



Communities for People

Frequently 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.

Committed, caring foster parents are desperately needed to provide temporary, loving homes to children who are not living with their families. You don't have to be married, own a home or have previous parenting experience to be a foster parent. You just need to have an open heart, open mind and an open home.

Communities for People (CFP) provides foster care for children and young adults ages 0-22 who are in the care of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or the Department of Youth Services(DYS). 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 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. Families that are open to having children over 12 placed in their home will be matched sooner than families only open to having younger children. Families that are open to welcoming a broad range of behaviors and ages in the children placed in their home will be matched sooner than families who will only work with certain ages or behaviors.

Q: Will I be reimbursed as a Foster Parent?

A: Yes. Foster care reimbursement rates are determined by DCF. Please call us to get the 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

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as medication administration, behavioral management, and to work closely with a 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?

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. DCF makes the ultimate decision when approving adoptive families. Foster parents are not expected to adopt the children placed in their home and being open to adopting is a not a requirement to become a foster parent.

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.

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