Change a life...

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES

Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) Foster Care Program

Become a foster parent

What is foster care?

Providing a safe, nurturing, and stable environment for children who can no longer remain in their own homes due to the risk of abuse or neglect. This care is given with the intention of helping children safely reunify with their families.

Who is a foster parent?

Trained, licensed, adults over the age of 21 whom:
- Own or rent their own home
- May or may not have children of their own
- May work outside of the home with approved child care plans

Do foster parents receive financial compensation for the care of a foster child?

Foster parents will receive a per diem to cover expenses of caring for the child. Per diem rates vary according to the needs of the child and/or the agency that holds the license.

Why become a foster parent?

Foster parenting is about believing and investing in the future by helping children and families who are experiencing challenging circumstances.

What are the requirements for licensure?

- Pass a background check that includes a fingerprint-based national history and CPS check
- Home visits by a licensing specialist to ensure your home meets physical safety standards (e.g. fire extinguishers, adequate bedroom space, reliable transportation, financial stability)
- Positive personal reference statements
- Pre-Service training
- First Aid, CPR, and Universal Precautions training
- In-Service training is required each year to maintain this license

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent and want to learn more about the Indiana Foster Care Program you may either:

- Visit the DCS Foster Care website at:
  www.in.gov/dcs/foster
- Contact the DCS Central Office Foster Care Unit at:
  1-888-631-9510
- Contact the Regional Foster Care Specialist in your area:

RFCS Name _____

Local DCS Office _____

Address _____

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Telephone Number _____