

Fall in Love with Foster Care and Adoption



A Guide for Families

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department for Community Based Services

chfs.ky.gov



Foster or Adopt a Child
Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Thank You

Thank you for your interest in becoming a foster or adoptive parent with the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services. This guide is an overview of the great need for and many resources available to families who help care for the more than 7,500 children in state care.

Local staff is able to provide information beyond that presented here. Call the number for your county listed on pages 14-15. Or you may call the central office in Frankfort at **(800) 232-KIDS**.

Learn about children online at: <http://chfs.ky.gov/snap>.

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Foster Care

The Department for Community Based Services' (DCBS) Division of Protection and Permanency is committed to keeping families together and safe. DCBS makes every effort to keep children together with their birth parents or relatives. However, sometimes a family is unable to care for their children, or the court decides that it is no longer safe for the children to remain with their birth family.

When it becomes necessary for children to be removed from their home, it is the agency's philosophy that children grow up better in families. Foster care is one of the many protective services offered to children and families. Foster families have been trained to help children deal with frightening and traumatic events in their lives.

Foster families provide temporary, 24-hour care in a home setting when it is necessary for a child to be separated from his or her birth family. Foster care is temporary until the child can be reunited with his or her family or is provided with another type of permanent living situation.

Facts About Children in Foster Care

There are approximately 7,500 children from the ages of birth to 21 who are living in out-of-home care in Kentucky.

- The greatest percentage (approximately 50 percent) of these children are age 12 and older.
- Many have brothers and sisters who also need care.
- They represent all races and many ethnic groups.
- Most have suffered some type of abuse and/or neglect by their birth family.
- Their needs may include medical problems, physical disabilities, developmental delays, or behavioral and emotional disabilities.
- Many infants who come into care have experienced prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol.
- Most (75 percent) are able to return home when their birth families or relatives can provide appropriate care for them.

- Many utilize programs that assist them in obtaining education and job skill training after high school graduation.

Adoption

Of those children who cannot be safely returned home to birth parents or other relatives, many will become available for adoption. Adoption is a legal way of forming a family with a child who was not born to the adoptive parent. In many cases, foster parents choose to become the permanent and legal adoptive parents of children who have been in their home as foster children.

For those children who are not adopted by their foster families, other adoptive families are sought to become the permanent and legal family for the child.

For the federal fiscal year of 2010 there were 797 children adopted. Most of the 797 children were adopted by their foster parents.

Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP)

SNAP is DCBS' Special Needs Adoption Program. SNAP began in 1979 in response to the increasing number of children who were spending too long in foster care without a permanent adoptive home.

The children in the SNAP program are children that are in foster care due to being removed from their birth families by court order, due to abuse, neglect, or dependency. The paternal rights were terminated after exhaustive efforts to reunite the children with their parents or other family members were unsuccessful.

Many of the children in the SNAP program have emotional and behavioral needs because of abuse, neglect, or abandonment that they have experienced. These children also have many strengths and are longing for a permanent family.

Recruitment and Certification teams across the state recruit and help prepare families who are interested in providing a foster/adoptive home for a child in the SNAP program.

Who are the SNAP children?

There are currently 260 children in the SNAP program. The children in the SNAP program are those children who are in foster care and who do not have an identified adoptive family.

The SNAP program provides specialized recruitment for a permanent adoptive family for each child in the program on a state and national level.

Kentucky has a critical need for adoptive families to provide safe, loving, and permanent homes for these children.

Many people think that the term “special needs” indicates a child is mentally or physically disabled. While many of the children in SNAP have these issues, there are also many who do not.

Special needs criteria may include:

- A physical or mental disability;
- An emotional or behavioral disorder;
- A recognized/documented risk of physical, mental, or emotional disorder;
- A member of a sibling group of two or more children in which the siblings are placed together;
- Previous adoption disruption or multiple placements;
- Age 7 or older with a significant emotional attachment or psychological tie to the foster family, and DCBS staff has determined that it would be in the child’s best interest to remain with the family; or
- A child age 2 or older of a racial or an ethnic group.

