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**Online Chat for Public to Learn More About Foster Care and Adoption Home Studies**

**Cincinnati (Aug. 31, 2009)** Hamilton County residents thinking about foster care or adoption can learn more about the home studies required for approval on Wednesday in an online chat with the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services.

An agency representative will discuss the home study process and what is required for approval, as well as answer questions about certification, licensing, training and other topics that will help you make the decision to become a foster or adoptive parent.

The chat will be held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2. Residents can participate in the chat by clicking on a link that will be posted on [www.hcifs.org](http://www.hcifs.org) prior to the 10 a.m. start. Also, an e-mail will be sent to subscribers to the [HCJFS Update](#) newsletter and to followers of the agency on Facebook and Twitter ([hamiltoncojfs](http://hamiltoncojfs)). To sign up for the newsletter, visit [www.hcifs.org](http://www.hcifs.org).

The county has about 850 children in foster care each day. It currently has about 220 foster care families working directly with the Department of Job and Family Services. The department also has about 215 children available for adoption. The agency has stepped up its recruiting activities to meet an increased need. In addition to traditional recruitment activities and special events such as this, the agency is also part of community-wide recruitment campaign entitled "Everyday Heroes."

For more information about becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent, call (513) 632-6366 or visit [www.hckids.org](http://www.hckids.org).

The chat is another attempt by the Department of Job and Family Services, which handles child support collection, child welfare and public assistance programs, to be more accessible and open to its consumers and the public at large. It follows recent moves such as stationing employees in neighborhood non-profits for easier access to services and establishing a Speaker's Bureau to help educate the public on how the agency does business.

"We serve hundreds of thousands of people in this county each year and we're always trying creative ways to reach out to them," said Moira Weir, director of the department. "Our goal is to be accessible, responsive and accountable."

### **About Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services**

The Department of Job and Family Services administers federal, state and local programs for those in need. The Department helps with local child protection, elderly protection, child care, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement and Medicaid disbursement. Servicing Hamilton County since 1947, the Department helps hundreds of thousands each year and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit child and family service accrediting organization.