

**You can help
an at-risk
youth build
a better life**



**Make a
difference –
become an
OYA foster
parent**



**Call 503-373-7595
to learn more**

OYA foster parents help transform youths' lives



Join the network

A network of foster parents across the state helps provide youth offenders with opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

Youth offenders who come into foster care have been professionally evaluated as appropriate for this level of care. They are doing well in treatment. They attend public school. And they would benefit from a structured home life.

There are two types of foster homes – those for younger offenders who are likely to return home, and transitional foster homes for youth ages 18 to 24 who need help learning independent-living skills such as establishing a bank account, preparing a household budget, and shopping for food and preparing meals. OYA usually places no more than one youth offender in each foster home.

How you can qualify

As an OYA foster parent, you must be emotionally mature and able to help youth build positive relationships and live independently. You must be at least 21 (or 25 for transitional foster parents), a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, financially stable, and able to pass a criminal history check.

You will provide basic housing and food for the youth offender, as well as clothing, transportation, recreational opportunities, spending money, and reasonable incidentals. The youth offender will have a state medical card that pays for medical, mental health, and other necessary treatment. You will receive a monthly maintenance payment to reimburse you for the services you provide.

How you can benefit youth

Foster parents provide a stable, secure living environment for youth and model positive behaviors and choices. You will support the youth as a student, and assume other parenting roles such as teaching critical thinking skills, providing positive discipline, holding youth accountable, and knowing the youth's friends and whereabouts.

OYA foster parents tell about youth who are doing well in school, playing sports, succeeding in after-school and summer jobs, volunteering in the community, and heading toward productive, crime-free lives. Some OYA foster youth go on to two- and four-year colleges.

How OYA supports you

We support our foster parents. We call you at least once a week and visit at least monthly. And you will have access to support at other times by phone and e-mail.

In addition, an OYA parole and probation officer works with foster parents on the youth's case plan and meets regularly with the youth, checking on his or her progress and activities, and setting goals.

As an OYA foster parent, you will receive training ranging from first aid, CPR, and mandatory reporting of child abuse, to skills specific to working with youth offenders. If you have a youth with a mental health or drug and alcohol issue, for example, you will receive the specialized training you need; this training also will help you understand and support what is happening in the youth's formal treatment.

For more information, call 503-373-7595.