional Recognition:**

The individual nominated for this award should be permanency professionals working in a public or private child welfare agency\* who have actively demonstrated their support and commitment to finding permanency for children in the child welfare system through adoption, formal kinship care or permanent legal custodianship.

\*Public or private child welfare worker includes: those working in adoption, permanent legal custodianship, formal kinship, foster care, in-home services, independent living services or any recognized child welfare position. Child welfare agency refers to any entity engaged in the aforementioned activities.