

HOW DO I BECOME AN LCFS FOSTER PARENT?

STEP 1: Contact LCFS at 800-363-LCFS or lcfs_info@lcfs.org to learn more

STEP 2: Initial home visit

STEP 3: Complete application paperwork, including a background check & medical exam

STEP 4: Attend PRIDE training

STEP 5: Complete licensing assessment

STEP 6: Final walkthrough of home

STEP 7: Congratulations you are licensed!

GET STARTED TODAY!

www.LCFS.org/FosterCare

800-363-LCFS

lcfs_info@lcfs.org



WHO WE ARE

LCFS is a leading provider of a variety of child welfare services in Illinois, dedicated to serving people of all faiths, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender expressions and gender-identifications.

LCFS MISSION

To nurture and strengthen children and families in need.

LCFS VISION

A world where all of God's children have the opportunity for safe, healthy and meaningful lives.



Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois

800-363-LCFS | LCFS.org

lcfs_info@lcfs.org | [Facebook.com/LCFSIL](https://www.facebook.com/LCFSIL)

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BE A FOSTER PARENT

HELP A CHILD AND FAMILY HEAL



WHAT IS FOSTER PARENTING?

Every child needs and deserves to grow up safe and protected from abuse and neglect. There are times when, for various reasons, a child must be separated from his/her parents. The majority of children who enter foster care are able to return to their parents. Foster parents play a significant and meaningful role in making this happen. LCFS can help you become a licensed foster parent and provide support as you open your heart to children in need of a safe, loving home and be supportive to parents. As a foster parent, your role includes:

- Providing care for children, giving them a safe, supportive, and nurturing home.
- Supporting family connections.
- Working with LCFS and the children's parents to reunite the family. When this is not possible, a "forever" family is needed for the children.
- Helping the children cope with any trauma they have endured.
- Working with LCFS to ensure the children's social, emotional, physical and educational needs are met.



I was nervous about taking on the responsibility of a foster child, but LCFS gave me the training and support I needed."

— LCFS FOSTER MOM

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Children, who enter foster care, are from all ethnic groups and range from birth to 21 years old. However, LCFS particularly needs families who are willing and able to provide caring, welcoming homes to:

- Adolescents/Teenagers
- Sibling groups
- Children with special medical needs
- Children with mental-health/behavioral needs
- Youth identifying as LGBTQ+
- Youth who are in foster care and involved with the criminal-justice system

FOSTER PARENT SUPPORTS

As an LCFS foster parent, you are a member of a team (you, LCFS staff, and parents); all working together to ensure that the needs of children are met timely. Foster parents are never alone in this role; you have a comprehensive support system. We stand alongside our foster parents to ensure they have the resources and support they need to meet the needs of the children for whom they care.

WHO CAN BE A FOSTER PARENT?

Foster parents can be married or single, can live in the city, suburbs or rural areas, and can be working or retired. LCFS is searching for welcoming homes and loving caregivers regardless of age, race, faith, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender-identification or education level.

- Are you passionate about making a difference in a child's life?
- Are you at least 21 years old?
- Are you financially able to care for yourself and your own family?
- Are you in good health?

