

# Jefferson County Foster Care & Adoption Information

## So you are considering fostering or adopting in Jefferson County?

The first step is to attend an Information Meeting!

Thank you for inquiring about the Kentucky Foster Care and Special Needs Adoption Programs. Information Meetings have been scheduled to help you learn more about the Foster Care and Adoption Program. Several locations throughout the community are listed for your convenience. Please

We look forward to meeting you and having the opportunity to tell you more about the types of children who need foster and adoptive homes. At this meeting you will be provided with detailed information of the requirements and process of how you can become a foster or adoptive

*Information Meetings last 2 hours and are offered 5 times a month in different locations around Jefferson County.*

*See back of this sheet for dates and locations.*

attend one of the meetings listed below. If you are married or have a live in significant other, both individuals will need to attend an Information Meeting before starting the Foster Care Training Classes (anyone in the home ages 18 or older must attend a meeting). You will be able to sign up for the training classes at the end of the Information Meeting.

parent. **Also, please be prepared to provide social security numbers and dates of births of all the members living in your household.**



## *Do I need reservations to attend an Information Meeting?*

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Reservations are **NOT** required to attend an information meeting. However, it is advised that you **arrive promptly** (for security purposes, the doors will be closed once the meeting begins). Please be advised, **children under the age of 18 will not be permitted.** In the event of inclement weather, we will follow the University of Louisville schedule. If U of L is closed we will not hold the information meeting. If they are delayed schedule, we will hold the information meeting at its regularly scheduled time. You may also call 595-KIDS (5437) on the day of the meeting to confirm the status of the meeting.

# Information Meeting Locations

**Southeast Christian Church** Rm 202, 920 Blankenbaker Pkwy, 40223

**L & N Building**, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 908 West Broadway, 40203

**Thomas Jefferson Middle School**, 1503 Rangeland Rd, 1<sup>st</sup> Neighborhood Place, Door 16, 40219

**Park Duvalle Education Center**, Rm 205, 3610 Bohne Avenue, 40211

**Sun Valley Community Center**, 6505 Bethany Lane, 40272

## Information Meeting Dates



**January 3, Southeast Christian Church 6 – 8 pm**

**January 12, L & N Building 6 – 8 pm**

**January 17, T.J. Middle School 6 – 8 pm**

**January 21, Sun Valley Community Center 10:00 – Noon**

**January 26, Park DuValle Education Center 6 – 8 pm**



**February 7, Southeast Christian Church 6 – 8 pm**

**February 9, L & N Building 6 – 8 pm**

**February 14, T.J. Middle School 6 – 8 pm**

**February 18, Sun Valley Community Center 10:00 – Noon**

**February 23, Park DuValle Education Center 6 – 8 pm**



**March 7, Southeast Christian Church 6 – 8 pm**

**March 9, L & N Building 6 – 8 pm**

**March 14, T.J. Middle School 6 – 8 pm**

**March 18, Sun Valley Community Center 10:00 – Noon**

**March 30, Park DuValle Education Center 6 – 8 pm**



**April 4, Southeast Christian Church 6 – 8 pm**

**April 11, T.J. Middle School 6 – 8 pm**

**April 13, L & N Building 6 – 8 pm**

**April 15, Sun Valley Community Center 10:00 – Noon**

**April 27, Park DuValle Education Center 6 – 8 pm**



**May 2, Southeast Christian Church 6 – 8 pm**

**May 9, T.J. Middle School 6 – 8 pm**

**May 11, L & N Building 6 – 8 pm**

**May 20, Sun Valley Community Center 10:00 – Noon**

**May 25, Park DuValle Education Center 6 – 8 pm**



**June 6, Southeast Christian Church 6 – 8 pm**

**June 8, L & N Building 6 – 8 pm**

**June 13, T.J. Middle School 6 – 8 pm**

**June 17, Sun Valley Community Center 10:00 – Noon**

**June 29, Park DuValle Education Center 6 – 8 pm**

Contact Katherine Easley, BSW, at 502-641-2852 or email

[Katherine.easley@ky.gov](mailto:Katherine.easley@ky.gov) for more information

**Or go to our website [ADOPT.KY.GOV](http://ADOPT.KY.GOV)**

# *Frequently Asked Questions*

## **WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT?**

- Applicants must be at least 21 years old.
- Foster/Adoptive parents can be married or single.
- Foster/Adoptive families should be financially stable and have an income sufficient to meet the family's needs.
- Applicants must be able to provide a safe, secure and healthy home for a child.
- Foster/Adoptive parents must be in good physical and mental health.
- All adults in the home must complete criminal background checks including FBI, sex offender registry and a check of the child abuse registry.
- All applicants must complete training to help them understand the needs of children in foster care.

