



2023

Department for Community Based Services Statewide Foster Care and Adoption Information

Thank you for your interest in becoming a foster or adoptive parent in Kentucky.

There are nearly 9,000 children and youth in out-of-home care in Kentucky. Current families are overwhelmingly available for children between the ages of 0 and 5 years (77%); however, only 12% are available for youth between 12 and 21 years. Older youth, sibling groups and medically complex children are among the hardest to place and are the toughest for whom to secure adoptive placements. Are you willing and able to meet the needs of the children in Kentucky's out-of-home care?

To learn more and begin the process of becoming an approved foster or adoptive home, please find the attached training schedule for your region. If you would like to attend trainings outside of your region, please contact your local DCBS office for additional training locations and dates.

We look forward to meeting you and having the opportunity to tell you more about the types of children who need foster and adoptive homes in your community.

You can learn more about our foster care and adoption programs by:

- visiting KYFaces.ky.gov
- Attending an informational meeting
- Contacting your local DCBS office

Regional Foster Care and Adoption Contacts

Eastern Mountain Region (Breathitt, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike & Wolfe)
(606)433-7596 or (606)349-3123

Jefferson Region (Jefferson)
(502)595-KIDS (5437)

Northeastern Region (Bath, Boyd, Bracken, Carter, Elliott, Flemming, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Robertson & Rowan)
(606)783-8555 or (502)892-4159

Northern Bluegrass Region (Boone, Bourbon, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Kenton, Nicholas, Owen, Pendleton & Scott)
(859)292-6632, ext 231 or (502)863-0565

Salt River Trail Region (Anderson, Breckenridge, Bullitt, Franklin, Grayson, Hardin, Henry, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, Washington & Woodford)
(502-633-2055 or (270)766-5099

Southern Bluegrass Region (Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Garrard, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer & Powell)
(859)971-4411

The Cumberland Region (Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne & Whitley)
(606)256-2138, (606)598-4567, (606)528-4234
or (606)677-4086

The Lakes Region (Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg & Todd)
(270)247-2979

Two Rivers Region (Allen, Barren, Butler, Daviess, Edmonson, Hancock, Hart, Henderson, Logan, McLean, Metcalfe, Monroe, Ohio, Simpson, Union, Warren & Webster)
(270)687-7491 or (270)746-7447

Kentucky Department for Community Based Services

2023 Foster Care/Adoption Informational Meetings

All meetings will be held at local time. Learn more about foster care and adoption in Kentucky at [KYFACES.ky.gov](https://www.kyfoces.ky.gov)

January

January 3, 7:30pm-9:30pm Northeastern Region. Contact Sarah.Reed@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Bath, Boyd, Bracken, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Robertson, Rowan.

January 3, 6pm-8pm Two Rivers Region (North). Contact Jeff.Humphrey@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Butler, Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster.

January 7, 9am-11am Southern Bluegrass Region. Contact Andrew.Holt@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Garrard, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Powell.

January 9, 5:30pm-7:30pm Eastern Mountain Region. Contact Eddie.Carmack@ky.gov or TammyL.Hampton@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Breathitt, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike and Wolfe.

January 9, 5:30pm-7:30pm The Lakes Region. Contact Nancy.Thomas@ky.gov or jharber@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg and Todd.

January 9, 6pm-8pm Cumberland Region (East). Contact Jennifern.White@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne and Whitley.

January 11, 6pm-8pm Northern Bluegrass Region. Contact Jennifer.Wiehe@ky.gov or Roxanne.Noland@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Boone, Bourbon, Campbell, Carol, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Kenton, Nicholas, Owen, Pendleton & Scott.

January 12, 6pm-8pm Two Rivers Region (South). Contact Michaelle.Johnson@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Allen, Barren, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Monroe, Metcalfe, Simpson and Warren.

