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## Monterey County Family and Children's Services Recognized by Human Rights Campaign Foundation for LGBTQ+ Inclusion Efforts

Salinas, September 1, 2021 -- Monterey County Family and Children's Services proudly announces that it is being recognized in [2021 Change-Makers](#), the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's third annual report highlighting 119 child welfare agencies across the country who have worked with the HRC Foundation's [All Children - All Families](#) (ACAF) program to improve the services they provide to the LGBTQ+ community, including children in foster care, 1 in 3 of whom are LGBTQ+, and prospective foster and adoptive parents. These organizations serve more than 1 million clients annually in 35 states and employ more than 24,000 employees.

"We are proud to be recognized by HRC at the highest tier, Innovation, for our work with LGBTQ+ children and youth for the second year in a row," said Laura Neal, Family and Children's Services Deputy Director. "Placing LGBTQ+ children and youth with affirming foster parents and caregivers allows them to be their authentic selves, which results in improved outcomes."

"The third edition of our Change-Makers report shows that, despite the many hardships of the last year, more organizations than ever before are working alongside the Human Rights Campaign Foundation to make impactful change for the LGBTQ+ youth and families they serve," said Alison Delpercio, Human Rights Campaign Foundation Director, All Children - All Families. "This year's participants also demonstrated a growing commitment to intersectionality and ensuring organizational policies and practices do not reinforce the same systems of oppression that put youth and families at risk in the first place. By taking on these challenges, the change-makers featured in our 2021 report are models for youth-serving professionals everywhere."

Returning agencies featured in this report conduct an annual internal self-assessment, provide professional development to staff and implement ACAF's "Benchmarks of LGBTQ Inclusion," which track policy and practice changes within agencies. The [2021 Change-Makers](#) report

features three “Tiers of Recognition,” which celebrate the progress agencies have made toward becoming fully welcoming to their LGBTQ+ clients.

Are you interested in being an affirming foster home for Monterey County youth? Please call us at 831-755-4475 and ask to speak to a social worker in the Resource Family Approval (RFA) Unit or email the RFA Unit at [RFA@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:RFA@co.monterey.ca.us). Take a look at our website for more answers to your questions at [www.f2fmc.org](http://www.f2fmc.org).

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**For More Information, Press only:**

Please contact Lauren Suwansupa, MCDSS Public Information at (831) 755-8439, or email [mcdss.pio@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:mcdss.pio@co.monterey.ca.us)

**About MCDSS:**

**Our Mission**

"To protect vulnerable children and adults in ways that strengthen families and encourage independence."

**By Providing**

24-hour Adult and Child Protective Services, financial aid, employment & training, food, medical coverage, and housing as well as supports for foster & adoptive parents, caregivers, veterans, and their families.

**Through Our Service Branches**

Aging and Adult Services, Community Benefits, CalWORKs Employment Services, and Family & Children’s Services, Military and Veterans Affairs Office