Adoption Resources

There are many resources available to assist families in adopting and parenting these children. Some of the available services are as follows:

- Medicaid (Medical cards);
- Monthly subsidy – funds used to meet the special needs of the child;
- Nonrecurring adoption expenses – \$1,000 per child to pay for attorney fees and court costs;

- Extraordinary medical expenses – reimbursements for services/equipment not covered by the medical card;
- Adoption tax credit – additional information is available at <http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html>;
- Tuition waiver – tuition for any Kentucky public college/university or a technical school in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) is waived for any special needs child adopted from DCBS;
- Educational Training Voucher (ETV) – available for children who were adopted from DCBS when they were 16 years of age or older. The maximum amount is \$5,000 per student per year; Allowable expenses include books, rent, day care, transportation, utilities and food;
- Out-of-state travel expenses – DCBS may reimburse travel expenses for out-of-state families (who cannot pay) to attend a pre-placement conference or visit a Kentucky child; and
- Post Adoptive Placement Stabilization Services (PAPSS) – allows adoptive parents to place their child in a residential facility for short-term (i.e. 90 days) crisis stabilization, if necessary, when all other services have been exhausted.

Facts About Foster and Adoptive Parents

DCBS depends on the foster and adoptive parents it partners with to nurture the children in state care.

- There are approximately 2,100 certified DCBS foster and adoptive homes in Kentucky.
- They represent all races and many ethnic groups.
- There is a continuous need for families willing to share their homes and their lives with children who need out-of-home care.
- They are willing to work as a team member with the agency, the birth family, and other community partners.
- They are able to provide a safe, nurturing home which promotes the child's growth and development.
- Many foster and adoptive homes have two working parents.

- Foster and adoptive parents may also be called “resource parents”.

What is the cost of becoming a foster or adoptive parent?

The preparation, training, and home study are free. The only cost may be from your physician for the required physical associated with the approval process. You are not obligated to become a foster or adoptive parent because you participate in and/or complete the preparation and training process.

What are the requirements to be a foster or adoptive parent?

There are several requirements for adults who want to become foster or adoptive parents.

- Interested parents must attend an information meeting.
- Applicants must be at least 21 years old.
- Foster/Adoptive parents can be married or single.
- Foster/Adoptive families should be financially stable and have an income (separate from foster care per diems or adoption subsidies) sufficient to meet the family’s needs.
- Applicants must be able to provide a safe, secure, and healthy home for a child.
- Foster/Adoptive parents must be in good physical and mental health.
- The home must meet requirements for housing safety and space.
- All adults in the home must successfully complete pre-service preparation training, and all paperwork to help them make an informed decision about whether fostering and/or adopting is appropriate for their family.
- All applicants and adult household members must complete criminal background checks.

How long does approval take?

The training, evaluation, and approval process normally takes four to six months. The amount of time until a family receives a child depends on how flexible they are about the type of child they wish to parent. Foster parents may receive a child shortly after approval. Adoptive placements generally take longer because the move to an adoptive home must be planned and gradual so both the child and the family have time to adjust.

Specialized Foster Care Services

Once approved as a DCBS foster/adoptive home, a family may choose to seek a specialized level of approval in order to care for children with extraordinary needs. DCBS has two types of specialized foster care services: Care Plus, where a child may otherwise require residential placement and Medically Complex. A family must complete additional and ongoing training and have the recommendation of the R&C worker in order to be approved as a specialized foster home.

Care Plus

The Care Plus program is for children who have emotional problems and display aggressive, destructive, or disruptive behaviors. These children may have experienced numerous placement failures and are at risk of being placed in a more restrictive out-of-home care setting. Care Plus homes allow a child to live in the home, where the resource parent is a role model trained to use skills that lead to positive changes in a child's behavior. Care Plus families do not simply keep children. They send children back into the world emotionally stronger, well-adjusted, and able to maintain the highly supportive relationships developed with the Care Plus family.