January 13, 10am-12pm Jefferson Region. Contact Jessica.Sims@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Jefferson

January 14, 9:30am-11:30am* Northern Bluegrass Region. Contact Jennifer.Wiehe@ky.gov or Roxanne.Noland@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Boone, Bourbon, Campbell, Carol, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Kenton, Nicholas, Owen, Pendleton & Scott. **Pre-service classes begin on same day until 3:30pm*

January 17, 5:30pm-7:30pm The Lakes Region. Contact Nancy.Thomas@ky.gov or jharber@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg and Todd.

January 17, 6pm-8pm Salt River Trail Region. Contact Casey.Gilbert@ky.gov or Melinda.Norris@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Anderson, Breckenridge, Bullitt, Franklin, Grayson, Hardin, Henry, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, Washington, and Woodford.

January 23, 6pm-8pm Jefferson Region. Contact Jessica.Sims@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Jefferson

January 24, 12pm-2pm Cumberland Region (West). Contact Rhonda.Cantrell@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne and Whitley.

February 2023

February 1, 6pm-8pm Southern Bluegrass Region. Contact Andrew.Holt@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Garrard, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Powell.

February 1, 6pm-8pm Cumberland Region (East). Contact Jennifern.White@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne and Whitley.

February 5, 6pm-8pm Two Rivers Region (North). Contact Jeff.Humphrey@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Butler, Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster.

February 6, 12pm-2pm Cumberland Region (West). Contact Rhonda.Cantrell@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne and Whitley.

February 7, 7:30pm-9:30pm Northeastern Region. Contact Sarah.Reed@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Bath, Boyd, Bracken, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Robertson, Rowan.

February 7, 5:30pm-7:30pm The Lakes Region. Contact Nancy.Thomas@ky.gov or jharber@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg and Todd.

February 7, 6pm-8pm Salt River Trail Region. Contact Casey.Gilbert@ky.gov or Melinda.Norris@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Anderson, Breckenridge, Bullitt, Franklin, Grayson, Hardin, Henry, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, Washington, and Woodford.

February 7, 5:30pm-7:30pm Eastern Mountain Region. Contact AngelaM.Rice@ky.gov or Tamra.Howard@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Breathitt, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike and Wolfe.

February 10, 10am-12pm Jefferson Region. Contact Jessica.Sims@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Jefferson

February 13, 5:30pm-7:30pm The Lakes Region. Contact Nancy.Thomas@ky.gov or jharber@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg and Todd.

February 21, 6pm-8pm Northern Bluegrass Region. Contact Jennifer.Wiehe@ky.gov or Roxanne.Noland@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Boone, Bourbon, Campbell, Carol, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Kenton, Nicholas, Owen, Pendleton & Scott.

February 21, 5:30pm-7:30pm The Lakes Region. Contact Nancy.Thomas@ky.gov or jharber@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg and Todd.

February 25, 9am-11am* Two Rivers Region (South). Contact Michaelle.Johnson@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Allen, Barren, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Monroe, Metcalfe, Simpson and Warren. **Pre-service begins on same day until 3:30pm*

February 27, 6pm-8pm Jefferson Region. Contact Jessica.Sims@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Jefferson

March 2023

March 1, 6pm-8pm Salt River Trail Region. Contact Casey.Gilbert@ky.gov or Melinda.Norris@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Anderson, Breckenridge, Bullitt, Franklin, Grayson, Hardin, Henry, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, Washington, and Woodford.

March 2, 6pm-8pm Southern Bluegrass Region. Contact Andrew.Holt@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Garrard, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Powell.

March 2, 5:30pm-7:30pm Eastern Mountain Region. Contact Wilma.Bentley@ky.gov or Alice.Martin@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Breathitt, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike and Wolfe.

March 6, 6pm-8pm Cumberland Region (East). Contact Jennifern.White@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne and Whitley.

March 6, 6pm-8pm Two Rivers Region (North). Contact Jeff.Humphrey@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Butler, Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster.

