

What Does It Take to Become a Foster Parent with Holston Home for Children?

Minimum Requirements for Therapeutic Foster Parents

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be at least 25 years of age, with no life altering events in the previous 6 months (i.e., marriage, divorce, death of a spouse/child, diagnosis of terminal illness, etc.) If you have had any of the following, please discuss with the Recruiter/Trainer
- Be a Tennessee Resident for 6 consecutive months prior to application
- Have a valid driver's license and a safe driving record
- Show financial responsibility and ability to meet financial obligations independent of foster care reimbursement (Provide Income and Expenditures Report and annual tax returns)
- Own a reliable, safe vehicle with adequate auto insurance coverage and be willing to provide transportation to children in your care
- Homeowner/renter's insurance
- Maintain a safe and healthy home environment
- Have at least one working telephone in your home
- Have adequate space to foster (bedroom with a window that is adequately furnished with closet/storage space and allows for privacy)
- Provide documentation of physical and mental health from a doctor
- Commit to the agency's Statement of Faith.

Medically Fragile Foster Parents (In addition to the above requirements)

- Participate in agency's specialized medically fragile training
- Participate in any child specific medical training through child's medical provider

Responsibilities of Foster Parents

- Complete pre-service training and homework required including an informational meeting, 4 modules of Tn Key, Trauma Informed Parenting Strategies (TIPS) part 1 &2, Medication Administration, First Aid and CPR, Therapeutic Foster Care training including agency policies, procedures, paperwork, De-escalation, and Parenting the Justice Involved Youth.
- Willingness to be a member of the Child and Family team and work with Child & Family Specialist, Therapist and other mental health professionals, the school and birth parents
- Maintain all necessary records: allowance and clothing logs, incident reports, life books, daily behavioral logs, medication records and other reports as requested
- Actively participate in on-going and specialized training (24 hours required annually)
- Agree to abide by agency's discipline policy
- Commit to being an advocate for any child placed in your home and their family

Forms and Verifications (for all household members)

- Income
- Employment
- Marriage certificate (s)
- Divorce decree (s)
- Adoption order (s)
- Birth certificate (s)
- Health/Medical Report (s)
- References

- Home Safety Checklist

Home Study

- All verifications and forms
- Background checks (annually)
- 3 interviews and home visit(s) to gather needed information
- Annual Re-evaluation

Background Checks

- FBI, TBI Fingerprints
- Local police records check
- Department of Children's Services Database check
- National Sexual Offender Registry Clearance
- Child Abuse Registry Clearance
- Motor Vehicle Records check

If you have any concerns about any of the background checks listed above or are aware of issues that might arise from these checks, please discuss promptly with the Recruiter/Trainer.

Potential applicants cannot be approved if they have felony convictions for:

- child abuse and neglect
- spousal abuse
- a crime against a child including child pornography
- a crime involving rape, sexual assault, or homicide

Potential applicants cannot be approved if they have felony convictions in the last five years for:

- physical assault
- battery
- a drug/alcohol related offense