

## Frequently asked questions

### **Do I have to be married to be a foster parent?**

No. But single applicants are required to be at least 25.

### **I just got married. So that means I'm eligible, right?**

Not quite. Married applicants are required to be married to each other for a minimum of three years. Both husband and wife have to be at least 21 years old.

### **We don't have a large home. Is that okay?**

Yes, as long as you have adequate living space to promote the health, safety, and well being of the family.

### **I already have kids of my own. Are there limits?**

Yes. You may have no more than 6 children under the age of 18 living in the home.

### **How does the agency make sure kids will be safe with potential foster parents?**

We require that all applicants have current clearances from the Pennsylvania State Police, Pennsylvania ChildLine and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) stating that there are no records of criminal acts that have been performed by any family members within the preceding 5-year period.

### **What determines a child's eligibility to be part of the foster care program?**

Children considered for service include those who have lost both parents by death, and who have no other strong family ties; children whose parents, even with the help of community resources, are unable or unwilling to give them the care and protection they need, and who can be freed for adoption through court action; children considered for placement who are at legal risk — parental rights have not yet been terminated or the termination decree is under appeal.



Children's Aid Society was founded in 1890 and currently offers the following programs:

Real Relationships	2016
Triple P - Positive Parenting Program	2015
In-Home Services	2012
Relatives As Parents Program	2010
Pre-K Counts	2007
Foster Care	2002
Clearfield Elementary Care	1998
Nurturing Parenting Program	1995
Childcare	1989
Adoption	1985
Youth Mentoring	1985

The mission of Children's Aid Society is to provide services to improve the quality of life of children and families. We are a private, non-profit, non-sectarian agency governed by a volunteer board of directors, with IRS 501 (c) (3) classification. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or physical ability.

*Licensed as a foster care agency in 2002, Children's Aid Society wants to pave the way for more families in PA to be placement options for children who need safe and stable homes during a time of crisis and change in their lives.*

***Children's Aid Society reserves the right to terminate a family's foster care process at any time during the process at the sole discretion of the agency.***



## Foster Care



## Foster Care Services

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## Foster Care

### Find us online!



A member of





## About us:

The foundation of Children's Aid Society's Foster Care program is to work with county agencies in securing caring adults willing to provide stability and safety for children in care.

**Our primary goal is to provide permanency for children.**

**We will provide resources to families who are:**

- willing to work with birth parents
- able to fill the role of "mentor" to child and birth family
- capable of supporting efforts to return the child home
- open to working with kids who have emotional and/or behavioral needs
- willing and able to provide children with a permanent home if the need arises

*Children's Aid Society's Foster Care program provides quality resource families for children who need temporary care until they are reunified with their biological families or for children who may become available for adoption.*

*We believe that loving, supportive, stable families provide the best possible environment for raising children and give them the best chance for success.*

## What is Foster Care?

Foster care is providing the day-to-day attention to children's needs while their family is in a time of crisis. Resource families provide basic necessities for growth, development, guidance and discipline while birth families work on resolving issues that caused children to be removed from their care.

## Responsibilities to the child:

- Provide a safe and comfortable living environment
- Provide for all basic needs, including educational, medical and emotional needs
- Assist the child through grieving and adjustment processes that accompany living transition
- Provide for recreational and enrichment activities
- Maintain records of important events and milestones

***You can give a child a loving and nurturing home, safety and support, positive future, and community connectedness.***

## Become a foster parent for:

- An infant
- A grade school child
- A teenager
- A child with special needs or behavioral issues

## Benefits of fostering:

- Helping children
- Making a difference
- Turning a life around
- Financial compensation
- Investing in the community



## Our services:

- Identify and recruit prospective resource families
- Complete all home study, pre - and post-placement services
- Provide ongoing training to resource families
- Offer support group services
- Help to minimize the number of moves a child has to make within the system

## Eligibility:

Prospective foster parents must meet requirements that include a clean bill of health, a criminal background check, and a high school degree or GED equivalent.

A complete list of criteria, as well as an application to become a foster parent, can be found online at:

<http://childaid.org/eligibility-for-foster-care/>

***For more information, call  
Children's Aid Society at  
814-765-2686.***