March 7, 7:30pm-9:30pm Northeastern Region. Contact Sarah.Reed@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Bath, Boyd, Bracken, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Robertson, Rowan.

March 10, 10am-12pm Jefferson Region. Contact Jessica.Sims@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Jefferson

March 11, 9:30am-11:30am* Northern Bluegrass Region. Contact Jennifer.Wiehe@ky.gov or Roxanne.Noland@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Boone, Bourbon, Campbell, Carol, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Kenton, Nicholas, Owen, Pendleton & Scott. **Pre-service classes begin on same day until 3:30pm*

March 13, 5:30pm-7:30pm The Lakes Region. Contact Nancy.Thomas@ky.gov or jharber@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg and Todd.

March 21, 12pm-2pm Cumberland Region (West). Contact Rhonda.Cantrell@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne and Whitley.

March 21, 5:30pm-7:30pm The Lakes Region. Contact Nancy.Thomas@ky.gov or jharber@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg and Todd.

March 27, 6pm-8pm Jefferson Region. Contact Jessica.Sims@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Jefferson

April 2023

April 3, 6pm-8pm Two Rivers Region (North). Contact Jeff.Humphrey@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Butler, Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster.

April 3, 5:30pm-7:30pm Eastern Mountain Region. Contact Amity.Copley@ky.gov or Ashley.Gilliam-Rife@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Breathitt, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike and Wolfe.

April 4, 5:30pm-7:30pm The Lakes Region. Contact Nancy.Thomas@ky.gov or jharber@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg and Todd.

April 4, 5pm-7pm Southern Bluegrass Region. Contact Andrew.Holt@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Garrard, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Powell.

April 4, 7:30pm-9:30pm Northeastern Region. Contact Sarah.Reed@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Bath, Boyd, Bracken, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Robertson, Rowan.

April 4, 6pm-8pm Cumberland Region (East). Contact Jennifern.White@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne and Whitley.

April 10, 5:30pm-7:30pm The Lakes Region. Contact Nancy.Thomas@ky.gov or jharber@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg and Todd.

April 11, 6pm-8pm Salt River Trail Region. Contact Casey.Gilbert@ky.gov or Melinda.Norris@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Anderson, Breckenridge, Bullitt, Franklin, Grayson, Hardin, Henry, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, Washington, and Woodford.

April 11, 12pm-2pm Cumberland Region (West). Contact Rhonda.Cantrell@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne and Whitley.

April 13, 6pm-8pm Two Rivers Region (South). Contact Michaelle.Johnson@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Allen, Barren, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Monroe, Metcalfe, Simpson and Warren.

April 14, 10am-12pm Jefferson Region. Contact Jessica.Sims@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Jefferson

April 18, 5:30pm-7:30pm The Lakes Region. Contact Nancy.Thomas@ky.gov or jharber@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg and Todd.

April 24, 6pm-8pm Jefferson Region. Contact Jessica.Sims@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Jefferson

May 2023

May 1, 6pm-8pm Two Rivers Region (North). Contact Jeff.Humphrey@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Butler, Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster.

May 1, 6pm-8pm Cumberland Region (East). Contact Jennifern.White@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne and Whitley.

May 4, 5:30pm-7:30pm Eastern Mountain Region. Contact Tamra.Howard@ky.gov or TammyL.Hampton@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Breathitt, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike and Wolfe.

May 6, 9:30am-11:30am* Northern Bluegrass Region. Contact Jennifer.Wiehe@ky.gov or Roxanne.Noland@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Boone, Bourbon, Campbell, Carol, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Kenton, Nicholas, Owen, Pendleton & Scott. **Pre-service classes begin on same day until 3:30pm*

May 8, 5:30pm-7:30pm The Lakes Region. Contact Nancy.Thomas@ky.gov or jharber@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg and Todd.

May 10, 5:30pm-7:30pm Southern Bluegrass Region. Contact Andrew.Holt@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Garrard, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Powell.