Applicants are required to complete a specialized curriculum regarding caring for children designated as Care Plus in addition to the training requirements of a basic foster home.

Medically Complex

There is a tremendous need for Medically Complex Foster/Adoptive Parents and respite providers. Specific training is required and provided for this level of care. If you think this is an area you would like to explore, please see the “Next Steps” on page 14 or contact the Medical Support section at **(502) 564-6852**.

Services for Children in Foster Care

Medicaid

Most children in out-of-home care are eligible to receive a medical card. For those who are not eligible, DCBS is responsible for medical expenses.

Foster Care Reimbursement

Foster parents receive a daily rate, or per diem, which is a reimbursement for meeting the child’s needs, based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) estimated cost to care for a child. The per diem is provided to cover expenses for housing, food, school and recreational expenditures, nonmedical transportation, baby-sitting, respite, some clothing expenses, and an allowance for the child.

Treatment Services

The child’s worker will assist with making necessary referrals to community service providers and coordinating needed services for the child. This may include counseling or other mental health services, evaluation and therapies for developmental delays, or other services to meet identified needs.

Independent Living Services

The John Chafee Independence Program mandates that all children in care age 12 and older receive independent living services. These services may include instruction in the foster home on daily living skills, formal Life Skills, classes and financial

assistance for postsecondary education. Assistance provided for youth to continue their education or vocational training includes:

- Tuition Assistance. Youth ages 18 to 21 who extend their commitment to DCBS for educational purposes are eligible for tuition assistance to attend college or vocational training.
- Tuition waiver. Tuition for any Kentucky public college/ university or a technical school in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) is waived for any child committed to DCBS when he or she turns 18 or any special needs child adopted from DCBS.
- Educational Training Voucher (ETV). Available for youth who left foster care at the age of 18 or who were adopted from DCBS when they were 16 years of age or older. The maximum amount is \$5,000 per student per year. Allowable expenses include books, rent, day care, transportation, utilities, and food.

Please see “Web Links” (**pages 16 and 17**) or call **(502) 564-2147** for additional information about this program.

Resources and Supportive Services for Foster/Adoptive Families

Training

A variety of training is offered by DCBS or coordinated with community partners to provide foster parents with opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills on topics related to meeting the needs of children in care. Approved foster parents are required to receive a minimum of six hours of ongoing training each year.

The Foster Parent Mentor Program

As a Foster Parent you will experience a tremendous sense of satisfaction knowing that you’ve provided a haven of safety, love, and stability for a child in need. You are also likely to experience some of the frustrations and challenges inherent to providing out-of-home care. We want you to know you are not alone! Upon

approval, the Foster Parent Mentor Program will match you with a veteran Foster Parent – in your area – that will provide relevant information, insightful coaching, and genuine encouragement for your first six months of service.

A Mentor will...

- Guide you in the practice of skills learned during the initial training experience
- Suggest a wide variety of parenting strategies unique to providing out-of-home care
- Contact you weekly and be available by phone for those “as needed” moments
- Share information about resources unique to the area
- Confidentially offer emotional and practical support

For additional information, Please call **(877) 440-6376** or visit **<http://www.uky.edu/TRC/FPMentor>**.

Adoption Support for Kentucky (A.S.K.)

A.S.K. provides peer-led adoption support group meetings throughout the Commonwealth. Support and information are also provided by phone, e-mail or through one-on-one meetings with local Adoptive Parent Liaisons. Adoption is a very unique experience and A.S.K. exists to provide a continuum of proactive advocacy, ongoing support, and specialized training to foster and adoptive families.

Any adoptive family may be a part of ASK. Some who attend support group meetings have adopted years ago, while others have recently formed their Forever Family. Others who attend are caring for the child of a relative or are foster parents considering adoption. A.S.K. is proud to offer its services to families formed through state, private, relative, or international adoption, as well as to foster parents and relative caregivers.

