



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Foster Care and Family Services

What are some of the strengths we look for in an appropriate foster parent?

A good foster parent will be a strong advocate for our foster children. They will provide a clean, safe, and nurturing environment. They should possess strong communication skills to work closely with the social worker and clinical team. They should be flexible with their schedules. They should include the foster children in all activities. We would hope that they treat the foster children as they would their own child. We want them to be emotionally stable to handle all the challenges that will be presented. Overall, we want you to be realistic in nature.

What are some of the diagnoses that IFC children may have?

The children in our care vary in diagnoses; however, the focus in the past was on children who have autism, who are developmentally delayed and/or medically involved, however, more of our referrals are for children with trauma reactive behaviors. Some of the diagnoses that our CFC participants may have are speech delays, cognitive delays, social delays, aggression, mild mental retardations, non-verbal, hearing impaired, sleeping problems, medical neglect, sexual abuse, spina bifida, G-tube, heart conditions, psychiatric disorders, non-ambulatory, behavioral, premature births and were born addicted to drugs/alcohol.

Are foster parents required to complete trainings?

CFC foster parents are required to complete 20 hours of training annually:

How can you complete the required training hours?

Kennedy-Donovan Center hosts training sessions monthly on various topics. We also use internet websites such as Relias Training, fosterclub.com, fosterparents.com to help with trainings.

KDC requires that CPR/First Aid, Human Rights, Water Safety and Fire Safety be up to date.

How much are you compensated?

CFC foster parents are paid at a rate of \$61.86 per day.

LIFT foster parents are paid at a rate of \$70.53 per day.

Do the foster children receive a clothing allowance?

Yes, children receive a clothing allowance.

Children under 5 receive \$250.88 every 3 months

Children 6-12 receive \$258.76 every 3 months

Children 13+ receive \$311.30 every 3 months

Do the foster children receive any other support from DCF?

Yes, the children receive an additional \$100 stipend for holiday money and an additional \$50 for their birthday.

How are the foster children's insurance paid?

Each child has their own Mass Health insurance with no co pays to cover their prescriptions and medical appointments.

How often do the social workers visit the home?

A social worker will visit CFC homes weekly and as needed.

A social worker will visit LIFT homes twice monthly; however, the participant will be required to meet with a mentor 1-6 hours per week.

For the first 5 weeks that the participant is transitioning into the program, the social worker will meet weekly.

In addition, a family resource worker will meet monthly with the Foster Parent as well as once per year to complete an annual evaluation.

Is the foster parent required to transport the foster children?

Yes, the foster parent is required to transport the foster child to all medical appointments, family visits, school activities, etc.

Kennedy-Donovan Center urges the LIFT participant to schedule their own transportation, i.e., bus routes, cab and not rely fully on the foster parent.