May 11, 6pm-8pm Northern Bluegrass Region. Contact Jennifer.Wiehe@ky.gov or Roxanne.Noland@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Boone, Bourbon, Campbell, Carol, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Kenton, Nicholas, Owen, Pendleton & Scott.

May 12, 10am-12pm Jefferson Region. Contact Jessica.Sims@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Jefferson

May 16, 5:30pm-7:30pm The Lakes Region. Contact Nancy.Thomas@ky.gov or jharber@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg and Todd.

May 16, 6pm-8pm Salt River Trail Region. Contact Casey.Gilbert@ky.gov or Melinda.Norris@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Anderson, Breckenridge, Bullitt, Franklin, Grayson, Hardin, Henry, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, Washington, and Woodford.

May 22, 6pm-8pm Jefferson Region. Contact Jessica.Sims@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Jefferson

May 30, 12pm-2pm Cumberland Region (West). Contact Rhonda.Cantrell@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne and Whitley.

June 2023

June 1, 1pm-3pm Southern Bluegrass Region. Contact Andrew.Holt@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Garrard, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Powell.

June 5, 6pm-8pm Two Rivers Region (North). Contact Jeff.Humphrey@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Butler, Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster.

June 5, 12pm-2pm Cumberland Region (West). Contact Rhonda.Cantrell@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne and Whitley.

June 6, 5:30pm-7:30pm Eastern Mountain Region. Contact Heather.Caudill@ky.gov or KevinD.Adams@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Breathitt, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike and Wolfe.

June 6, 6pm-8pm Cumberland Region (East). Contact Jennifern.White@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne and Whitley.

June 9, 10am-12pm Jefferson Region. Contact Jessica.Sims@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Jefferson

June 12, 5:30pm-7:30pm The Lakes Region. Contact Nancy.Thomas@ky.gov or jharber@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg and Todd.

June 13, 6pm-8pm Salt River Trail Region. Contact Casey.Gilbert@ky.gov or Melinda.Norris@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Anderson, Breckenridge, Bullitt, Franklin, Grayson, Hardin, Henry, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, Washington, and Woodford.

June 20, 5:30pm-7:30pm The Lakes Region. Contact Nancy.Thomas@ky.gov or jharber@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Trigg and Todd.

June 26, 6pm-8pm Jefferson Region. Contact Jessica.Sims@ky.gov for more information or to register. Counties: Jefferson

Department for Community Based Services
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about being a foster parent...

1. How do I become a foster parent?

For more information describing the steps to becoming a foster parent, please view [Fall in Love with Foster Care and Adoption](#) or contact your local Department for Community Based Services office.

2. What are the training requirements?

All adults in the home, who will be caring for children, must attend a 2-hour informational session and 15-hours of pre-service classes (Building Foundations for Successful Parenting).

3. Do you have to be married?

No, you can be married, single, divorced, widowed, or living with a partner. However, if you are presenting as a couple, both must go through the approval process.

4. Do you have to own your own home?

No, you can rent. But you must have adequate space available and your landlord's approval to care for foster children.

5. Can you be a foster parent if you work?

Yes. Extra help for the cost of day care may be available.

6. What happens after I have received my packet of information?

You should read through the information in the packet, then attend an information meeting designed to answer any questions you may have about foster care or adoption. Please call your local Department for Community Based Services office at the number provided in your packet for times and dates of information meetings.

7. What are the qualifications for becoming a foster parent?

Persons from all racial/ethnic/cultural and religious backgrounds, renters and homeowners, single, married, divorced or living with a partner, persons who identify as LGBTQ+, persons with any education level, all are welcome to apply!

