

## **Fostering Connections: A Training Program for FFCR Volunteers**

All FFCR volunteers undergo extensive training before they can serve on the CRP, but their opportunities for learning don't end there. In addition to Advanced Skills Trainings, FFCR offers Fostering Connections, a monthly series that helps volunteers deepen their knowledge of issues facing children and youth in foster care. Volunteers who attend can apply the time to the minimum training hours required each year.

Fostering Connections trainings are led by outside organizations and consultants, or sometimes by FFCR staff. The Florida State University [Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy](#)'s Young

Parents Project conducted the most recent training on January 29, 2015. The [Young Parents Project](#) provides outreach and care coordination to address the overall physical and mental health needs of teen mothers involved in the delinquency system, with the goal to "...change the trajectory of their lives and the lives of future generations." With funding from [The Children's Trust](#), the Young Parents Project has been working with teen mothers in court-involved families since 2007.

Through the input of experts, FFCR volunteers gain the skills they need to provide the best possible safety net for children and youth in foster care. As FFCR volunteer Ellen Kanner stated, "It's the children suffering who need us the most. They need my voice, the voice of my panel members, your voice. They need us to speak out. They need us to protect them and advocate for them because they can't navigate the system themselves."

If you would like to expand your skills and help children in our community by volunteering with us, please [sign up here](#) or contact Program Director [Vanessa Muñoz](#).

