

OVOV Newsletter - October 2024

## One Vision One Voice Newsletter

### **OACAS Launches New Foster Caregiver Training to Support Equitable Outcomes for Black Children and Youth**

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The Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) is pleased to announce the release of the *Kujali: Caring for Black Children – Training for Foster Caregivers* (Kujali) series. Kujali is a four-part, virtual, self-paced, bilingual training for foster caregivers designed to enhance their capacity to care for Black children and youth. Kujali was developed in partnership between the **One Vision One Voice Program (OVOV)** at OACAS and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS).

Cultural identity is an integral part of a child's life, especially for Black children and youth. The harm of separating a child from their birth parents, wider family, and community creates significant trauma. Kujali was designed to support foster caregivers to increase their capacity to care for the social, emotional, and physical well-being of Black children and youth. The mandatory training also equips caregivers to navigate the interconnected systems that Black children and youth engage with, such as education and mental health.

"Foster caregivers provide incredible support to the children and youth in their care," said Keishia Facey, Program Manager of OVOV. "Kujali is designed to deepen their understanding of history, the world, and the children and youth they support, equipping them to better guide young people through the complexities and strengths of their racial identity."

Kujali was further informed by consultations with foster caregivers, the OVOV Provincial Advisory Committee, child welfare sector staff, existing literature on the experiences of Black youth in the child welfare system, academics, MCCSS staff focused on addressing anti-Black racism, and other community members. These key stakeholders helped to

identify the critical themes for the training.

“We are thrilled to see the launch of the Kujali foster training series,” said Solomon Owoo, Interim CEO of OACAS. “This training is a real example of the ways we’re working with community partners across systems and sectors to broaden our impact and address the disparities and disproportionalities for Black children, youth, and families in Ontario.”

Current foster caregivers can register for the course at [www.myoacas.org](http://www.myoacas.org) or reach out to [kujali@oacas.org](mailto:kujali@oacas.org) for more information. Anyone interested in learning more about fostering in Ontario should visit [www.theretocare.ca](http://www.theretocare.ca).

OACAS has put together a FAQ regarding the Kujali Training. To view it in English, click [here](#). To read it in French, click [here](#). To view this announcement in French on our website, click [here](#).

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**Our mailing address is:**

Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies  
75 Front Street East, Suite 308  
Toronto, Ontario M5E 1V9