



## Foster Care and Family Services Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Who does our Foster Care program serve?**

A: Comprehensive Foster Care (CFC) programs provide care for children and youth age birth to 22 years of age with a wide variety of needs. These include:

- a. Mild to severe medical needs, Cerebral Palsy, and seizure disorders
- b. Autism and PDD
- c. Infants born exposed to or dependent on substances
- d. Development disabilities
- e. Behavioral challenges.

**Q: Who is responsible for medical bills?**

A: Children in CFC have coverage under Mass Health and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) umbrella.

**Q: In the past I had a minor incident on my criminal record. Is that going to affect my eligibility on becoming a foster parent?**

A: Yes. As part of the foster parent application process, you will undergo a background check. This check looks at criminal history, sexual offender history, and any past involvement with DCF. Sometimes the results of the check require you and Kennedy-Donovan Center (KDC) to go through a waiver process with DCF.

**Q: Does KDC provide any kind of financial support?**

A: A daily stipend is provided to assist your family in caring for the child. Additionally children in DCF care receive a quarterly clothing allotment to supplement the cost of clothing and another supplement at the time of the child's birthday. These stipends and allotments are not meant to support the household finances but are to be used to cover the cost of care for the child/ren.

### Provider Qualifications

Foster parents must be willing to open up their home and their hearts to provide a nurturing environment for a child to grow. Foster parents must be willing to commit to a child with special needs and work through issues and challenges that arise. Specific qualifications include:

- **Availability-** Must have the availability to provide care for foster child , attend trainings, attend regular scheduled doctors appointments, weekly home visit, monthly visits with both a family resource worker and a DCF social worker, quarterly meetings, foster care reviews, school meetings, and available in cases of emergency.
- **Physical Space** – Foster Parent must have adequate living space including a bedroom that meets space requirements of 50 square feet per child.

- **CORI** – All foster parents must have a background free and clear of DCF or Criminal History that would impact their ability to care for a child.
- **Age** – Foster parent must be of 21 years of age or older.
- **Education** – Foster parent must have completed high school and possess a high school diploma or GED

If you are interested in becoming a Foster Parent, please complete the application by following the link located on the resources page.