



where youth have a past...a promise...a future

Foster/Adoptive Parent **FACT SHEET**

What are the primary responsibilities of a foster parent?

First and foremost, a foster parent must be able to provide a safe and loving home for a child. Foster parents are also responsible for the medical and educational well-being of the child, for transporting the child to appointments, services, parenting time, and sibling visits. Foster parents should maintain contact with the foster care case manager and other service providers regarding the child's progress in the home and community.

Do I need a license to foster a child?

Yes.

How do I become a licensed foster parent?

The first step is to attend foster parent orientation and PRIDE (Parent Resource Information Development Education) training classes and submit a foster home licensing application. To become licensed you must submit to criminal background clearances and complete all aspects of a home study including family member interviews, submitting an updated physical, provide proof of legal income, and allow a worker to complete home visits.

How long does it take to become a foster parent?

In general, the process to become a licensed foster parent takes about 5-6 months; however, completion of the home study process is impacted by your personal schedule and your timely submission of the required documentation.

What is the process to become an adoptive parent?

The approval process to become an adoptive parent is very similar to the foster home licensing process. You will need to attend adoption orientation and complete 5 of the 9 PRIDE training sessions. You will complete an adoption application and be assigned an adoption worker who will complete the home study process with you. The home study process for adoption has all of the same requirements as for foster care (the same report is used for both). Many families choose to be approved for both foster care and adoption since the process is so similar. In addition, having a foster home license helps the adoption process be completed more quickly and smoothly.

How much does it cost to adopt a child from foster care?

Adopting families are only responsible for paying court fees, which vary by county of residence. In most counties, court adoption fees are about \$210, which includes the cost of a new birth certificate for the child.

What does my income need to be in order to be approved as a foster or adoptive parent?

There is no set amount of income that we are looking for in order for your family to be approved. Families need to show that they are able to meet all of their financial obligations on a monthly basis.

For more information, please contact one of our offices:

Wayne County

20100 Greenfield Rd.
Detroit, MI 48235
313.342.2699

Genesee County

129 E. Third St.
Flint, MI 48502
810.233.4031

Oakland County

91 S. Telegraph Rd.
Pontiac, MI 48341
248.334.2715

St. Clair County

222 Huron Ave.
Port Huron, MI 48060
810.990.1424

More Questions & Answers

Can I choose the child that I'd like to foster or adopt?

During the home study process you will be able to provide some general specifications for a child you would like to foster/adopt such as: age range, gender, and race. Please keep in mind that the more limited your specifications the longer it may take to have a child placed in your home. The agency will then offer placements to you based on the specifications provided and you may choose to accept or decline the placement of a child.

Is there a limit to how many children I can foster or adopt?

You can foster up to three children at a time. There is no limit as to the number of children you can adopt; however, additional consideration and assessment is required for families who wish to adopt more than three foster children or who will be caring for more than six children (biological and adopted). This is to ensure that the family is able to adequately meet the individual needs of each child in the home.

Can I be a foster parent or adopt a child if I am single?

Yes.

How old do I have to be to foster or adopt a child?

You must be at least 18 years old.

Can I be too old to foster a child?

Any applicant over 65 years old must be able to demonstrate the ability to care for all of the individual needs of a child. This is assessed during the home study process.

Will I be financially responsible for my foster child?

The State of Michigan provides a non-taxable stipend to foster parents to assist with the financial needs of caring for a foster child. The stipend is a pre-approved daily rate that is based on the child's age and the level of care required to meet the child's individual needs.

Can I be a foster parent if I work?

Yes! Childcare arrangements will need to be made to ensure foster children are under adult supervision while you are at work. You can select substitute care providers to care for children in your home. These individuals simply need to agree to a state police clearance for approval to provide substitute care. The state also provides some reimbursement for daycare expenses.

Can I foster/adopt a child if I have a criminal record?

Possibly-this is reviewed on a case by case basis. We ask that you be upfront and honest about any criminal history that could appear on your fingerprint clearance results.

Can I foster/adopt a child if I am disabled or have a chronic health condition?

Yes. During the home study process you will be asked to complete an updated physical. Your doctor will need to verify your medical condition or disability and certify that you are capable of meeting the individual needs of a child.

How long will a foster child stay with my family?

Foster care is intended to provide temporary care for a child. When a child is placed in foster care, the initial goal is to try and reunify that child with his or her birth parents. The length of time a child stays in your foster home varies on a case by case basis. It could be anywhere from a few weeks to a year or longer.

Who is responsible for the medical benefits of a foster child?

Medicaid coverage is provided for the child's medical needs.

Is a foster parent permitted to use corporal punishment on a foster or adopted child?

No, this type of punishment is not allowed. Physical discipline such as hitting, spanking, or withholding food is prohibited.

Do foster parents have to interact with the child's birth parents?

Since the goal of foster care is to reunite children with their birth parents, foster parents are strongly encouraged to interact with the child's birth parents. This will help the children adjust to the foster home and transition back to their birth home when appropriate.