

ANGELS IN ADOPTION®

2026 Program Events & Information

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29 | WASHINGTON, DC

The Angels in Adoption® Program events span two days in Washington, D.C. each year, designed to foster meaningful engagement between Angel honorees, Members of Congress, and their staff on the critical issues of adoption, child welfare, and permanency. These carefully curated events aim to empower honorees as effective advocates and leaders while facilitating impactful discussions and recognition of their invaluable contributions.

DAY 1: Leadership Conference

The Angels in Adoption® Leadership Conference begins mid-day on September 28. The conference will be hosted on Capitol Hill and is rooted in networking, education, and engagement with other Angel in Adoption® Honorees and child welfare policy experts from around the nation. This immersive experience focuses on sharing lived experiences and best practices in child welfare advocacy. Participants engage in sessions designed to educate and empower them and Members of Congress, fostering effective advocacy for child welfare issues.

DAY 2: Hill Day & Celebration

The Angels in Adoption® Hill Day and Celebration bring together Angel honorees, Members of Congress, and the larger CCAI community to educate and engage on child welfare best practices, and to celebrate the work supporting children and families nationwide. During Hill Day, Angel Honorees participate in personal meetings with Members of Congress and their staff to give the Angels an opportunity to receive their honoree pin, certificate and letter, share personal stories, and advocate for issues related to adoption and foster care. The Angels in Adoption® Leadership Program culminates in a celebration of the 2026 Angels which brings awareness to issues impacting vulnerable children and families in the United States and around the globe.



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Day 1: Leadership Conference

The Angels in Adoption® Leadership Conference consists of a full day of programming on Capitol Hill where honorees gather to learn from each other and policy experts. This immersive experience focuses on sharing lived experiences and best practices in child welfare advocacy. Participants engage in sessions designed to educate and empower them and Members of Congress, fostering effective advocacy for child welfare issues.



12:30PM - 1:30PM – ARRIVAL, CHECK-IN & LUNCH

Angels check in and begin meeting other honorees, policy experts, and CCAI staff. Lunch will be provided.

1:30PM - 2:00PM – WELCOME

CCAI officially welcomes the 2025 Angel Honorees to Washington, DC and provides an overview of what to expect over the next two days during the Angels in Adoption® program.

2:00PM – 2:30PM – Spotlight on National Partners

Hear from representatives of leading national adoption and foster care organizations as they share about their work, highlight recent successes, and provide insight into ongoing efforts to improve outcomes for children and families across the country.

2:30PM - 2:45PM – BREAK

2:45PM - 3:00PM – TABLE INTRODUCTIONS

Take a few minutes to turn to the person next to you, introduce yourself, and spend a few minutes getting to know each other.

3:00PM - 3:25PM – EXPERT LIGHTNING TALK #1, Q&A, AND BREAKOUT

National expert speaks on reunification and family preservation, followed by brief Q&A and breakout discussions on focused policy challenges with guiding questions at each table.

3:25PM - 3:50PM – EXPERT LIGHTNING TALK #2, Q&A, AND BREAKOUT

National expert shares key insights on kinship guardianship in a 5-minute talk, followed by Q&A and focused table discussions.

3:50PM - 4:00PM – 10 MINUTE SNACK BREAK + REFLECT

Angel honorees have time to stretch, grab a snack, and reflect on discussions thus far.

4:00PM - 4:25PM – EXPERT LIGHTNING TALK #3, Q&A, AND BREAKOUT

The final national expert in this policy series will share key insights on adoption in a brief talk, followed by Q&A and focused table discussions.

4:25PM - 4:45PM – GROUP REPORTS BACK & LIVE SYNTHESIS

Three to four breakout groups will share brief insights with the group at large. The moderator will highlight emerging themes and key questions, and summarize shared priorities and takeaways.

4:45PM - 5:00PM – EXPERT REFLECTIONS

Experts respond to group insights and themes, discuss next steps, and open the floor for final questions and reflections.

sample
schedule
of events
(from 2025!)



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Day 2 (morning-afternoon): Hill Day

Angels in Adoption® Hill Day brings together advocates to use their voices and expertise to inform Members of Congress and their staff about the needs of their communities. Angels Honorees will be organized into small groups and, with the guidance of our wonderful Hill Day Leaders, will visit congressional offices to bring very important child welfare issues to the attention of congressional members and their staff. Angel Honorees will also receive their honorary Angels pin and certificates during their Hill Day meetings. Oftentimes this is the highlight of the program for Angel Honorees. The CCAI team hosts seminars before and during the program to help prepare honorees for Hill Day, including how to discuss relevant child welfare topics in congressional meetings and how to strategically share your story.



Day 2 (evening): Celebration

The Angels in Adoption® Leadership Program culminates in a celebration of the 2025 Angels which brings awareness to issues impacting vulnerable children and families in the United States and around the globe. The Celebration is a gathering of the adoption and permanency community from around the country hosted in Washington, D.C. to celebrate with a cocktail reception, entertainment, and short program for a night centered around community, connection, and building momentum so that one day every child knows the love and support of a permanent family.

