

Promotion of Adoption for Children in Foster Care:

1. **“You Gotta Believe”**. Staff and professionals involved in permanency planning must believe there is a family for each waiting child and our responsibility is to find that family. Our focus is to find a family for each waiting child, **not** to find a child for each waiting family. Most importantly, if staff members do not believe there is a family for each child on their caseload, staff will not find a family for each child!
2. **Recruitment efforts:**

Required by s. 409.167, F. S.
Why is generic recruitment ineffective?
Child specific recruitment efforts
Definition and examples of child specific recruitment:

 - Florida’s adoption website www.dcf.state.fl.us/adoption/
 - National adoption websites-*AdoptUSKids*, adoption.com and Children Awaiting Parents (CAP)
 - Heart Gallery
 - Short videos of waiting children talking about their need for a family and it is shown at adoptive parent training classes and other community functions

Targeted Recruitment efforts
Definition and examples of targeted recruitment efforts:

 - Pictures and narratives on bulletin boards in specific locations relevant to the target population of prospective adoptive parents you want based on the needs of the child—Children’s Medical Services, Community Service Centers, Boys and Girls Clubs
 - One Church One Child program and pilot projects in Jacksonville and Tampa
 - Local community organizations “own” a child recruitment effort.
Example: a child wants to be a firefighter and a local fire station becomes the recruiter/advocate for the child.
3. **Timely Responses to Inquiries.**

There must be an effective and efficient process for responding to inquiries from families. Administrative Rule currently requires that 65C-16.004 requires that each inquiry have a written or verbal response within seven business days.

 - Several different models/processes are currently being used
 - Orientation
 - Invitation to adoptive parent support groups while waiting