



Fact Sheet

Foster Care Program

Foster Care Offices:
San Antonio, Texas
(210) 212-2590 Local
1-888-212-2590

Corpus Christi, Texas
1-877-212-2590
(361) 289-2830 Local

What is Foster Care?

Foster Care is temporary care in your home for a child who has been removed from his or her home due to abuse or neglect. Temporary care can range from overnight up to 18 months. The Children's Shelter provides foster care services to individuals and families residing in San Antonio and Corpus Christi.

Who are the children in foster care?

- Children who range in age from birth to 17
- Children whose lives have been disrupted by a family crisis
- Children of all racial backgrounds
- Brothers and/or sisters who should stay together
- Children who may suffer with development or physical disabilities
- School-aged children who may have behavioral problems, learning disabilities or low self-esteem
- Infants who may have special feeding and medical problems
- Children who may suffer with emotional problems

Who are foster families?

- Foster families are people who enjoy parenting and who are willing to share their homes, time, energy, and love with children who have special problems because of abuse and/or neglect. You can become a foster parent if you:
 - Are at least 23 years old
 - Are financially able to provide for your present needs
 - Pass a fire and health inspection of your home
 - Are single, married, widowed or divorced
 - Attend 18 hours of pre-service training
 - Consent to a criminal record and child abuse registry check

Where do the children come from?

Sometimes, because of abuse, neglect, abandonment, or death in a family, courts decide that children must be temporarily separated from their families. These children come from all cultural and economic groups.

How long is Temporary?

A child's stay in foster care may be as short as overnight or as long as it takes to achieve a permanent plan for the child. The majority of children stay in a foster home between twelve to eighteen months.

What do I have to do to become a foster parent?

The first step is to attend an inquiry meeting. The next step is to complete the pre-service training. The process involves, background checks, a reference check and a home study. A home study is a series of interviews with a social worker to obtain information about the family as part of the selection process.

What is an Inquiry Meeting?

Inquiry Meetings are held twice a month to answer your questions and provide you with additional information. All families interested in Foster Care and/or Adoption must attend an Inquiry Meeting. To get the next meeting date, please contact The Children's Shelter at 212-2590. San Antonio Inquiry Meetings are held at 2939 W. Woodlawn. For Corpus Christi meeting dates and location, call 1-877-212-2590.