



STATEMENT—Child and Family Services Agency Intends to Reduce the Number of Foster Care Providers; Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area Remains Committed to the Safety and Well-being of Vulnerable Children

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For a century, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) has walked with our neighbors in need, and since 1956, it has aided District children by strengthening families and providing foster care services. Our priority has been and will continue to be the well-being and safety of vulnerable children. We are proud of this legacy and steadfast in the knowledge that hundreds of youth have found permanency and loving homes in our care throughout the past 60 years.

Earlier this week, Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) released a new Request for Proposals (RFP) with the intent to award one private provider with a foster care contract. Currently, seven District providers, including LSS/NCA, support approximately 600 foster care children with case management services and licensed foster homes.

Although the direct implications of this decision are still being evaluated, LSS/NCA is anxious that this transition will eliminate the safety net of foster homes, caseworkers, and providers for vulnerable children. CFSA's decision relies solely on the strength of one provider's funding and licensing, reducing any room for error.

LSS/NCA CEO Christine Connell said, "Where others see problems too great to solve, we dedicate our hearts and hands to the mission of compassion, mercy and love. It's a commitment we've had for more than 100 years, to strengthen our world by building and supporting families of all shapes, sizes, and types. We will continue that legacy by working with CFSA to address our concerns."

LSS/NCA is currently reviewing the RFP, addressing our questions to CFSA, and collaborating with the other District foster care providers. Before applying for the contract, we will ensure that we are thoroughly prepared to propose the best possible care for the approximately 450 children that will need loving homes and families under the new proposal.

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Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) has devoted a century to SERVING BOLDLY, offering hope and mobilizing communities to serve the most vulnerable among us. LSS/NCA is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization that serves approximately 2,000 families and children in crisis throughout the Greater Metro-DC region through Children's Services and Refugee & Immigrant Services. LSS/NCA does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, age, race, creed, gender, or sexual orientation.