

Foster Care Related Terminology¹

Allies:

- This term refers to other stakeholders who are involved in child welfare, who consider themselves to have a responsibility and a stake in how we care for children, youth, and families, and who are committed to partnership with alumni.
- Allies might be Community Resource Council members, advocates, volunteers, legislators, educators, therapists, counselors, attorneys, and others.

An “Alumnus” (male) or “Alumna” (female) of Care:

- Anyone 18 or older who was placed in legal out-of-home care at any time in their youth.
- Alumni in our context can be from any system or any kind of legal out-of-home placement—for example, kinship care, a group home, or placement with foster parents.
- **Alumni** (plural) include those who have transitioned from foster care to adulthood and those who have not.

Constituents:

- This term refers to youth, alumni, family members, kinship care providers, and foster parents who contribute their skills and expertise in child welfare to foster care policy or practice, and who network, support, and collaborate with each other.

Staff:

- This term refers to people with training and experience who deliver the child welfare system’s services.
- Staff includes social workers, caseworkers, and administrators, community and system members

Youth:

- This term refers to young people under the age of 18 who are currently or were once placed in legal out-of-home care.