Childcare is available during meetings and two hours of Cabinet-approved foster parent training credit is provided. For additional information, as well as meeting dates and locations, please call **(877) 440-6376** or visit **<http://www.uky.edu/TRC/ASK>**.

Special Advocates for Education (S.A.F.E.)

Special Advocates for Education, or S.A.F.E. Specialists, focus on the needs of foster and adoptive parents as they work with their local school system to support positive educational experiences for children-in-care and children adopted from the state's foster care system.

S.A.F.E. Specialists provide the following:

- Phone and email support to foster/adoptive parents in need of educational assistance for their child
- information regarding the policies of the Kentucky Department of Education
- information regarding the current Standards of Practice set forth by the Department of Community Based Services concerning a child-in-care's education
- Attend school meetings (IEP, ARC, Parent/Teacher Conferences) with foster/adoptive parents when available
- Provide technical assistance for trainings focused on the education of children in care

For additional information, visit <http://www.uky.edu/TRC/SAFE> or call **(877) 440-6376**.

The Kentucky Foster and Adoptive Parent Training Support Network

"The Network" has regional teams of experienced foster/adoptive parents throughout the state. The primary objectives of the Network are to provide peer support and training and to help recruit new foster and adoptive homes.

Team members are available to answer questions and have received specialized training to provide short-term crisis intervention for other foster parents during times of stress, frustration, and difficulty. The overall goal of the Network is to retain foster parents and help to minimize placement disruptions. Additional information about the Network is available at www.murraystate.edu/trc or by calling **(877) 994-7491**.

Kentucky Foster/Adoptive Care Association (KFACA)

The KFACA is dedicated to the empowerment and encouragement of foster and adoptive families through advocacy and training. Membership in the KFACA allows families to advocate collectively for the needs of foster and adoptive families, and children in care, at both the state and national level. KFACA is a source of information about issues that affect foster/adoptive families.

KFACA also works in partnership with DCBS to develop and provide training for foster/adoptive families. For additional information about KFACA please visit <http://www.kfaca.com> or email kfaca.ky@gmail.com

Local Foster/Adoptive Care Associations

Most regions have at least one local foster/adoptive care association. Information about these associations may be obtained from recruitment and certification staff within the local regions.

National Foster Parent Association (NFPA)

This national organization strives to support foster parents, and remains a consistently strong voice on behalf of children. Their purpose is to bring together foster parents, agency representatives, and community partners who wish to improve the foster care system and enhance the lives of children and families. The primary activities of the association are to:

- Promote the delivery of services and supports to foster families;
- Support quality foster care by promoting excellence and best practice;
- Provide services and supports to state and local foster parent associations;
- Develop and provide education and training and disseminate information to members and the public;
- Advocate at the local, state, and national level;
- Promote networking and collaboration; and

- Promote positive image of family foster care and encourage active involvement.

Additional information about the NFPA is available by phone at **(800) 557-5238** or online at <http://www.nfpainc.org>.

Recruitment and Certification (R&C) Workers

During the approval process, a recruitment and certification worker will be assigned to complete the family's home study. Each approved family also has an assigned worker. The family's worker will make home visits, respond to questions or needs the family may have, provide training information, ensure that ongoing certification requirements are met, and provide other supportive services.

Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children (KPFC)

KPFC is a private, nonprofit organization which provides resources and support to families caring for children with emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges. Additional information about KPFC can be obtained online at <http://www.kypartnership.net> or by phone at **(800) 369-0533**.

The Foster/Adoptive Parent Hotline

Providing contacts, phone numbers, website addresses, and general information to answer your questions about foster and adoption events and issues. **(877) 440-6376**

Your Single Online Source (SOS) website

A website dedicated to foster and adoptive parents. Providing support and training information throughout the state of Kentucky.

