

Be The Difference **Foster Today**



FOSTER PARENTS

*are people who provide
a temporary, supportive,
safe environment that is
nurturing and stable.*



**Children's
Home Society**
of North Carolina



IMPACT *a child's
life and their future.*

At Children's Home Society (CHS), we believe in the right of every child to a permanent, safe, and loving family. Foster families provide an opportunity for children in foster care to realize their greatest potential. They are there to care for and support them when they need it most. At CHS, we will be there to guide you and provide the necessary tools so that you can have a positive impact on families.

CHS MISSION

To promote the right of every child to a permanent, safe, and loving family.

WHY CHOOSE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY?

100 counties are served by CHS staff statewide; with offices in 10 cities, CHS is North Carolina's largest private, non-profit provider

20,000 clients are served by CHS each year through foster care, therapeutic foster care, adoption, educational, prevention, and supportive services

450+ children are in CHS homes statewide on any given day

16,000+ children have been placed by CHS into loving, adoptive homes since its founding in 1902 (more than other private agencies in the state)

Why Are Foster Families Needed?

Over **12,000** children in North Carolina are in the foster care system and deserve to be in loving, stable, and safe homes.

The average length of stay for children in the foster care system is **1.4 YEARS**

Annually, on average in North Carolina over **500** children age out of the foster care system without a permanent family.



WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

CHS provides a foster care program for children who need placement outside their birth homes. Children need short-term foster family placement during a family crisis, which can be due to abuse or neglect. Families are needed to provide children with safe and loving home environments while a permanent plan is achieved for the child.

OPEN your heart and your home.



A hug, a high five, listening, just being there... it all matters.

BE TRANSFORMATIVE.

TO BE A FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE PARENT YOU...

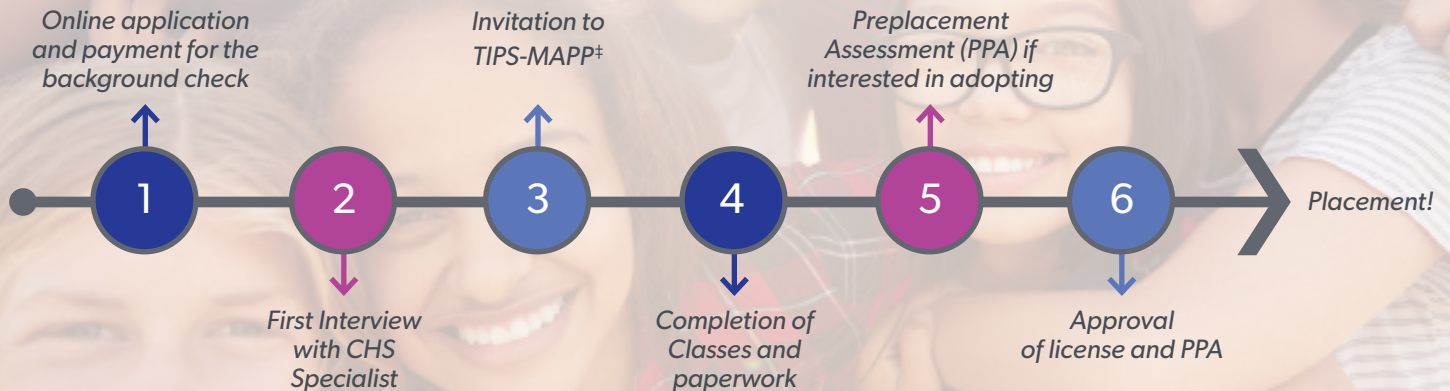
- ✓ May be married or single; if married, must be for at least 1 year
- ✓ Must be 21 years of age or older
- ✓ Must have fewer than 5 children under the age of 18
- ✓ Need to have sufficient income to meet the needs of your current family
- ✓ Must provide children with their own bed, and adequate drawer and closet space for their personal belongings
- ✓ Legal resident of U.S. and North Carolina, for at least 9 months at time of application*
- ✓ Are required to complete annual training to maintain your foster care license
- ✓ May own or rent your home
- ✓ Must have or have access to reliable transportation
- ✓ Complete TIPS-MAPP‡ training
- ✓ No felony convictions involving child abuse, spouse abuse, crimes involving violence
- ✓ No substantiated Child Protective Service Investigations
- ✓ No DWI within the last 5 years
- ✓ Willing to submit to a thorough assessment of your family and home

There is no fee to adopt a child from the NC Child Welfare system. There are incidentals during the licensing process, and a \$120.00 clerk-filing fee per child during the adoption process, which is often reimbursable.

* Possible fees that may occur during the licensing process.

‡ Trauma Informed Partnering for Safety and Permanence - Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT?



"This is what I tell my children about being a foster family. The children's mom and dad aren't able to take care of them right now. They have issues they are working through, and while they can't take care of them, we are going to welcome them into our home. We're not their parents, but we are going to love these kids and take care of them while their parents are improving their lives."

– Sallie, RN - NICU, Foster Parent



LICENSING STEPS

- 1 ONLINE APPLICATION**
 - a. Apply online at chsn.org/foster
 - b. Submit \$20 per adult living in the home for criminal/civil records check
 - c. Out-of-state background checks* (if you've lived outside of NC within last 5 years) - if applicable
 - d. Complete NC Online Foster Parent Orientation and attend or view CHS Information Meeting
- 2 FIRST INTERVIEW**
 - a. Licensing Specialist assigned
 - b. 1st interview scheduled and facilitated
 - c. Invitation to TIPS-MAPP+ class can be provided at this time

- 3 ACCESS TO THE LICENSING PORTAL IS GRANTED**

- 4 REQUIRED TRAINING COMPLETED**

- a. Invited to TIPS-MAPP+ Training (30 hours required training), see website for details
- b. Therapeutic Foster Care training if applicable
- c. CPR/First Aid Training*
- d. CHS Medication Administration Training



*You have the **POWER**
to impact a child's life.*

Foster today.

CHS licenses all families who are considering adoption of a child from foster care.

5 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS COMPLETED

(Your Licensing Specialist will guide you.)

- a. Home visits with your licensing specialists
- b. Financial report & income verification
- d. Medical Evaluation for every person living in the home*
- e. Fire Inspection*
- f. Pet Vaccinations* - if applicable
- g. Personal references (3 per person, cannot be a family member)
- h. If you have adult children, over the age of 18, must complete a reference for applicants
- i. Certified marriage certificates/ divorce decree* (we maintain in our files)
- j. Fingerprint clearances for all adults living in the home*
- k. DMV check*

* Possible fees that may occur during the licensing process.

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6 REVIEW AND SUBMISSION OF FOSTER CARE LICENSE PAPERWORK AND PPA (IF ADOPTING)

(PPA i.e. homestudy)



4-6 MONTHS

AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME TO RECEIVE LICENSE, dependent on timely completion of paperwork and other aspects of the process

CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE APPLYING

- Once you apply, the process moves quickly. Are you available for MAPP classes (schedules vary)?
- Do you have the flexibility in your schedule to meet with your CHS Licensing Specialist 2-4 times in your home?
- Have you thoroughly read over the FAQs on our website and watched the orientation videos?
- Have you and your immediate family had a conversation about fostering? Are all of you committed to your decision to foster?
- Do you have reliable transportation and a valid NC Driver's License?
- Can you demonstrate reliable income?
- Are you open to supporting sibling groups?



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