

## Weekly Report – May 25

*Voice for Adoption (VFA) provides weekly e-mail updates to its members on adoption and child welfare news, resources, and legislation, as well as updates on VFA's activities. Below is the update for the week of May 21 – 25, 2007.*

### New Reports

- Compensating for Birth and Adoption—This paper from the Urban Institute examines comparative data on compensating families for birth and adoption. Cost data (costs as a percentage of gross domestic product) are examined for 21 Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries with more detailed analysis reserved for the United States and Canada. The paper develops an actuarial cost framework and applies it in three situations: (1) Canada from 1975 to 2004; (2) state temporary disability insurance (TDI) programs in the United States from 1985 to 2004, both total TDI costs and the costs of pregnancy benefits; and (3) California, which now compensates families for births and adoptions through both TDI and its new program of paid family leave. The paper can be downloaded at: [www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1001079\\_adoption.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1001079_adoption.pdf)
- A new report by The Pew Charitable Trusts' Kids Are Waiting campaign and the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative reveals that the number of young people leaving the U.S. foster care system without a permanent family is at an all-time high. The report, "Time for Reform: Aging Out and On Their Own," found that although the total number of children in foster care has decreased, the number who "age out" of the system has grown by 41% since 1998. In total, more than 165,000 young people aged out of foster care between 1998 and 2005 – nearly 25,000 in 2005 alone. The report can be downloaded at: [kidsarewaiting.org/reports/files/AgingOut.pdf](http://kidsarewaiting.org/reports/files/AgingOut.pdf)

### Policy Update

- The Children's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has issued a new Information Memorandum (IM 07-04) with information for states that are ending child welfare demonstration projects that provide subsidized guardianship. The IM is available online at:  
[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/policy/im/2007/im0704.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/im/2007/im0704.htm)

### Other News and Resources

- Online registration is now available for the 10th National Child Welfare Data and Technology Conference—The Children's Bureau 10th National Child Welfare Data and Technology Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. July 18-20, 2007! This conference will focus on the theme of "Making IT Work: Linking Data with Practice and Outcomes." This year's conference will examine the relationship between improved data and improved outcomes. How does the data reflect good outcomes? How has reliable data influenced the direction of child welfare practice? Visit the NRC-CWDT web site at [www.nrccwdt.org/nrc\\_conf/pres\\_2007\\_outline.html](http://www.nrccwdt.org/nrc_conf/pres_2007_outline.html) for access to registration and travel information, and the tentative conference agenda.
- The Office of Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released "Foster Care: Myth vs. Reality." The document is available online at:  
[www.acf.hhs.gov/opa/spotlight/foster\\_care.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/opa/spotlight/foster_care.html)