



Communities for People, Inc.

Twin Cities Office Center 22 McGrath O'Brien Highway, Somerville, MA 02143 Tel 617-628-0451.FAX 617- 628-8243

Become a Foster Parent

A Step-by-Step Guide

Step 1: CORI Check

The Process of becoming a foster parent begins with a CORI Check (Criminal Offense Record Inquiry). If information appears on the CORI check, it will be discussed with you to determine its relevance. If appropriate, a visit to your home will be scheduled to assess if home meets minimum physical requirements.

Step 2: MAPP Training

The next step is completing a MAPP Training (Massachusetts Approach to Partnerships in Parenting). This eight-week training is required of all potential foster parents. The course uses interactive role-playing and discussions to assist you in dealing with common behaviors of foster children and meeting their needs.

Step 3: Homestudy

The third step is called a homestudy. A homefinding staff will visit your home and conduct interviews to learn about your family. This will include family history and dynamics, the strengths of your family unit, and your motivation to become a foster care provider. At this time, you will be required to provide personal references and physical health reports on all household members.

Finding a Match

Upon successful completion of the above steps, you will officially be accepted into the program as a CFP foster care provider. The referrals are reviewed to identify a child whose needs and characteristics best suit your family's desires and strengths. When a match is being considered, your family will be contacted.

Once a child is placed in your home, you will have weekly contact with your CFP social worker. This worker will work closely with you and your foster child to support the placement. A DSS worker will also continue to be involved with the case.



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Some Commonly Asked Questions

Q: Why should I become a Foster Parent?

A: Because you can make a difference in the life of a child.

Communities for People, Inc. is seeking individuals and families interested in the challenges and rewards of providing Foster Care. As a CFP foster care provider, you will receive on-going training, support and guidance in the areas of child development, parenting strategies and behavior management. This brochure briefly outlines the step-by-step process of becoming an Intensive foster parent. Committed, caring foster parents are desperately needed to provide temporary, loving homes to children who are not living with their families. Individuals, couples, and families have the life experiences and special skills that could benefit a child in need.

Communities for People, Inc. (CFP) provides foster care for children and adults ages 0-22 who are in the custody of the Department of Social Services. The majority of our clients have special needs such as behavioral or emotional problems, medical conditions, physical handicaps or developmental delays. They may require additional services such as therapy and behavioral modification plans. A CFP foster care provider is considered a *Professional Parent* and we believe you can make a difference!

Q: What is the difference between adoption and foster care?

A: Foster care is intended to provide a temporary family environment and short-term commitment to a child in need. Adoption is a permanent commitment to a



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child, intended to last a lifetime. In both cases, loving and nurturing homes are needed.

Q: How long will I have to wait for a placement?

A: Waiting time can vary according to family characteristics and incoming referrals. Often, it can take several months before a match is found.

Q: Will I be reimbursed as a Foster Parent?

A: Yes. Foster care reimbursement rates are determined by DSS. Please call us to get current rate. Children placed through CFP will also receive additional funds for clothing, birthdays, and holidays. Foster families are commonly called upon to provide services such as medication administration, behavioral management, and closely work with therapist. All foster children have medical and dental insurance.

Q: What if I cannot manage the child in my home?

A: CFP will make every attempt to assist you and your family in maintaining a child in your home. You will receive support from a team of highly skilled and sensitive professionals that will work with you every step of the way.

Q: Will I meet the child before he/she moves in?

A: Whenever possible, pre-placement visits are arranged. However, emergency placements may not allow this.

Q: Could I eventually adopt a foster child?



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A: Many children in foster care are not free for adoption and will be reunited with their birth parents. When appropriate, foster parents do adopt their foster children, but foster parenting alone does not guarantee that you will be able to do so. DSS makes the ultimate decision when approving adoptive families.

Q: Will I be required to provide transportation for my foster child?

A: Yes. Foster parents are required to provide routine and emergency transportation. The CFP social worker will be able to assist you with arranging transportation for your foster child's planned visits, appointments, and meetings. For events that require the foster parent's attendance (Foster Care Reviews, school meetings, etc.) it is expected that the foster parent provide his/her own transportation.

Q: What kind of contact will I have with the biological family?

A: Foster and biological families are encouraged to work in partnership to maintain ties when appropriate. This is determined on a case-by-case basis, under the advisement and assistance of the involved professionals.

Q: What happens in case of an emergency?

A: CFP has a 24-hour on-call service that will connect you to a social worker at any time. CFP is prepared to provide crisis intervention if required. Foster families will be informed of which hospital, emergency room, and doctor to refer to for medical emergencies. It is strongly advised that you become familiar with the resources in your community when you consider becoming a foster parent.