



Commonwealth of Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coat Drive Aims to Help Thousands of Kids in Foster Care

Public encouraged to contribute new coats and hoodies through Dec. 14

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Nov. 19, 2018) – As you make out your shopping list, please consider buying an extra coat or hoodie for kids in foster care. A coat and hoodie donation drive, coordinated between staff at the Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Department for Income Support (DIS) and the Kentucky County Attorneys Association (KCAA), is now collecting new coats and hoodies.

The DIS includes the Office of Child Support Enforcement (CSE) and Disability Determination Services (DDS). "This project has the potential to help keep thousands of foster kids warm this winter," said W. Bryan Hubbard, DIS Commissioner.

The cabinet has produced a video story featuring a local county attorney whose office is participating in the coat drive. For a look at the video, click this link <https://youtu.be/0aZNMiamsZc> .

A new child's coat or hoodie can be dropped off at any of the state's regional child support enforcement offices, any County Attorney child support office in the state, the CSE central office at 730 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, the DDS central office at 102

Athletic Drive, Frankfort, or the DDS Louisville office at 10535 Lagrange Road, Louisville. Donations are accepted through Friday, Dec. 14.

“Our staff and the county attorneys work so closely with families; they recognize that there is an immediate need for warm coats and hoodies as the number of children in care has significantly grown over the last year,” continued Commissioner Hubbard. “They really put their hearts into this. Community members and partners of both agencies have responded. We’re proud of the collaboration and grateful for the items that are being donated.”

The coats will be distributed across the Commonwealth to children in out of home care administered by the CHFS Department for Community Based Services.

Last year, more than 700 new coats and \$2,150 in direct cash contributions were collected by DIS with cash contributions used to buy additional coats. The estimated value of the 2017 employee charity drive was about \$12,000. This year’s effort expands on the 2017 donation drive and is expected to have an even bigger impact, with the KCAA and County Attorneys across the state playing a much larger role this year.

Go online to [find a county child support office](#) or [find a County Attorney’s office](#).

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The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is home to most of the state's human services and healthcare programs, including the Department for Medicaid Services, the Department for Community Based Services the Department for Public Health, the Department for Aging and Independent Living and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. CHFS is one of the largest agencies in state government, with nearly 8,000 full- and part-time employees located across the Commonwealth focused on improving the lives and health of Kentuckians.