



You are invited to participate in ...

**A Webcast on Monday, November 24th, 2008
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. EST**

“The Fostering Connections Act: State Choices and Challenges”

To view webcast go to: <http://www.nga.org/webcast>

The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, in partnership with Casey Family Programs, is pleased to announce the second in a series of web casts related to safely reducing the number of children in foster care. We encourage you to pass this invitation along to your colleagues who might be interested in this event. The second webcast will bring together experts from a national research organization and states to discuss the Fostering Connections Act and how to approach implementation from a state perspective.

On October 7, 2008, The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L.-351) was signed into law. The Act is an omnibus child welfare bill that amends both Title IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. The intent of the law is to improve the well-being of children served by public child welfare agencies.

The Fostering Connections Act establishes new federal funding options for states including a Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program. The law also adds new requirements regarding education and health care for children in foster care to qualify for federal funding sources. In addition, the Fostering Connections Act offers \$15 million in grant opportunities for states through Family Connection Grants . The new law also extends federal support for youth up to the age of 21 and extends direct federal child welfare funding to tribal child welfare agencies.

This webcast will provide a brief overview of the Fostering Connections Act and options and challenges for states as they consider implementing the provisions of the law, particularly the kinship guardian assistance program. This web cast will feature:

- Larry Brown, Consultant, Larry Brown Associates
- Rutledge Q. Hutson, Director, Child Welfare Policy, Center for Law and Social Policy
- Cathy Mols, Executive Director, Maryland Department of Human Resources, Social Services Administration
- Judge James W. Payne, Director, Indiana Department of Child Services

Viewers are encourage to email in questions both prior to and during the live event, and the webcast recording will be posted for future viewing. More resources related to the webcast presentations will be posted prior to the event on the event [website](#). To view webcast go to: **<http://www.nga.org/webcast>**. For more information contact Jody Grutza at jgrutza@nga.org.