Visit the site at www.uky.edu/trc/SOS.

An Incentive for Foster/Adoptive Parents

Recruitment Bonus

Approved foster/adoptive parents receive a recruitment bonus for each family they refer who becomes approved to provide foster care services for the Cabinet.

The referring foster/adoptive home parent receives a \$100 bonus for the first two new foster/adoptive homes approved, a \$150 bonus for the third and fourth foster/adoptive home approved, and \$200 for the fifth and sixth foster/adoptive home approved. After the sixth foster/adoptive home referred, the bonus is \$250 for each newly approved foster/adoptive home.

What are the next steps?

- If you have not already done so, call to express your interest. Your information will be recorded and you will be notified of the next information meeting in your area. Please see the regional listing on the following pages for the phone number for your county, or call **(800) 232-KIDS (5437)** in Frankfort.
- Attend an information meeting to receive additional information about the children who need care and the approval process.
- Attend and participate in the pre-service trainings and meetings. These are designed to help interested families better understand the needs of children in care and to make an informed decision about whether fostering or adopting is right for your family.
- While attending the pre-service meetings, you will complete the necessary paperwork for your home study, including background checks.
- A recruitment and certification worker will complete several family consultations in your home during the approval process. This provides an opportunity for the worker to gain more information about the family and for the family to ask questions outside of the group setting.

Once the family has completed the necessary pre-service meetings and trainings, all necessary paperwork, and the family consultations, the recruitment and certification worker will complete the home study narrative on the home and submit your home for approval.

DCBS Service Regions and Their Counties

Cumberland Region

- Bell, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Laurel, Knox, Rockcastle, and Whitley
(606) 330-2001
- Adair, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, McCreary, Pulaski, Russell, Taylor, and Wayne
(606) 677-4086

Eastern Mountain Region

- Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike
(606) 788-7100
- Breathitt, Lee, Knott, Leslie, Letcher, Owsley, Perry, and Wolfe
(606) 633-0191

Jefferson Region

- Jefferson
(502) 595-KIDS (5437)

Northeastern Region

- Bath, Bracken, Fleming, Lewis, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Robertson, and Rowan
(606) 845-2381
- Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Greenup, and Lawrence
(606) 920-2130

Northern Bluegrass Region

- Boone, Bourbon, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Kenton, Nicholas, Owen, Pendleton, and Scott
(859) 292-6632

Salt River Trail Region

- Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, and Washington
(270) 766-5099
- Anderson, Bullitt, Franklin, Henry, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, and Woodford
(502) 633-2055 or (888) 698-2221

Southern Bluegrass Region

- Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Garrard, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, and Powell

(859) 245-5488

The Lakes Region

- Caldwell, Christian, Crittenden, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Muhlenberg, Todd, and Trigg
- Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Marshall, and McCracken

(270) 889-6570 or (888) 761-8961

(270) 247-2979

Two Rivers Region

- Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson, and Warren

(270) 746-7447

- Daviess, Hancock, McLean, and Ohio

(270) 687-7491

- Henderson, Union, and Webster

(270) 687-7491

Web Links

Adoption Support for Kentucky

www.uky.edu/TRC/ASK

Adoptuskids

www.adoptuskids.org/

(Federal website for children available for adoption in all states)

DCBS Adoption Services

www.chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dpp/adoptionservices.htm

DCBS Foster Parent Handbook

<http://manuals.sp.chfs.ky.gov/Resources/Pages/relatedResources.aspx>

(Find the Foster Parent Handbook in alphabetical order)

DCBS Out of Home Care

www.chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dpp/outofhomecare.htm

Foster Parent Mentor Program

www.uky.edu/TRC/FPM

IRS Tax Credit

<http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html>

John Chafee Independence Program

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dpp/independentliving.htm>

Kentucky Foster/Adoptive Care Association (KFACA)