- Applicants must be at least 21 years old.
- Foster/Adoptive parents can be married, single or living with a partner.
- Foster/Adoptive families should be financially stable and have an income sufficient to meet the family's needs.
- Applicants must be able to provide a safe, secure and healthy home for a child.
- Foster/Adoptive parents must be in good physical and mental health.
- All adults in the home must complete criminal background checks including FBI, sex offender registry and a check of the child abuse registry.
- All applicants must complete training to help them understand the needs of children in foster care.

8. Can I get financial help from the state to care for a foster child?

To meet the needs of children placed in their home, foster parents receive:

- Financial assistance in the form of a daily rate
- Medical coverage for the children
- Daycare assistance for working parents
- Other assistance provided to meet the specialized needs of children on a case by case basis.

9. What are the different types of foster homes?

- Basic foster homes
- Medically Complex Homes – for children with medical challenges
- Specialized Medically Complex Homes – for children with medical and emotional challenges
- Degreed Medically Complex Homes – for children with medical challenges in which the primary caretaker is a health care professional.
- Care Plus Foster Home – for children who have emotional or behavioral challenges.

10. What is respite care?

The law defines respite care as “temporary care provided by another family or individual to provide relief to a foster or adoptive parent with the expectation of the child’s return to the current foster or adoptive home”.

11. What kind of training do I need to become a foster parent?

The Department for Community Based Services provides training that meets the needs of foster parents. Foster parents are required to receive a minimum of fifteen hours approved curriculum training and fifteen hours of pre-service web-based training to becoming a foster parent. Approved foster and adoptive families must complete a minimum of ten hours of ongoing training each year.

12. Do I have a choice regarding the children placed in my home?

Yes. We want to ensure that the needs of the children placed in the home are compatible with the strengths of the foster parents.

13. Can people on public assistance become foster parents?

Applicants will be expected to have an income sufficient to meet their present family needs and to insure the stability of the family unit.

14. Can I be approved to foster or adopt a relative, for example, a grandchild?

A child may be placed with a relative when it is in the best interest of the child. To be eligible for the assistance provided to foster parents, a relative foster home must meet the same requirements for training and ongoing approval as nonrelative homes. The majority of children who are placed with relatives do so outside of the foster care system, and the family does not need to become approved to foster or adopt.

15. Once I become a foster parent, are there other foster parents I can contact for advice and support?

Kentucky offers foster parent peer support through programs such as:

- The Kentucky Foster and Adoptive Training Support Network
- The Foster Parent Mentor Program
- Adoption Support for Kentucky

16. May I take a foster child into my home and then adopt him or her?

Maybe. Foster care is temporary care with the goal of reuniting the child with his or her birth family. Three out of four foster children do go home and it is important for foster parents to help the child successfully reunite with his or her birth parents while helping the child during such a tumultuous time. In the event that the child's goal changes to adoption, the foster family may apply to adopt. Many adoptions in Kentucky are foster parent adoptions. In selecting adoptive families, the best interest of the child is always of the utmost importance. Therefore, many factors have to be considered. For example, does the child need to be adopted with his or her siblings who may be in other foster homes? Your R&C worker can help you in deciding whether to explore this option.

17. Is a child's background available to adoptive parents?

All known relevant information about the child's educational, medical or developmental history is provided to the foster parent.

18. We have pets, is that a problem?

This is not a problem unless the child is allergic or scared.

19. I don't think I fit the typical foster or adoptive family model.

Actually, there's no typical model. Some of our foster families are single-parent families. Some have kids in their home while others don't. Some older foster parents have already raised their own family, but want to open their hearts and homes to more kids. Some are homeowners, and some are renters. Our parents come from all racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds and sexual orientations.

20. How long is a foster care placement?

A child's placement may be for as short as an overnight stay or longer than a year.

21. What happens when the child returns home?

A foster child's return home is usually the ultimate goal. The foster parent will have the opportunity to participate in the planning and to say goodbye to the foster child. This can be a difficult time, but the child's return home represents a success. Returning home is the goal for most children in foster care. You will play an integral role in helping the child and family successfully transition.