2025 Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week Toolkit

Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week is September 8-12, 2025. To honor those workers who provide such invaluable services to their communities, the Ohio Department of Children and Youth has compiled this toolkit of ideas for your organization's use.

1. Consider holding a picnic where children services workers (and their families) in your agency or entire county have a chance to relax and be recognized for their hard work.

2. Offer a self-care activity your team can do together or in groups. As an alternative, offer a time when children services workers can share personal stories about themselves or self-care tips that work for them. You may choose to highlight the self-care tips in your internal newsletter.

3. Ask elected officials and/or community leaders to make public statements of support for children services workers. These can include proclamations, speeches, or blogs, highlighting the important work they do and why continued funding for that work is so important.

4. An agency or county leader can share a personal, heart-felt video message on social media, thanking children services staff for their service to children and families. This message can be released in conjunction with a press release to local newspapers and T.V. and radio stations, highlighting the life-changing work of the county's children services workforce.

5. Use the attached social media templates to feature your child welfare workers.

6. Present your caseworkers with a token of appreciation such as a hand-written note. This could stand alone or be given along with a gift card, a bouquet of flowers, or another small, meaningful gift.

7. ***Ongoing activity:*** On a quarterly or yearly basis, ask for success stories from staff and maintain a "library" of these meaningful stories to share, with permission and names changed, not necessarily to feature the individual caseworker, but the entire profession. It will also show the resiliency of the children and families you serve.