

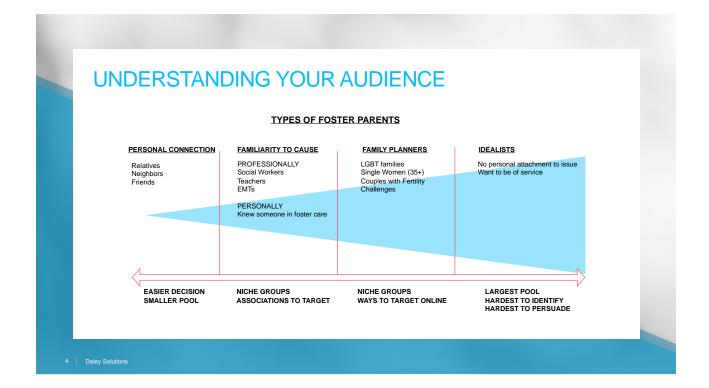


FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RECRUITMENT NEEDS

LOWEST LIFT								HIGHEST LIFT
MENTORS	RESPITE	BABIES	SIBLINGS	TEENS	PROBATION	SPECIAL NEEDS	ISFC	PROFESSIONAL PARENTS

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GOAL

LA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT CASE STUDY



Recruit Resource (Foster) Parents for Los Angeles County with a primary focus on Probation foster youth.

Daley Solutions

RESEARCH

BACKGROUND



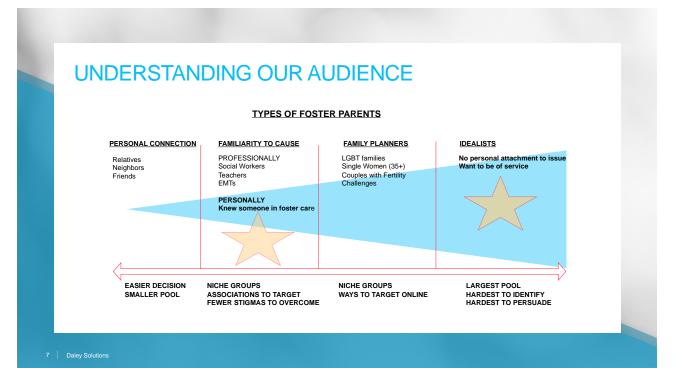
Six Focus Groups in LA County during July 2018 in areas of need for Resource Parents



Participants represented the **ethnic and racial diversity** of their communities



Household incomes are within **\$20k** of the median income of their communities (roughly \$34k-\$74k annually)



RESEARCH

KEY FINDINGS

- Women ages 45-65 were the most likely to express interest in becoming a resource or adoptive parent to teens
- Single, divorced and widowed women were the most likely to be interested
- The interested persons **experience financial fragility**, likely living paycheck to paycheck
- They are **proud to be Angelenos**, in particular, they celebrate our diverse and integrated city
- They could relate to foster and probation foster youth and likely knew someone who was in care at some point
- The activities which landed youth in Probation's care were considered byproducts of parental neglect or abuse

- They did not stereotype the youth as we have seen in previous research with higher income Los Angeles households
- Responding to the "crisis level" number of kids in foster care in LA County was seen as our shared responsibility and they were motivated to help
- Information about becoming a Resource Parent is not well-known
- Many lack space at home and money to care for a young person
- The participants wanted to know the Probation youth's background

INSIGHTS

- Participants expressed a yearning for the sense of community they enjoyed as children, which is more likely a craving for human connection in this age of technology and information overload
- The Forever Friend program (mentoring) creates a permanent connection and that experience could serve as a **gateway** to fostering
- This appeals to a **larger audience** (35+ both women and men)
- By **getting to know someone**, you chip away at preconceived stigmas
- Recruiting through activities and events with family home settings or residential therapeutic programs holds great promise

- Ads should reflect the lifestyles of the target audience
- Participants respond to community's "urgent need"
- There is a lot of **bad information and myths** about foster care that should be debunked
- Making a youth part of your family is a major life decision and interested parties must be supported through their respective journeys
- Robust partnership opportunities could include AARP, Unions, County employees, etc

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