



What is Foster Parenting?

- Protecting children from harmful situations.
- Providing children with a safe, caring, nurturing, and supervised environment. Setting rules, being consistent with the rules, and encouraging and accepting appropriate behaviors. Physical discipline is NOT permitted.
- Providing children and their biological families with encouragement and support.
- Supporting children's educational, cultural, and social growth.
- Being accepting, flexible, realistic, and good listeners.
- Participate in a team that includes the agency, community services, biological parents and extended family to work toward an established goal.
- Transporting the child to medical, dental, and counseling appointments as well as family visitation.
- Give support to and help a child prepare to return home.

Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.

~Rabindranath Tagore



What do you gain from being a Foster Parent?

- Knowing you have helped a family overcome an obstacle.
- Teaching and learning different values and beliefs.
- Giving a child a chance to enrich their life.
- Watching a child grow and succeed.
- Financial reimbursement for the child's basic needs.
- Support from Agency staff and fellow Foster Parents.

VENANGO COUNTY CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

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RESOURCE PARENT PROGRAM

Foster, Kinship, Adoption



VENANGO COUNTY
CHILDREN, YOUTH &
FAMILY SERVICES

Building the foundation for the future...
...one child at a time.



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PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE RESOURCE PARENTS



Agency Mission, Vision & Values

Venango County Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) is responsible for all children in Venango County whom the Juvenile Court has determined are in need of a temporary substitute caregiver. The agency is a public social service agency established to protect and provide for court adjudicated dependent children. This is accomplished through a variety of inter-related services.

“Children are one third of our population and all of our future.”

~Select Panel for the Promotion of Child Health

Our Mission is to promote and ensure the health, safety, and welfare of all children and youth within this County. We believe the mission must also include the focus on the preservation of families. To do this requires bringing together community resources to serve families within their own neighborhoods, decreasing the reliance on out-of-community placements while providing the tools to enhance the family's ability to heal itself.

The main purpose of the Foster Care Program is to provide temporary care for children who are separated from their families and to promote family life for children during this time of separation. Our vision is for Foster Families to help empower the

child's parents to rectify the issues that caused the child to enter foster care and assist with the child's transition back into their natural family. The first goal is always to return the child to their family home as soon as possible.



Steps to Become a Resource Parent

If you are interested in applying to become a Foster Parent, please call the Program Supervisor to get started. You will then:

1. Attend an informational **Orientation Session** to gain more information about the program. Attendance at the session does not require an obligation to the program.
2. Participate in a **Home Study** conducted by the agency. This process is a detailed exploration of you, your family and home situation via interviews and paperwork. See the Basic Requirements Section below for further details.
3. Your Home Study information will be presented before the Foster Care Committee for approval. Once you are approved a **Foster Care Certificate** and License will be issued to you as a new Foster Parent.



Basic Home Study Requirements

- Must be at least 21 years of age and have a stable home environment.
- Complete application paperwork.

- Complete a first aid and CPR course.
- Pass an initial medical appraisal that states you are physically able to care for children and you are free of communicable diseases.
- Complete ACT 34, 151 and 114 (FBI) clearances to determine that you have never been a perpetrator of abuse against a child or have any criminal offenses that may hinder your ability to care for children.
- Complete and pass a psychological evaluation to determine that you are mentally and emotionally stable to care for children.
- Participate in 6 hours of initial training to prepare you for the placement of foster children in your home.

There is no cost to you to participate in this home study process except for the cost of your medical appointment, as we assume you have health insurance to cover this expense.



Who Are Foster Children?

Foster children ages range from **birth to 18 years** old. They can come from **any culture or ethnicity**. Behavioral difficulties are common from the trauma of the transition and disruption of their family structure, but most are alleviated after stability is established within your home environment. **Siblings** often enter foster care and we are always looking for homes that can accommodate these sibling groups so they do not have to be separated.