

Become a Foster Parent

Provide a safe, loving home to a child in need.

Foster parents play a vital role in providing stability, support, and care for children and teens in foster care. Below are the basic requirements and responsibilities to help you decide if fostering is right for you.

Who Can Be a Foster Parent?

- You must be **21 years or older**.
 - You can be **single or married**.
 - You must be a **stable, law-abiding citizen**.
 - You may **own or rent your home** (landlord approval is required if renting).
 - You must have **sufficient financial resources** to care for yourself, your family, and foster children.
 - You **cannot be prescribed medical marijuana**.
 - You must have a **valid driver's license** and current auto insurance (or ensure another household member does).
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Home Requirements

- Your home must be **clean, orderly, and free of hazards** (e.g., clutter, exposed wiring, broken windows).
 - The foster child's bedroom must have **at least 40 square feet** of space and **room for their belongings**. They may share a bedroom with another child.
 - **Smoking is not permitted** in the home or in vehicles used to transport foster children.
 - All **dogs and cats** (indoor and outdoor) must be **current on rabies vaccinations**.
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Health & Background Checks

- Foster parents must complete a **physical exam** and **TB skin test**.
 - Children in the home must have physicals; **school-age children** may use their most recent **school physical**.
 - **All household members age 18+** must be **fingerprinted**.
 - **Youth ages 13–17** in the home must pass a **DCFS background check**.
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Licensing & Training

- You'll complete a **screening process** with our agency.
- You must attend and complete **PRIDE pre-service training**.
- You must agree to **ongoing supervision** and comply with agency and DCFS standards.