<http://www.kfaca.com>

Medically Complex Training Program

www.uky.edu/TRC/MCT

Special Advocates For Education

www.uky.edu/TRC/SAFE

Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP)

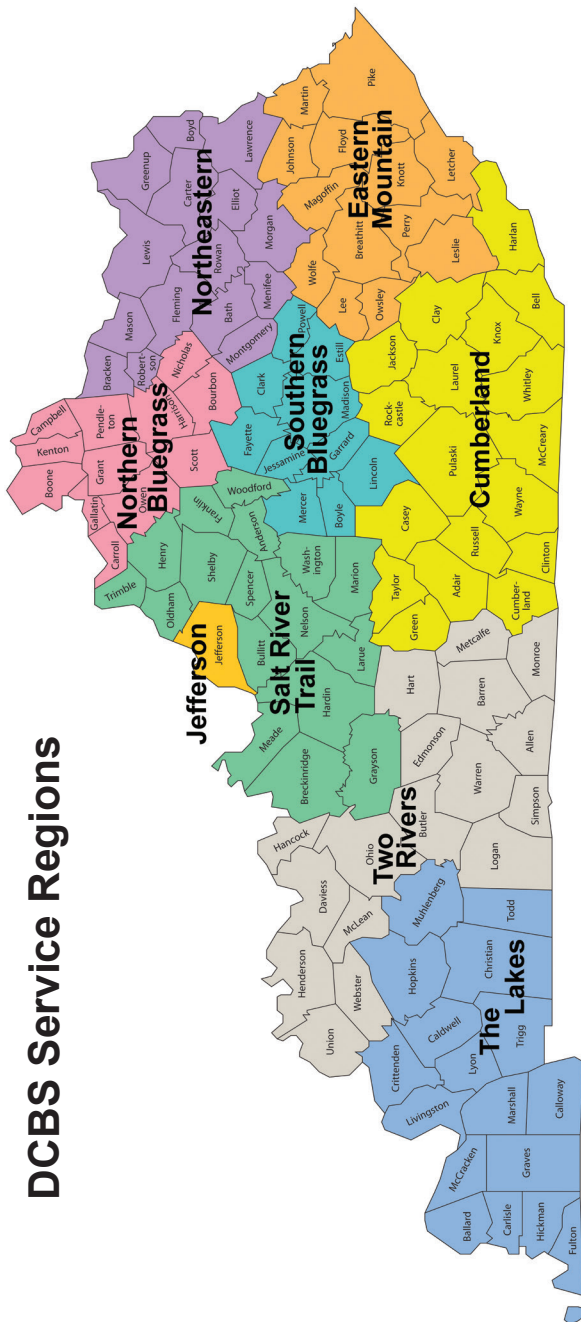
<http://chfs.ky.gov/snap>

The Network

www.murraystate.edu/trc

Questions I want to ask:

DCBS Service Regions



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What is SNAP ?

SNAP is the Special Needs Adoption Program in the Adoptions Branch of the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), which is the primary adoption agency in Kentucky.

SNAP began in 1979 in response to the increasing number of children who were spending too long in foster care without a permanent adoptive home.

SNAP children are legally free for adoption AND do not have an identified adoptive family. These children have been removed from their birth parents by a court order. Parental rights have been terminated because the parents could not provide appropriate care for the children.

SNAP works together with the recruitment and certification teams ("R&C" workers), located within Kentucky's nine service regions, with interested families who are recruited and trained in preparation to adopt and/or foster children who have no permanent home.



**Kentucky Cabinet for Health
and Family Services**

**Department for Community
Based Services**

**Adoptions Services Branch
275 East Main Street, 3C-E
Frankfort, Ky 40621**

Web site: <https://prd.chfs.ky.gov/snap/>

Phone: (800) 928-4303
or (800) 432-9346



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Kentucky Special Needs Adoption Program



**Kentucky Cabinet
for Health and
Family Services**

**Department for
Community Based Services**



What are SNAP children ?

