



**FOSTER CARE  
DC PROGRAM**

*Hope for the future,  
power in the present.*



**BOARD OF CHILD CARE**  
*of The United Methodist Church, Inc.*



## Hope for the future, power in the present.



The Board of Child Care's Foster Care Program based in the District of Columbia is a unique program for children who are in need of a loving home. Agency staff work together with foster care families and birth parents toward the goal of finding permanency for the children or youth, either through

reunification, guardianship or adoption.

The DC Foster Care Program places children from birth up to age 21 who are residents of the District. Many of the children have specialized medical, developmental or behavioral needs. Some have been exposed to alcohol or drugs or are HIV positive. The DC Foster Care Program has worked with children and families since 1969, and today is a full service program that serves at least 55 children and their birth families.

## Do You Have Love, Patience and Time?

Foster parents are special people who make a difference in the life of a child or youth by providing guidance, love, stability and educational and therapeutic support. The foster care system is in great need of licensed foster parents, particularly for parents who will care for a teenager or teen mom.

We hope you can assist us by considering becoming a licensed foster parent with our agency. We license people with or without children, married couples or single people. Foster families may reside in DC or Maryland.



## Supports for Foster Families through the Board of Child Care

- An on-staff education specialist to assist with the educational needs of the children.
- Assigned social worker.
- Twenty hours of in-service training annually.
- At least one monthly home visit to help avoid placement disruptions.
- A buddy system to acclimate new foster parents to the agency and fostering.
- A foster parent manual.
- A foster parent appreciation luncheon and Christmas party.
- Complete 15 hours of pre-service PRIDE training.
- Complete CPR/first aid training.
- Submit to the home study process, including home interviews and submission of background clearances.
- Provide a driving record from the DMV.
- Have a home inspection done by the county fire department.
- Be willing to transport children to all appointments during traditional business hours.
- Able to work toward a child's reunification with his or her birth family.

## Requirements for Foster Parents

- Be at least 25 years of age.
- Reside in DC or Maryland or within 25 miles of the District line.
- Be self-supported financially.
- File an application.
- Attend in-office orientation.

## Additional Information

- We do not license day care providers.
- Children cannot share bedrooms with adults.
- Bunk beds are not permitted.
- Children cannot sleep in the basement.
- Children of different genders cannot share a bedroom.

## **Another Way to Help: Become a Respite Foster Care Parent**

If you cannot commit to becoming a full-time foster parent, you can care for children on the weekends or for short time periods for ongoing foster parents. You must become licensed to do so.

*The Board of Child Care is a nonprofit, multi-service organization serving children and families in Maryland, West Virginia and the District of Columbia as an outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church. Programs include residential and short-term care, foster care, early childhood education, therapeutic counseling, adoption services, special education and a car loan program. Since 1874, the Board of Child Care has served as a community of hope: providing an opportunity to heal, and a safe and caring environment for children, youth and families.*

### **Contact Us**

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[www.boardofchildcare.org/html/dcfostercare.htm](http://www.boardofchildcare.org/html/dcfostercare.htm)

### **Accreditations**

Council on Accreditation (COA)

Educational Assessment Guidelines  
Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE)

### **Licenses**

District of Columbia  
Department of Health,  
Child and Residential  
Care Facilities Division



*In the beginning of my first 10 years with my birth family, things were very hard on me. Then I came to my foster mother Mrs. W. She treats me like I'm her own son. When Mrs. W. came into my life I was having a hard time doing what she said sometimes. I still do, but am working on it. And for some reason she never gives up on me.*

*Mother, I love you. I will always live with you. Mother, thank you for believing in me. And to all foster parents, hang in there. We need you.*

— Delonte, age 13

*For almost 20 years in working in child welfare, I have been a frontline social worker, supervisor and program monitor. At the end of 2007, I succeeded in becoming a licensed foster parent, and in January 2008 I brought home my first foster child .*

*I have a new appreciation for foster parents. I believe we appreciate our foster parents, but don't truly understand what it is to be a foster parent. It is more than providing shelter and food. It is nurturing and providing comfort. It is helping children to trust again, and giving them the foundation and security to move on from trauma and be resilient.*

— Charlayne O'Loughlin, foster parent





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