

Become an Oregon Resource Parent



What's a resource parent?

When children and youth aren't able to stay with their families, they need safe and nurturing resource homes where they can live temporarily. Thousands of Oregon children and youth experience foster care every year. You can help.

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) uses "resource parent" in place of "foster parent." The new language reflects the vital resource and support these caregivers provide to families.

Resource parents

As a resource parent, you would provide daily care, support family time, and give children and youth a safe and supportive home for a few days, a few months, and sometimes longer. Resource parents are affirming to children and youth with diverse gender identities and expressions. They ensure cultural and community connections for children, youth and young adults.

Supporting long-term outcomes

When a child or youth comes into the care of ODHS, reunification with their family is always the first and preferred plan. As a resource parent, you will provide for the safety, health and well-being of the children and youth you are caring for until they can safely reunite with their families. Resource parents are key partners in achieving the best outcomes for families.



Who can be a resource parent?

We welcome and appreciate working with diverse families and individuals who reflect and can support the identities of children and youth experiencing foster care.

- People of every race, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression can be resource parents.
- Resource parents can speak any language as their primary language.
- Single people, couples and people who are married, divorced, widowed or in a domestic partnership can be resource parents.
- Resource parents can be renters or homeowners.
- People with children and without children, and those with or without prior parenting experience can become resource parents.
- Resource parents may work inside or outside the home, or they may be retired. They need to have the financial resources to support the current members of their household.



Ready to learn more?

Call or visit us online

Foster.❤️Oregon.gov
1-800-331-0503



You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact the Foster Care and ICPC Program at fosterfamily.supports@odhsoha.oregon.gov or 971-375-7695. We accept all relay calls.

How to become a certified resource parent



Find out more

Call the Oregon Department of Human Services' (ODHS) recruitment partner, Every Child, at 1-800-331-0503. You can also visit Foster.Oregon.gov to learn more.



Training

We will provide training to prepare you for parenting and supporting children, youth, and families impacted by foster care.



Submit an application

Submit a completed application to ODHS. A certifier will be assigned to discuss the next steps with you and help with the certification process. Every adult member in your household will need to consent to criminal history and child abuse background checks.



SAFE (Structured Analysis Family Evaluation) home study process

The home study includes interviews, home visits, reference checks, meeting with your children and others who may live in the home, safety inspections, financial, and medical information. In most cases, these activities are completed within 180 days.



Certification Complete

Once all required paperwork is complete and the home study is approved, you will receive a certificate of approval to be a resource parent for a two-year period. You are ready to welcome a child or youth into your home and begin supporting families.



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DHS 5601 (02/2023)

Help Preserve Sibling Connections



Siblings in foster care do best when they are together. Individuals and families that can foster siblings are needed to help families stay connected. Call or visit us online to learn how to become a resource parent for siblings and how to support reunification of families impacted by foster care.

Foster.OREgon.gov
1-800-331-0503



Help Teens Thrive



Supportive and nurturing individuals and families are needed for teens impacted by foster care. You can help a teen find stability, grow independent skills, and build connections as they prepare to launch into adulthood. Call or visit us online to learn how to become a resource parent for teens.

Foster.❤️Oregon.gov
1-800-331-0503



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1-800-331-0503



Nurture PRIDE



Supportive and caring resource parents are needed across Oregon for children and youth with diverse gender identities, expressions, and intersections. You can make a difference by becoming a resource for children and their families impacted by foster care.

Foster.❤️Oregon.gov
1-800-331-0503



There is a need for resource families in Oregon who are accepting of LGBTQIA2S+ children and youth. Many of these children and youth have experienced rejection and trauma based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. We are seeking compassionate and supportive individuals and families in our community who can provide LGBTQIA2S+ children and youth in foster care with a safe place to live temporarily and accept them for who they are. As a resource parent you will receive training and resources so that you have tools to care for a child or youth impacted by foster care. Call or visit us online to learn how to become a resource parent and support reunification of families impacted by foster care.



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1-800-331-0503



Share your **PRIDE**



Supportive and caring LGBTQIA2S+ individuals and families are needed across Oregon to keep children and youth safe and strengthen our community. We value and welcome the LGBTQIA2S+ community to be a resource for children and their families experiencing foster care.

Foster.❤️Oregon.gov
1-800-331-0503



There are thousands of children and youth in Oregon living in foster care today. Many have experienced neglect or abuse and need the safety and support of a stable home. We know LGBTQIA2S+ individuals and families can make a difference by providing a child or youth with a safe place to live temporarily. As a resource parent you will receive training and resources so that you have tools to care for a child or youth living in foster care. Call or visit us online to learn how to become a resource parent and support reunification of families impacted by foster care.



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