

Types of Foster Care

Child: Provides a temporary, nurturing environment for children unable to live with their legal families, ensuring their growth and stability.

Mother/Child: Supports mothers and their children, emphasizing independent living and parenting skills.

Transitional: Offers a supportive and nurturing living environment for youth aged 14 and older, while providing teaching, mentoring, and life skills development in preparation for transitioning from foster care to independent living.

Medical: Provides children with special medical needs placements in homes where foster families have medical experience or receive specific training to meet these needs.

Intensive: Designed to provide a higher level of support and care for children with complex emotional, behavioral, or medical needs.



Foster Care Office Locations

Erie

(814) 240-3434

Harrisburg

(717) 307-9817

Mount Joy

(717) 492-9338

Muncy

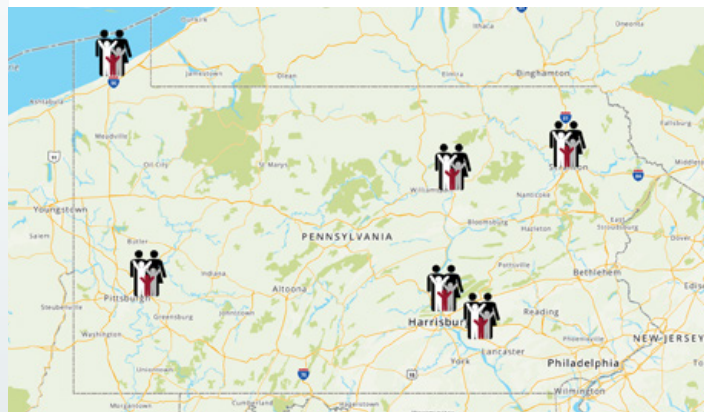
(570) 651-9016

Pittsburgh

(412) 871-3560

Scranton

(570) 340-1444



Find us on:



**Families
United
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Foster Care | Adoption | Peer Support



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**Families
United
Network**

**Opening Hearts,
Opening Homes:
A Guide to Becoming
a Foster Parent**



www.families4kids.org

What is Foster Care?

Foster Care provides a temporary home for children who cannot live with their legal family, allowing the family time to work on reunification plans.

What is the Goal of Foster Care?

The main goal is to offer temporary care until a permanent living situation can be established for the child.

Why Should I Consider Foster Parenting?

Foster parenting offers a chance to provide love, support, guidance, and structure to children in need, making it a deeply rewarding experience.



Who are the Children in Need of Care?

Children needing foster care vary in age, race, and religious background and may have experienced abuse, neglect, or come from homes affected by domestic issues or addiction.

How Long are Children in Foster Care?

The duration of foster care varies widely, from a few months to potential adoption, depending on case specifics and legal family cooperation.

Families United Network provides foster parents:

- Specialized training
- Dedicated staff support 24/7
- A stipend to cover the costs of each foster child in your home

Requirements for becoming a foster parent:

- At least 21 years old
- Clear criminal history and child abuse clearances (assistance available if not already obtained)
- Stable source of income, valid driver's license, vehicle registration & insurance, and homeowner's or renter's insurance
- Adequate living space for an additional child/children
- Can pass a home safety inspection
- Ability to provide transportation for foster children
- Free of communicable diseases
- Patience and understanding for children's needs across all ages

Families United Network extends a comprehensive suite of services aimed at supporting families. Among these, the agency provides SWAN (Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network) services tailored to facilitate permanency in children's lives. Additionally, we specialize in conducting international and domestic home studies, alongside post placement services to ensure smooth transitions into new family environments. Families United Network also emphasizes the importance of community by offering peer support, fostering a network of guidance and assistance for those under our care.

