

THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF IDAHO
BOISE**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2024-05

PROMOTING FAMILIES AND PROTECTING CHILDREN

WHEREAS, my goal is to make Idaho the place where we all can have the opportunity to thrive, where our children and grandchildren choose to stay, and for the ones who have left to choose to return; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Welfare is uniquely equipped to carry out significant elements of this goal for Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the Department's commitment to improve the foster system by supporting and promoting foster families and enabling them to do their good work will pay dividends in the lives of both the foster families and the children they assist for years to come; and

WHEREAS, the Department has the statutory tools and the authorization in this order to promote families, support life, and protect children at all stages of life; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brad Little, Governor of the State of Idaho, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state do hereby order that:

1. *The Department shall work collaboratively with community stakeholders to promote families and strengthen child welfare by:*
 - a. *Building partnerships with non-profit providers to better serve mothers and babies. This can be accomplished by forging new ways to collaborate with non-profit providers and by understanding the full breadth of departmental offerings and the services provided by non-profit partners.*
 - b. *Promoting adoption and reducing barriers to adoption for children in the Department's care.*
 - c. *Seeking opportunities to increase the number and types of foster families, including:*
 - i. *Promoting kinship care and licensure;*
 - ii. *Adopting nationally recognized models of licensure for non-relatives and kin;*
 - iii. *Strengthening trust and retention of current foster families through enhanced communication and grievance processes;*
 - iv. *Undertaking efforts to better engage faith-based communities in foster care recruitment.*
 - v. *Facilitating timely termination of parental rights in accordance with law.*
 - vi. *Supporting youth aging out of the foster system to promote long-term success.*
 - d. *Promoting early intervention programs that identify and target services to at-risk youth and families, with a goal of preventing involvement in the child welfare system.*
 - e. *Enhancing inter-agency coordination on child services to ensure a complete continuum of care.*
 - f. *Embedding family-centered decision-making into rules, grants, sponsorships, and other key agency decisions.*
2. *The Department of Health and Welfare shall provide a report no later than December 1, 2024 of actions taken in response to this executive order, and make recommendations for any legislation, rules, policies, or practice changes that may be necessary to better promote families and protect children.*



PHIL MCGRANE
SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 7th day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-eighth, and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred thirty-fourth.

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR