

# FACTS ABOUT FOSTERING

## **WHO CAN BE A FOSTER PARENT?**

Lawrence Hall considers all foster home applicants regardless of socioeconomic status, race, culture, marital or civil union status, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

## **WHAT KIND OF HOME OR SPACE IS NEEDED?**

Foster children need a bed and dresser of their own. They may share a bedroom with a same gender child, but not an adult. If you rent your home, you must obtain landlord approval to have foster children reside in the home. You may live in a house, condo, or apartment.

## **WHAT IF I WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME OR ATTEND SCHOOL?**

Traditional and Specialized Foster Parents may be employed or attend school outside of the home, full or part time, but they are still expected to meet all of the day to day needs of the child/ren in their care. Employment-related daycare coverage is available for children 0-12.

## **WHAT TYPE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WILL I RECEIVE?**

You will receive a set reimbursement (board payment) to cover the child's food, shelter, clothing, and personal allowance. The amount of the payment is based on the child's age and any special needs. The first payment is usually received within 30 days of placement. Foster children also receive a medical card that pays for most necessary medical care and prescriptions. As part of the licensing process, you will be required to prove that you can meet all of your current expenses via a legal source of income.

## **WHO TRANSPORTS FOSTER CHILDREN?**

Foster Parents are responsible for transporting foster children to and from healthcare appointments, school functions, extracurricular activities, etc. Anyone who transports foster children is required to have a valid driver's license and vehicle insurance on file with the agency. Car seats must be used in accordance with state age/weight requirements. Public transportation is also an acceptable mode of transportation.

## **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME LICENSED?**

As soon as your completed application is submitted, it takes about three to six months to complete the licensing and training process.

## **HOW LONG WILL I WAIT TO HAVE A FOSTER CHILD PLACED IN MY HOME?**

After training and receiving your Foster Parent license, children can be placed in your home. The more flexible you are about the type of child you are able and willing to care for, the sooner a child can be matched to your home. Foster children are matched to homes based on location, Foster Parent preferences and abilities, and the child's needs. If you are willing to accept children 12 and older and/or siblings, you may receive placement sooner due to the high need for these types of placements.

## **CAN I ADOPT A FOSTER CHILD?**

In some cases, parental rights of children are terminated and the child is in need of a permanent home. If you have fostered such a child for at least six months and are interested in providing permanency for the child, then the agency will work on an adoption subsidy with you. Adoptive parents are required to complete a 9-hour adoption certification training through DCFS.

## **I WANT TO BE A FOSTER PARENT. WHERE DO I START?**

Please email [FosterParent@LawrenceHall.org](mailto:FosterParent@LawrenceHall.org) for more information. We look forward to making you part of our team!



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