

*Make a Difference that Lasts a Lifetime....
Become a Foster Parent*



Please call us toll free at
1-866-63-CHILD

Or contact us at one of our local offices

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Circles of Care is Licensed by and receives funds from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

An Introduction For Potential Child Placement Care Providers Foster Care & Adoption Program

Mission Statement

Circles of Care is a private, non - profit, social service agency. Our mission is to enhance children, youth and families ability for effective living and growth through comprehensive social and mental health services.



"Bringing Children and Families Together"



Child Placement

What is Basic Care Foster Care

Basic foster care is foster care for children in need of out of home placement, but that do not have any special medical or behavioral needs. The child functions well and similar to other children of their same age. They are in need of a caring, loving home with Care Providers who are capable of general/basic child care.

What is Therapeutic Care

Therapeutic care is specially designed to handle the demands of children/youth who have experienced various types of abuse and neglect. Their emotional or behavioral problems require special attention and interventions by Care Providers with support from Circles of Care staff, who have the ability and skills to deal with and meet those special needs to aid the children in meeting their full potential.

What is Primary Medical Care

Primary medical care is foster care provided to children with severe medical problems. These medical problems may include children who require feeding tubes to sustain life or who are not ambulatory (wheelchair bound) and require Care Providers to have specialized trainings to meet these needs.

What are Foster to Adopt Parents

Foster to adopt parents are foster parents who want to foster, but are also interested in permanent adoption for any children that may be legally available for adoption, if parental rights are terminated.



Foster Care

Potential Care Provider Qualifications & Eligibility

- 21 years old if married, 25 if single
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- High school diploma, GED or passing of screening test
- No criminal history violating state standards
- No child abuse or neglect history (As a perpetrator)
- Overall good physical health
- Willingness to abide by policy of no physical discipline
- Dependable transportation and ability to transport to court appointments and medical appointments
- Willingness and ability to obtain necessary annual continuing education/training and keep current on all on-going licensing requirements

Becoming a Care Provider (Basic Process)

- Contact Circles of Care to arrange to attend an orientation meeting
- Complete application, references and submit information to Circles of Care to complete criminal and state central registry (CPS) background checks
- Complete a home study assessment with a Circles of Care social worker
- Attend pre-licensing training. Includes training in such areas as CPR/First Aid, Prevention of Aggressive Behavior, Medication Training, Behavioral Management, Communication and Abuse and Neglect
- Obtain County/City inspections of home, such as Health, Fire and Gas Inspections (reimbursement provided)

Available Children

- 0 -17 yrs. old
- Single children or siblings
- Basic care, therapeutic needs or primary medical needs

Types of Families Needed and Role and Responsibilities of Care Providers

- Emotionally nurturing
- Structured home environment
- Ability to accept a child's birth family and work toward family reunification if that is the planned outcome

- Provides food, clothing, school supplies and recreation
- Transports children to and from necessary medical appointments, court appointments and other necessary appointments
- Participate in child / youth education to include attending ARD meetings, parent / teacher conferences and aid child in schoolwork

Support / Services Provided

- 24 hour Case Management
- Reimbursement: Rates per day, per child
 - Basic Care: 27.07
 - Moderate Care: 47.37
 - Specialized Care: 58.00

Service packages are based on child/youth needs and degree of emotional, behavioral or medical problems

- Training money reimbursement provided to obtain annual continuing education
- Family appreciation events
- Required physical plant inspections (Fire, Health, and Gas) reimbursed to Care Provider

Foster to Adopt

Eligibility

- Meet all requirements of both Foster Care (see previous page) and Department of Family and Protective Services.

Available Children

- Children for whom termination of parental rights is likely
- Infant - 17 years of age
- All races and ethnic backgrounds
- Children with basic needs
- Singles and sibling groups
- Children removed from their families due to abuse, neglect and/or abandonment
- Children with therapeutic needs
- Children with primary medical needs
- Children with mental retardation/developmental delays

Basic Process

- Orientation meeting
- Pre-licensing training
- CPR, First Aid
- Home study screening / approval and foster home verification
- Placement of child
- Sign adoption agreement / liability release once parental rights are terminated
- Monthly post-placement visits until finalization
- Adoption finalization (legalization)

Types of Families Needed

- Emotionally nurturing
- Emotionally and physically healthy
- Structured environment
- Ability to assess child's abilities and limitations and set realistic expectations
- Ability to understand experiences of traumatized children
- Ability to maintain a long-term commitment through difficult times

Reimbursements and Subsidies

- Foster care reimbursements until adoption papers are signed
- Adoption subsidy/Medicaid as negotiated based on child's needs
- One-time subsidy up to \$1,500 when adopting a child meeting special needs classification based on the child's needs

Professional Staff

- Program and clinical supervision by Masters Level staff with experience with abused and neglected children
- Case Managers with degrees in Human Services or related field
- Qualified therapist with appropriate state licensure
- Treatment planning and review by consultation team to include Psychiatrist and Psychologist
- Family Home Developers with degrees in Social work or a related behavioral science