

Other ways you can help:

- Donate to hands of hope:
www.HandsOfHopeIN.org
- Donate or volunteer with local foster closets.
- Support foster families in your area by becoming part of a care community.
- Support a child in care by becoming a mentor.
- Engage with community partners.
- Spread awareness about the need for foster families.
- Volunteer as a CASA.

IndianaFosterCare.org

Children and Families in Your Community Need Your Help





Foster children are:

- From various ethnic and cultural populations.
- Between the ages of 0-18 (but can remain in care by choice after they turn 18).
- Resilient, worthy of love and able to thrive in structured environments.
- Not to blame for their circumstances.
- Like any other child with passions, fears, special needs, etc.

Foster parents:

- Participate in Child and Family Team Meetings or case plan conferences.
- Support the case plan goal.
- Participate in court hearings when notified.
- Provide for the child's basic needs.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Support the approved visitation plan.
- Support the child's positive identification with his or her family of origin.

Qualify as a foster parent:

- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Pass a criminal history and background check including a fingerprint-based national history.
- Demonstrate financial stability.
- Own or rent housing that meets physical safety standards (e.g., fire extinguishers, adequate bedroom space, reliable transportation).
- Provide medical statements from a physician for all household members.
- Successfully complete pre-service training requirements.
- Successfully complete first aid, CPR, and universal precautions training.
- Provide positive personal reference statements.



- Demonstrate home stability. Foster parents do not need to be married, may be single or cohabitating. A live-in relationship with a significant other or same-sex partner should be established for at least one year to demonstrate stability.
- Complete a home-study assessment with the licensing agency.

Take the next step

Submit an inquiry at **IndianaFosterCare.org** or contact your local DCS office to speak with the foster care team.