

BE PART OF A TEAM

- ♥ Foster Parents are expected to work with our agency to help provide a temporary, safe home for children while their parents work towards the return of their children. During that time the Foster Parents act as substitute parents to the children.
- ♥ Foster Parents are expected to treat the children as they would their own children, by taking the children to doctor and therapy appointments, attend school meetings, and provide love, guidance, and nurturing to the children.

OUR GREATEST NEEDS

- ♥ Foster Parents who will accept teenagers into their homes and be strong role models for them. Teens need someone to give them guidance to learn to live independently, as well as the support of a loving family for the rest of their lives.
- ♥ Foster Parents who will accept sibling groups. Children who are placed in foster care have to leave behind many of the people who make them feel comfortable and safe. Children who can be placed with a brother or sister can at least maintain one important relationship.
- ♥ Foster Parents who are ethnically diverse. Children come from various ethnic backgrounds. Not all children speak English as their first language.



William R. Steinhaus
County Executive

Robert B. Allers, Commissioner
Dutchess County
Department of Social Services

OPEN YOUR HEART ...

OPEN YOUR HOME



BECOME A FOSTER PARENT

AND

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Call
Dutchess County
Department of Social Services
(845) 486-3069
or
(845) 486-3071





Foster Care provides children, age newborn to 18, with temporary, loving and safe homes when their own families are unable to care for them. Qualifying Foster Parents become part of a countywide team, working together to support, nurture, and protect children in need. While it may not be a lifetime commitment to a child, it is certainly a commitment to have a meaningful impact on a child's life.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT?

- ♥ Attend one of our monthly Orientation Meetings
- ♥ Complete and return the Agency's Registration Form
- ♥ Attend a 10-week Foster/Adoptive Parent training program
- ♥ Have a Home Study completed by our agency
- ♥ Provide medical statement and personal/school references
- ♥ Sign Release of Information forms for other agencies



BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- ♥ You must be at least 21 years old
- ♥ You can be married, single, or living in partnership.
- ♥ Have your own source of income (job, public assistance, or Social Security)
- ♥ Have a bed for each child
- ♥ Have working smoke detectors
- ♥ Provide a safe and healthy home
- ♥ Each person in the home 18 years or older must be fingerprinted
- ♥ Each person in the home 18 years or older must be cleared through the Child Abuse Registry

TRAINING AND SUPPORTS PROVIDED TO FOSTER PARENTS

- ♥ A stipend for food, clothing, and board, based on the child's age and need for special services
- ♥ Medicaid for the child
- ♥ Payment for daycare for working parents
- ♥ Support from individual caseworker
- ♥ Ongoing training to learn about caring for children in foster care
- ♥ A Foster Parent Liaison to provide support and assistance

WHO ARE THE CHILDREN WHO COME INTO FOSTER CARE?

- ♥ They are between the ages of newborn and 18
- ♥ They can be any ethnicity
- ♥ They are from Dutchess County
- ♥ They have been removed from their homes because of abuse, neglect, or maltreatment, or they were voluntarily placed by their parents
- ♥ They may have special physical and/or emotional needs
- ♥ They may be very intelligent or need special schooling
- ♥ They may be a single child or be with their siblings

