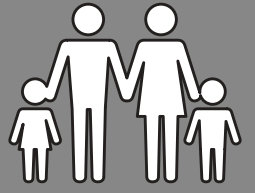


HOW TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENT



More than 400,000* children are in foster care on any given day in the United States. Your heart is telling you to do something to help, but you have some questions. Here are the next steps you can take.

STEPS TO BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT

1

ORIENTATION MEETING

This meeting provides a foster care overview, including information about policies, procedures, and the needs of the children.

2

TRAININGS

Trainings prepare you to become a foster parent, covering topics such as:

- Understanding trauma
- Managing behavior
- Engaging your support system
- Interacting with parents

3

LICENSING

Once you complete your application and get fingerprinted, you'll begin having home visits with your caseworker.

4

PLACEMENT

If you are licensed for a broad age range, you can expect placement soon. The average placement lasts between 12-20 months.* Bethany offers ongoing training and support, even after placement.

Specific requirements vary by county

QUALITIES FOSTER PARENTS NEED

- ★ Big heart
- ★ Sense of humor
- ★ Willingness to learn
- ★ Flexibility

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*www.acf.hhs.gov/cb