

How do I become a foster parent?

- Contact your county department of human services and/or a child placement agency in your area.
- Attend an information meeting.
- Complete a background check.
- Complete training classes.
- Complete a home study.



Visit CO4Kids.org/learnmore to request follow up on becoming a foster parent.



"It takes one positive adult to change the course of a child's life. I wanted to be that person."

Adriane Maloney, foster parent to 34 children and youth

Use this space for stickers and other information.

**IF NOT YOU,
THEN WHO?**



Learn more at CO4Kids.org

844-CO-4-Kids

How to Become a Foster Parent in Colorado



CO4Kids.org



Fostering in Colorado

Whenever possible, county human services agencies work to ensure the safety of children and youth in their own home by connecting parents and caregivers with support and services. Over 70% of children and youth involved in cases with human services in Colorado can continue living at home while their parents learn new skills and address safety concerns.

When that is not possible, foster parents can provide a safe, temporary home for children with the primary goal of returning the child to their parent or caregiver once they can provide a safe and stable home.

The Need for Foster Families

On average, 10 kids enter foster care each day in Colorado. Foster parents are an indispensable part of every community, especially foster parents willing to care for older youth, siblings and children with complex needs, and for those for whom English is not their first language.

Kids in foster care are like every other kid you know. Each one is unique with their own needs, hopes and dreams. And they are resilient. Even when they've had adverse childhood experiences, such as child abuse or neglect, they can still reach their full potential with help from the community. All kids deserve love and care and as adults, we all have an obligation to take care of kids in our community, especially when their parents struggle to do so. If you have time and patience to help a young person work through the challenges that often accompany a difficult childhood, you have the ability to change their life.

Who can become a foster parent?

Colorado is committed to inclusion. What matters is that you are ready to make a difference in a child or youth's life at a time when they need you the most.

Foster Parents Can

- Be single, married or have a domestic partner.
- Be of any race, ethnicity, religion as well as LGBTQ+ and any gender identity or expression.
- Live in a house, condo or apartment, but you must have room for a child or youth.
- Own or rent a home or apartment.
- Work inside or outside the home. Couples with both partners working outside the home can also foster.

Foster Parents Must

- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Complete pre-service and ongoing training and receive a home study.
- Use sound judgment and demonstrate a responsible, stable and emotionally mature lifestyle.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is foster care?

Foster care is the temporary placement of children and youth outside of their own homes. It happens due to abuse, neglect or other family problems. Foster care gives parents time to learn new skills to become the parents their children need them to be.

Are children and youth in foster care because they did something wrong?

No. Children and youth are in foster care because they have experienced abuse or neglect and a safety concern prevents them from remaining safely in their home. Sometimes parental substance abuse, domestic violence and/or unresolved mental health concerns may need to be addressed to ensure a child or youth is safe at home.

How long are children and youth in foster care?

A child or youth may be in foster care for one night, several months or several years. Every effort is made to reunite children and youth with their parent(s) as soon as it is safe. In Colorado, young adults can stay in foster care until their 21st birthday.

Are foster parents paid?

Foster parents receive a monthly reimbursement to offset the costs of providing food, shelter, clothing and other related expenses. Medicaid covers medical or dental care.

What supports would I have as a foster parent?

Every parent needs support, and parenting children and teens who have experienced abuse and neglect requires training. From required core training sessions with the Child Welfare Training System to free, online personal and professional development from the Foster Care Institute, foster parents have access to myriad support services.