There are more than 400 children in the Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP) who are legally free for adoption and do not have an identified adoptive family.

Kentucky has a critical need for adoptive families to provide safe, loving and permanent homes for these children.

Many people think that the term "special needs" indicates a child is mentally or physically disabled. While many of the children in SNAP have these issues, there are also many who do not.

Special Needs Criteria

DCBS staff determines that the child will not be returned to the home of his parents (e.g., TRP);

The child has a specific special need;

And, a reasonable, but unsuccessful effort was made to place the child without providing adoption assistance (e.g. referral to SNAP or out-of-state agency as there was no waiting family available, or conditions exist which have made it impossible to place such a child in the past without adoption assistance.)

Family Resources

Many resources are available to assist families in adopting and parenting these children.

Some of the available services are as follows:

- **Medicaid** - (Medical cards)
- **Monthly subsidy** - funds used to meet the special needs of the child
- **Nonrecurring adoption expenses** - \$1,000 per child to pay for attorney fees and court costs
- **Extraordinary medical expenses** - reimbursements for services/equipment not covered by the medical card
- **Adoption tax credit**
- **Tuition waiver** - tuition for any public college/university is waived for any special needs child adopted from DCBS.
- **Educational Training Voucher (ETV)** - available for children who were adopted from DCBS when they were 16 years of age or older. The maximum amount is \$5,000 per student per year. Allowable expenses include books, rent, day care, transportation, utilities and food.



- **Out-of-state travel expenses** - DCBS may reimburse travel expenses for out-of-state families (who cannot pay) to attend a preplacement conference or visit a Kentucky child.

■ **Post Adoptive Placement Stabilization Services (PAPSS)** -

allows adoptive parents to place their child in a residential facility for short-term (i.e. 90-days) crisis stabilization without relinquishing custody.



**Thank you for your
interest in Kentucky's
waiting children!**

How do I get involved?

For local support group information, contact your:

Adoptive Parent Liaison

Or Contact:

Adoption Support for Kentucky

Toll free: 1-877-440-6376

Email: adoptky@uky.edu



Foster/Adoptive Support and Training Programs (F.A.S.T)

These F.A.S.T. Programs are part of the University of Kentucky College of Social Work Training Resource Center. They work in collaboration to meet the needs of foster/adoptive families throughout the Commonwealth.

- Adoption Support for Kentucky
- Resource Parent Training Program
George Humlong: 859-257-2106
georgehumlong@uky.edu
- Special Advocates for Education
George Humlong: 859-257-210
georgehumlong@uky.edu
- Resource Parent Mentor Program
Jeff Damron: 859-257-9837
ljdarn2@uky.edu
Tamikia Dumas: 859-257-8339
tduma1@uky.edu
- Medically Fragile Training Program
Susan Bunch: 812-280-8991
susan.bunch@uky.edu



