

Information Meeting for Foster Care And Adoption Resource Parents



1. Who are the children entering Foster care?

- a. These children may have been abused, neglected, abandoned, or may have been removed due to family circumstances.
- b. They are birth to 18 years old. Youth can be served up to age 21, if they have special needs or if they are enrolled in an educational or training program.
- c. The child's parents are Baltimore City residents.
- d. The child's family is experiencing a major crisis or difficulty in parenting such as abuse, neglect, stress, or lack of family support.
- e. The children to be placed are committed to BCDSS.
- f. Currently, there are a large number of African-American males, ages 0-12 who are entering foster care. Their average time in care is approximately 6-24 months.



2. What are the options for children entering foster care?

- a. Return home after the family has worked through problems
- b. Adoption by a relative
- c. Relative care, custody and guardianship
- d. Adoption by another family
- e. APPLA: Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement which may include:

Independent Living Programs, which will identify children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age and will provide services to make the transition to self-sufficiency including education, training and services necessary to obtain employment and to prepare for and enter post-secondary educational institutions.

3. What are the different kinds of foster and adoptive resources?

a. Foster Care is a substitute family life experience, that provides care and services for a child who must live outside of his own family. Foster Parents provide nurturing, stable care to a child until permanency; either through reunification or with adoption. The court has found the child to be a "Child In Need of Assistance" (CINA) and Baltimore City Department of Social Services has become the guardian for the child. The child is placed with a foster family.

Foster parenting is not always a lifetime commitment to a child, but it is a commitment to be meaningful during a child's lifetime.

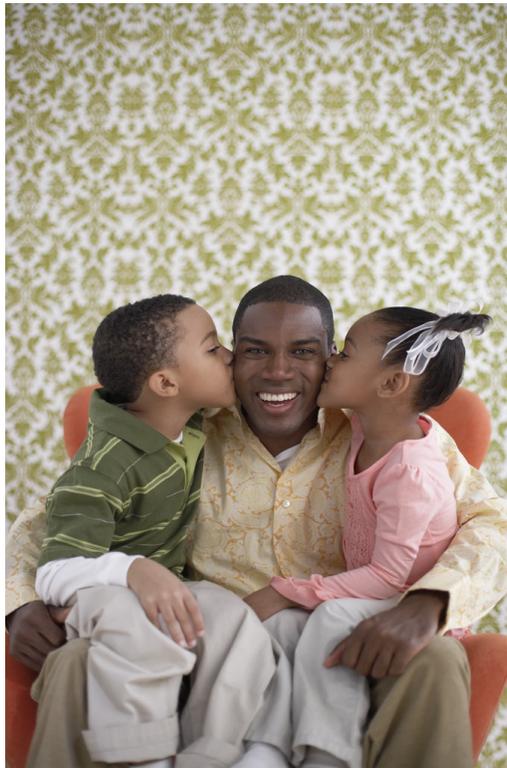
- (1) **Regular Resource Families** are approved to accept foster children based on the criterion the family has established.
 - (2) **Restricted Resource Families** are approved to accept specific children only. Often the child placed is a relative.
 - (3) **Pre-Adopt Resource Families** are available to accept children who are likely to become available for adoption. This is called an "At Risk Adoptive Home". When the plan of return home has been ruled out, the plan can then be changed to adoption.
- b. **Adoption** is a permanent living arrangement that has legal sanction via the court system. An Adoption can be finalized only after termination of parental rights, (TPR). Adoptive parents have all the rights and responsibilities as if the child were born to them.

Adoption is a permanent commitment to a child.



4. What State and Agency Policies Affect Resource Parents?

- a. Resource families support the children in their care in visiting with birth families
- b. Resource families must report any concerns about abuse and neglect to Child Protective Services
- c. Resource families cannot use corporal punishment as a form of discipline
- d. Resource families must have approved Child Care
- e. Resource families work with BCDSS toward Concurrent Permanency Planning
- f. Every Resource family must have a "back-up" person in case of emergency.
If the Resource Family is a married couple, the spouse may not be the back-up.
- g. Resource parents work in partnership with the agency, community and birth family.
- h. Resource parents have responsibilities to the child, the agency, the birth family and their own families.



