

## What are the Benefits of Fostering a Child?

*Responsibilities and benefits come with choosing to become a foster parent. Ideally, people who are interested in doing this should be those who care about children and gain happiness from helping others.*

### Emotional

Foster parents have the ability to impact a child's life forever. Foster children often need help dealing with their past experiences that may involve abuse, neglect and loss. A person considering becoming a foster parent should be prepared to deal with these types of issues and feel that making a difference in someone's life is a rewarding experience. Foster parents can help troubled children learn to feel safe around adults and connect with other people.

### Financial

While the primary goal of foster parenting should never be to earn money, sometimes foster parents receive minimal financial compensation. The foster care system is designed so foster parents receive about what it costs for them to raise the child. This amount varies by individual cases and largely depends on the needs of the child. The amount received for a child with special needs will generally be more. Financial reimbursement is usually meant to cover basic costs of living such as food, clothing and shelter. This support makes it easier for a parent considering foster parenting. Additionally, foster parents may check with their state agencies for information about grants for foster families.



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## Children's Home Foster Care



*A temporary home can be a safe haven until a loving, healthy family is assured.*

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## What is Foster Care?

Licensed Foster Care provides children with substitute care promoting health, safety and welfare, while their parents resolve problems that required the child to be out of their home.

### Traditional Foster Care

This program provides a temporary family home for children and adolescents who have been removed from their parents due to abuse or neglect. Services are given to the children, their natural parents and their current foster parents. Regular visitation between children, their siblings and their parents is ensured. The goal is to help all of the children find permanency in their lives, either through being reunified with their parents or, if that is not possible, through adoption or guardianship with loving, capable caretakers.

### Specialized Foster Care

Sometimes the children and adolescents in foster care have been so traumatized by their life circumstances that they develop a number of chronic behavioral and emotional problems. The Specialized program provides intensive treatment services for them while working closely with their foster families to create the stability and support that is greatly needed in their lives. Most program participants are teenagers; many are in special education or require multiple services.



## How Can I Become a Foster Parent?

Foster parents **must be licensed** before a child can be placed in their home.

All processing and licensing is **FREE OF CHARGE.**

Licensing requirements are as follows:

- Must be 21 years of age or older
- Must pass a background check
- May be single or married
- Must have safe housing and adequate space for a child
- Must pass a simple medical examination
- Must attend **FREE** pre-licensing training classes.

*Make a difference  
in the life of a child...*

*become  
a foster parent!*

## What are My Responsibilities as a Foster Parent?

- Providing a nurturing home-life that promotes acceptance through safe housing and everyday essentials such as food, clothing and shelter.
- Following through with medical, dental and optical exams, monitoring medications and maintaining ongoing pertinent paperwork. A medical card is provided to the child.
- Advocating for the child in the school setting.
- Supporting the child's connections to their birth family.
- Becoming part of the team of professionals working with the child and promoting the goal as specified by the team.



Learn more about how you can help.  
Contact Andrea Roberts  
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