

## **Maurice Lee MPLD – December 2022 Vision**

### ***Maurice Lee selected for national child welfare leadership program***

Social Service Specialist Maurice Lee has been selected as a participant in the AdoptUSKids Minority Professional Leadership Development (MPLD) program.

This is the fifth cohort for this leadership program, and Maurice is one of just 21 fellows selected from across the country through a competitive application process.

Maurice's 12-month fellowship will officially begin in January 2023, and it is a program for emerging minority leaders working in the child welfare field. It provides hands-on experience, exposure to national experts and mentorship opportunities.

Maurice said he feels honored for this recognition.

"I was humbled and excited for the opportunity," he said. "I will be the first person from Kentucky accepted into this program, so I view this as a privilege and honor."



**Maurice Lee**

Part of the program required Maurice to select a mentor from Kentucky, and he selected of Protection and Permanency Assistant Director Kelli Root.

"The criteria for selecting a mentor was to select someone who would be supportive and could open doors for me within the agency," he said. "Kelli was initially my Branch Manager, but has since transitioned to the role Assistant Director. During COVID, she mentioned this program to me as something she would like for me to do, and reiterated doing it again this year, especially since we're now in somewhat of a post-COVID world. Despite her not being my direct supervisor, her level of support has remained the same, if not more."

From his experience, Maurice said he hopes to bring new perspectives and new ideas to DCBS, and look at ways staff can better utilize data in order to help guide practices and policies.

Congratulations, Maurice!