



Media Contacts:

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Mike Braun, Governor
Adam J. Krupp, Director

"Every child in Indiana thrives in a safe, loving, forever home."

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, call the Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline at 800-800-5556.

DCS and community partners expand CarePortal, bringing support to families

INDIANAPOLIS (March 19, 2026) – The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS), in partnership with Hands of Hope and Josiah White's, is expanding CarePortal to five more Indiana counties this month and is positioned to expand to all 92 counties as churches and partners are found.

CarePortal is an online platform that connects families to the physical resources they need through local churches and partners, helping DCS support stability and permanency.

"Churches around the state are already the backbone of the Indiana CarePortal system, and we want to see that system continue to spread across the state," said Indiana Governor Mike Braun. "The Indiana CarePortal system is a perfect example of why I recently signed Executive Order 26-06. As we continue to encourage and foster Indiana's faith-based institutions to organize and better serve individual Hoosiers, families and communities, our state will become stronger and healthier."

More than 1,000 DCS family case managers (FCM) use CarePortal daily through a network of 156 churches ready to assist families. Many requests are for items such as clothing, groceries, furniture, appliances, cribs and mattresses, but requests can be anything tangible that can meet a family's needs quickly. Once a request is made, participating CarePortal organizations in the area can view or choose to fulfill the request.

"There are so many compassionate people and organizations who want to help our most vulnerable families get the resources and support they need – especially before a family reaches a crisis point," said DCS Acting Director Jennifer Dorfmeier. "CarePortal helps fill in this gap by connecting families and meeting them where they are."

CarePortal also helps prevent families from being formally involved in the child welfare system by providing items that help keep children safe. A grandmother in Indianapolis recently became the placement for her 4-month-old grandson. A DCS FCM was able to request an infant car seat, a crib, diapers, wipes, a fire extinguisher and a medical lock box. All items were fulfilled by a local church.

Currently, CarePortal is active in 24 counties, including Allen, Hamilton, Marion, Tippecanoe and Vanderburgh counties. Across those 24 counties, they've met 4,661 requests for 10,386 Hoosier families and children, with an economic impact totaling more than \$5 million dollars.



Indiana Department of Child Services | 302 W Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204 | 317-234-KIDS
www.in.gov/DCS | Child Support Bureau Kidline: (800) 840-8757 | Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline: (800) 800-5556

Mission: We champion Indiana's future by protecting children and strengthening families with compassion and determination.

Vision: Every child in Indiana thrives in a safe, loving, forever home.

Purpose: Ignite hope. Cultivate joy.

With Adams, Lake, Bartholomew, Monroe and Tipton counties coming online, CarePortal will now be available in 29 counties.

While the “human” work of CarePortal is provided by Hands of Hope and Josiah White’s, the state pays for the CarePortal software contract, which was recently renegotiated by DCS, allowing for the program to expand more quickly.

To learn more about CarePortal and its impact on Indiana families, visit <https://www.careportal.org/impact/?impact-area=Indiana>. To sign up and be a part of the CarePortal community, visit <https://handsofhopein.org/careportal/>.

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About Hands of Hope

Hands of Hope is a faith-based organization that believes in the power of love to change lives. Their goal is not only to connect children with needed resources but also to provide them with hope and love as they go through life knowing there's someone out there who cares. Hands of Hope believes that everyone can do something. Whether it's giving, serving, advocating, or simply showing up, each act of compassion brings hope and love into the lives of children and families who need it most.

About Josiah White's

For more than 170 years, Josiah White's has helped families in crisis, in transition and in need of support through its accredited and comprehensive continuum of foster care, residential treatment and family preservation programs. A statewide network of facilities and seasoned providers allows them to support children, teens and families with a variety of services when they need it, wherever they may need it. Josiah White's realizes that no family is exempt from tough times; it's a hard time to be a parent and a hard time to be a teen. At its core, Josiah White's offers hope and transformation through Christ to children, teens and families.



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