## **CAN I GET FINANCIAL HELP FROM THE STATE TO CARE FOR A FOSTER CHILD?**

To meet the needs of children placed in their home, foster parents receive:

- Financial assistance in the form of a daily rate;
- Medical coverage for the children;
- Daycare assistance for working parents; and
- Other assistance provided to meet the specialized needs of children on a case by case basis.

## **WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF FOSTER HOMES?**

- Basic foster homes
- Medically Complex Homes – for children with medical challenges
- Specialized Medically Complex Homes – for children with medical and emotional challenges
- Degreed Medically Complex Homes – for children with medical challenges in which the primary caretaker is a health care professional.
- Care Plus Foster Home – for children who have emotional or behavioral challenges.

## **WHAT KIND OF TRAINING DO I NEED TO BECOME A CERTIFIED FOSTER PARENT?**

The Department for Community Based Services provides training that meets the needs of foster parents. The Pre-Service training is 15 hours classroom and 15 hours on-line. Foster parents are required to receive a minimum of six hours of ongoing training each year.

## **DO I HAVE A CHOICE REGARDING THE CHILDREN WHO ARE PLACED IN MY HOME?**

Yes. We want to ensure that the needs of the children placed in the home are compatible with the strengths of the foster parents.

## **MAY I TAKE A FOSTER CHILD INTO MY HOME AND ADOPT HIM OR HER?**

Maybe. Foster care is temporary care with the goal of reuniting the child with his birth family. Three out of four foster children do go home and foster parents are required to help the child successfully reunite with his birth parents. In the event that the child's return home plan changes to adoption, the foster family may apply to adopt. Many adoptions in Kentucky are foster parent adoptions. In selecting adoptive families, the best interest of the child is always of the utmost importance. Therefore, many factors have to be considered. For example, does the child need to be adopted with his siblings who may be in other foster homes?

Many families choose to be approved for both adoption and foster care. Families are advised not to foster just so they can get a younger child. Remember, three out of four return to their birth families. However, with additional training families may become concurrent planning foster homes. This program uses risk assessments to try and predict which child is the one in four who will not return to the birth family. These foster parents are required to work with the birth parents to return the child, but if that does not occur within twelve months of entry into foster care, then the termination of parental rights are pursued and the foster family adopts the child. The program is designed to prevent harm to vulnerable young children by shifting the emotional risk to the adults. Not all families can accept the uncertainty of not knowing if they get to keep the child. Your R&C worker can help you in deciding whether to explore this option.

### **IS THE CHILD'S BACKGROUND AVAILABLE TO ADOPTIVE PARENTS?**

All known relevant information about the child's educational, medical or developmental history is provided to the foster parent.

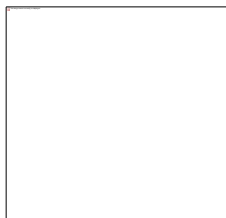
### **ONCE I BECOME A FOSTER PARENT ARE THERE OTHER FOSTER PARENTS I CAN GO TO FOR ADVICE?**

Kentucky offers foster parent peer support through programs such as:

- The Kentucky Foster and Adoptive Training Support Network
- The Foster Parent Mentor Program
- Adoption Support for Kentucky

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO**

**[WWW.ADOPT.KY.GOV](http://WWW.ADOPT.KY.GOV)**



## **9 Steps to Becoming a Foster/Adoptive Family**

- 1.** • Call 502-595-KIDS or walk in to L & N Building, 908 West Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor West, Louisville, KY 40203.
- 2.** • Share your information with DCBS staff. Tell us about your family, why you want to foster or adopt, and how you heard about us.

3. Receive information packet - we are happy to mail the packet upon request.
4. Attend two-hour informational meeting. Receive in-depth information, ask questions, get answers and begin paperwork.
5. Begin family application process and home visits.
6. Begin pre-service training (15 Hours in Class and 15 Hours On-line) Complete paperwork, with staff help. Complete home study.
7. You will receive a certification letter when you are approved as a foster / adoptive parent.
8. Children are placed depending on their needs. Receive peer support from experienced parents.
9. Receive Continuing Benefits These include: ongoing training, medical card for child, child care assistance, child counseling services, respite care, tuition assistance, foster/adoptive mentors and support services.

