



Practice Points

November is National Adoption Month

This year's National Adoption Month initiative focuses on the adoption of older youth in foster care—a population who needs the unconditional love and permanence of a family, but who often faces some of the strongest barriers to adoption. Missouri has 393 youth, ages 13-20, who have a goal of adoption with no pre-adoptive home identified.

Visit the [2016 National Adoption Month](#) website for information and resources to help you promote permanency for older youth in foster care:

- Explore resources [for professionals](#), specifically the newest section [Involving and Empowering Older Youth](#), which provides information about targeted recruitment strategies and resources for developing and supporting adoptive families.
- Download and use the new tip sheet, "[Talking With Older Youth About Adoption](#)," which provides practical examples for caseworkers on how to begin or re-engage youth in conversations about adoption.
- Check out the [Watch & Listen](#) section, which highlights the stories of older youth and their families who have been through the adoption process.

For more information on how to register these youth with The Adoption Exchange, AdoptUSKids and the Heart Gallery, reference memo; [CD16-46 Updates to the 2016 Missouri Heart Gallery, The Adoption Exchange and AdoptUSKids Registration Process](#).

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