5. What is required to become a Resource Parent?

- I. Resource Parents should have:
 - a. The ability to adequately provide for the child's needs.
 - b. Experience in childcare and supervision.
 - c. The ability to accept a child in your home, and let him go.
 - d. The ability to understand and show acceptance to the birth parents.
 - e. A commitment to concurrent permanency planning.
 - f. The ability to work as a team member with the agency staff.

- g. Adequate physical and mental health as certified by a physician.
- h. The ability to provide the minimum of a bed and private space for the child's belongings.
- i. Adequate income to support your own family.



6. How Does the Agency Support Resource Families?

Child Day Care Provision

- a. If you work, attend school or participate in a training program, Day Care reimbursements are available. Discuss this with the child's worker.
- b. There are rules about who can supervise the children and how they must be approved.
- c. Resource parents are eligible for 7 days of respite care per child, each year. Discuss this with your Resource worker.

Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA):

Relative caregivers are eligible to receive a child only grant for the committed child, food stamps are not included in this grant. Your income is not included for a child only grant.

Emergency Assistance:

24 hour access number 410-361-2235.

- a. To report child maltreatment.
- b. To report an emergency situation in your home.
- c. To reach the agency after hours and weekends.

Additional Resource Parents Supports

- a. Baltimore City Resource Council
(Meets every other month on the 2nd Wednesday 6-8 p.m.
1910 N. Broadway)

- b. While-You-Wait, BCDSS Adoption Support Group

7. What are the steps in becoming an approved Resource Home?

a. Attend an information meeting

Today's session counts for 2 hours of training and introduces you to the basic concepts of fostering and adopting.

b. Attend Training:

There are 27 hours of training required in total. The training time is designed to prepare you for fostering and/or adopting and to help you parent children in care.

1. Each applicant will attend 8 three-hour sessions and do some homework.
2. Every Resource Family must have a back-up person. This person must attend Module 4, which reviews behavior management and discipline.

C. Complete a Home Study with your Resource Worker:

The home study is a time to get to know your worker and for your worker to get to know you in order to approve your home and match you with the right child or children.

1. A minimum of two home visits, interviews of all household members, and an assessment of the home to be sure there is sufficient space and to address safety issues.
 - a. Except for children younger than two years of age, boys and girls may not sleep in the same room and a child over two may not share a room with an adult.
 - b. No stackable beds are permitted in resource homes.
2. A home study also includes documentation of sufficient and steady income to meet your family's needs.
3. Your home must pass a fire and local health department inspection as arranged by Baltimore City Department of Social Services.
4. Applicants must complete a Child Protective Service and Child Support clearance as well as state and federal criminal background checks.
5. Three (3) references must also be provided.
6. Applicants and their household members must have a medical exam and TB test. Forms will be provided.
7. All pets must have appropriate license, registration, and vaccination.
8. Home study workers will review school records of applicants with school-aged children. Records will be examined for attendance, punctuality, passing grades, and behavioral issues. You should not have severe problems with your own children.



9. Throughout this process, your worker will help you complete each step.

8. What happens after you are approved as a Resource Parent?

- a. A child or children will likely be placed in your home.
- b. You will receive ongoing support from your Resource Worker.
- c. Resource parents will receive a foster care stipend. This stipend is to cover the expenses of caring for the child, including room and board.
- d. There are additional financial supports for children in care, including Health Care and Adoption Subsidies.

Type of Care	Ages	Amount
Regular	Infant-11 years old	\$ 835 per month
Regular	12 years old and older	\$ 850 per month
*Intermediate	Infant-11 years old.	\$ 950.00 *
	12 years old and older	\$ 965.00 *
Emergency	All	\$ 30/day
Mother/ Child	This payment amount could be higher based on the needs of the parent/child	\$ 1785 per month

- This rate requires medical Documentation.



Notes