



FOSTERING MEDIA CONNECTIONS

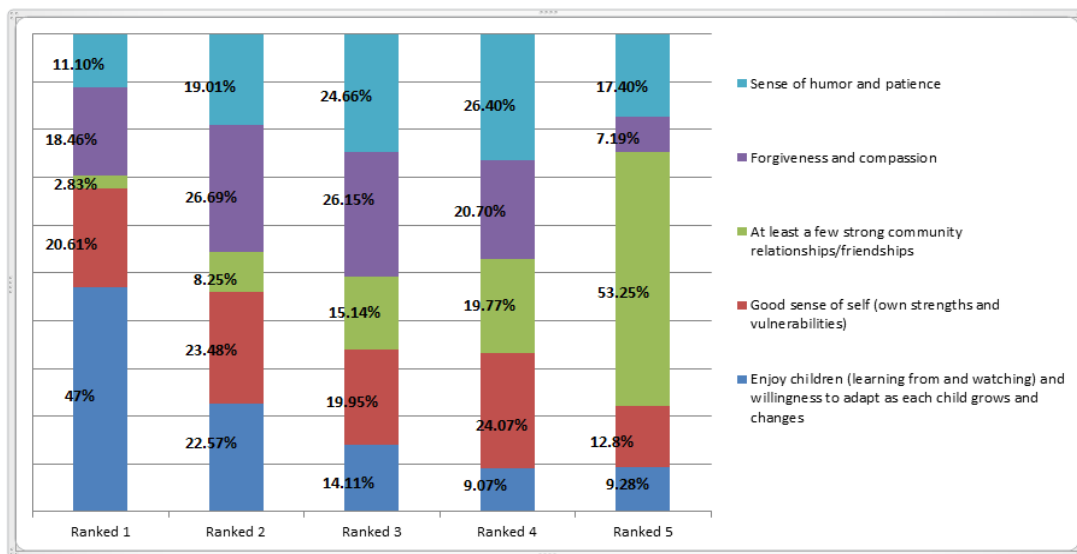
A National Foster Care Month Briefing  
May 11, 2016

*Recruiting Top-Notch Caregivers and Foster Parents  
as a Pathway to Permanency*

**MAY 2016 SURVEY OF FOSTER AND KINSHIP CAREGIVER QUALITIES AND BARRIERS**

Q1: What are the most significant characteristics of quality caregivers (foster parents, relatives/kin)? Please Rank in order of priority, with (1) as the most significant and (5) as the least significant.

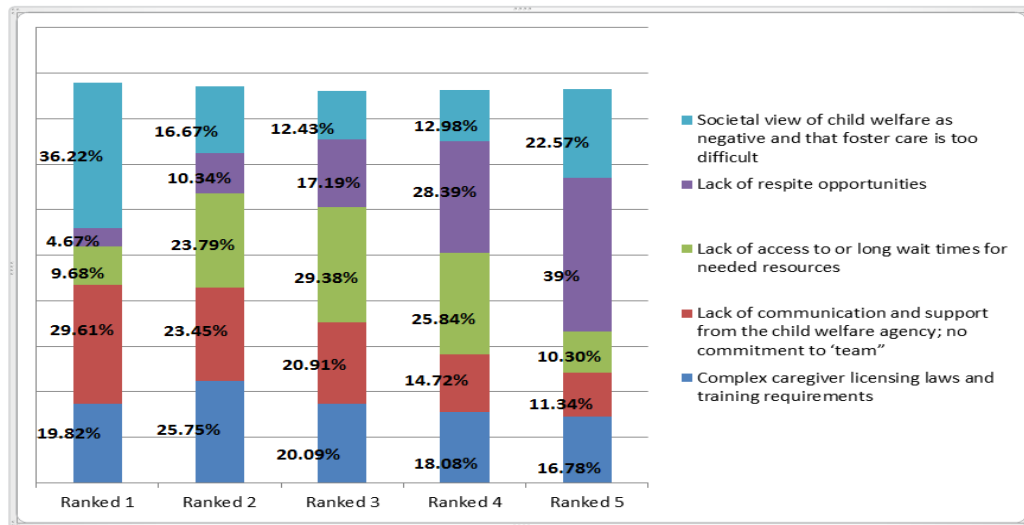
Answered 886; Skipped 2



	Enjoy children (learning from and watching) and willingness to adapt as each child grows and changes	Good sense of self (own strengths and vulnerabilities)	At least a few strong community relationships/friendships	Forgiveness and compassion	Sense of humor and patience	Total	Weighted Average
1	47.00% 415	20.61% 182	2.83% 25	18.46% 163	11.10% 98	883	2.26
2	22.57% 197	23.48% 205	8.25% 72	26.69% 233	19.01% 166	873	2.96
3	14.11% 123	19.95% 174	15.14% 132	26.15% 228	24.66% 215	872	3.27
4	9.07% 78	24.07% 207	19.77% 170	20.70% 178	26.40% 227	860	3.31
5	9.28% 80	12.88% 111	53.25% 459	7.19% 62	17.40% 150	862	3.11

**Q2: What are the most problematic barriers to recruiting and retaining quality caregivers (foster parents, relatives/kin)? Please Rank in order of priority, with (1) as the most significant and (5) as the least significant.**

**Answered 888; Skipped 0**



	Complex caregiver licensing laws and training requirements	Lack of communication and support from the child welfare agency; no commitment to 'team'	Lack of access to or long wait times for needed resources	Lack of respite opportunities	Societal view of child welfare as negative and that foster care is too difficult	Total	Weighted Average
1	19.82% 174	29.61% 260	9.68% 85	4.67% 41	36.22% 318	878	3.08
2	25.75% 224	23.45% 204	23.79% 207	10.34% 90	16.67% 145	870	2.69
3	20.09% 173	20.91% 180	29.38% 253	17.19% 148	12.43% 107	861	2.81
4	18.08% 156	14.72% 127	25.84% 223	28.39% 245	12.98% 112	863	3.03
5	16.78% 145	11.34% 98	10.30% 89	39.00% 337	22.57% 195	864	3.39

With gratitude to the following organizations for sharing this May 2016 survey with their networks, allowing us to engage and receive input from 888 foster and relative caregivers and recruiters:

- Foster Family-based Treatment Association
- Generations United
- National Council for Adoption
- National Foster Parent Association
- North American Council on Adoptable Children