

Dear Angels in Adoption,

The application deadline for the 2010 Congressional Foster Youth Internship Program is fast approaching, and is due on January 4<sup>th</sup>! **What we are asking from you is simple.** You may know of someone who would be a perfect match for this program. We hope you will pass along the link to the online application at <http://www.ccaainstitute.org/how-we-do-it/apply-on-line-foster-youth-internship/>, so they may experience this once in a lifetime opportunity. This is a competitive application process and only 16 youth from across the United States are chosen each year. The Congressional Foster Youth Internship (FYI) Program provides young people who have spent their formative years in foster care an opportunity to intern with a Member of Congress for a summer. The FYI program instructs these young adults in how best to bring their unique perspective and resilient spirit to bear as advocates for the needs of other waiting children. The now over 95 FYI Alumni have used their FYI experience as a foundation to go on and pursue a wide variety of distinguished careers.

By bringing together former foster youth with Congressional offices, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) helps raise awareness of the policy and procedural barriers that keep children feeling trapped in foster care. Through this interaction, Members of Congress are given a firsthand view of the failures and successes of the U.S. foster care system. Over the last 5 years, 60 Members of Congress have directly benefitted from the unique opportunity. As part of the program, CCAI facilitates the production of an annual policy related report, created entirely by the FYI intern class and released at a Congressional Briefing hosted by the FYI Interns. This unique report represents the combination of a lifetime of experience and nine weeks of intense policy related research, and is intended to be used as a resource for Members of Congress working to address the barriers that too often hinder children from realizing their basic right to a family.

**Program Dates: May 29-July 31, 2010**

**Application Deadline: January 4, 2010**

Provided by CCAI:

- Intern travel to and from Washington, DC
- Summer intern housing
- Professional training before Congressional placement begins
- Stipends to interns for daily expenses
- Regular communication with host offices to ensure a positive placement experience

Eligibility:

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria. There is no age limit imposed.

- The applicant was in U.S. foster care system at the time of their eighteenth birthday or be adopted after their fourteenth birthday from the U.S. foster care system.
- and-
- The applicant has completed at least two years of college in a four-year degree program.

For more information on this program, please contact Chelsea Cathcart at [Chelsea@ccainstitute.org](mailto:Chelsea@ccainstitute.org) or (202) 544-8500

Sincerely,  
Chelsea Cathcart