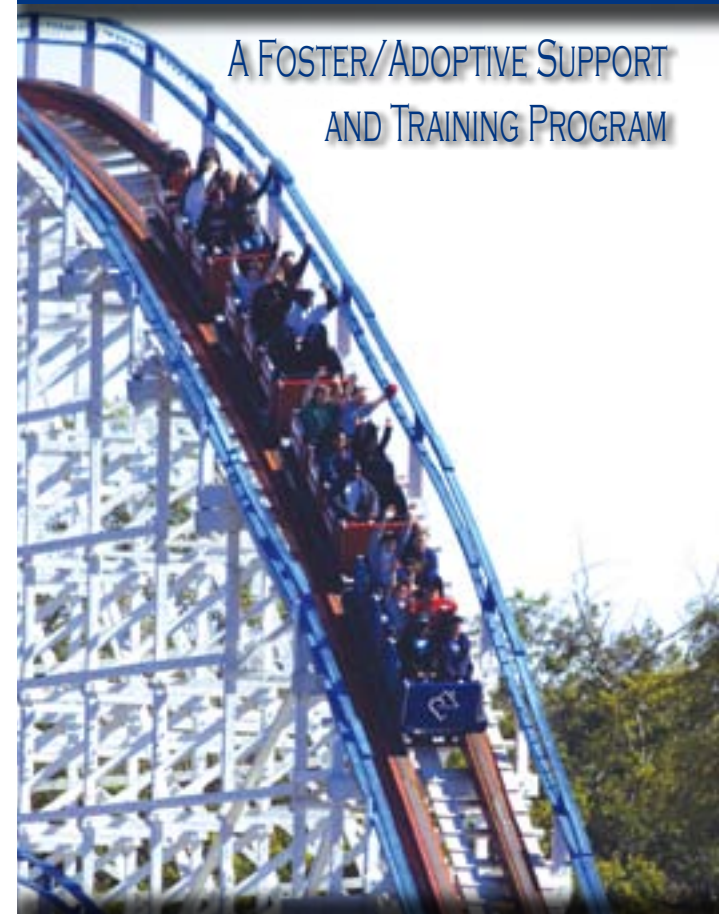
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***ADOPTION
SUPPORT FOR
KENTUCKY***



**A FOSTER/ADOPTIVE SUPPORT
AND TRAINING PROGRAM**

1 Quality Street, Suite 700
Lexington, KY 40507
859-257-7361
1-877-440-6376

Web: www.uky.edu/TRC/AdoptionSupportforKentucky
Email: adoptky@uky.edu

Foster/Adoptive Support and Training Programs

The mission of the University of Kentucky College of Social Work Training Resource Center is to providing training, technical assistance, service and evaluation to professionals and caregivers working to improve the well-being of families, children and communities throughout Kentucky and around the world.

What is A.S.K.?

Adoption Support for Kentucky consists of parent-led adoptive parent support groups throughout each region of the state. Adoption is a very unique experience and A.S.K. exists to provide support in order to ensure stable adoptive placements.

Who can be a part of A.S.K.?

Any adoptive family may use the services of A.S.K. Some parents adopted many years ago and would like to stay connected and share their knowledge with others. Some are newly approved resource parents awaiting their first placement. Some are caring for the child of a relative. Some have adopted privately or internationally. Some are foster parents who are trying to decide if adoption is right for their family. All are welcome at A.S.K. support group meetings. There is no need to call ahead or RSVP...just show up!

What can A.S.K. do for us?

- Peer-led support groups for adoptive parents, kinship care providers, and foster parents considering adoption
- One-on-one support from an experienced adoptive family
- A great way to connect, network and meet other parents who are sharing the same experience
- Information on policies and procedures
- 2 hours of Cabinet-approved resource parents training credit
- Advocacy assistance
- Statewide resource information
- Information on medical/behavioral issues

"I didn't give you the gift of life, but life gave me the gift of you." -Unknown

Why are support groups important?

Parent support groups can:

- Enable parents to share resources, suggestions, and success stories
- Validate parents' experiences and frustrations
- Share coping strategies
- Celebrate the joys and triumphs unique to foster/adoptive parenting
- Identify and offer problem solving techniques
- Provide on-going training
- Offer encouragement, affirmation, and hope

"We should not be asking who this child belongs to, but who belongs to this child." - Jim Gritter

Adoption Support for Kentucky Sharing the experience!

UNIVERSITY BASED SUPPORTS FOR KENTUCKY'S RESOURCE PARENTS

FUNDED BY THE KENTUCKY CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES



ADOPTION SUPPORT FOR KENTUCKY

UK Training Resource Center

Provides regularly scheduled peer-led adoption support group meetings throughout the Commonwealth for all foster and adoptive parents, as well as relative caregivers.

Services

One-on-one peer support through phone, email and individual meetings

2 hours of Cabinet-approved training credit.

Information on policies and procedures related to foster care and adoption

Childcare while you participate in a support group meeting

www.uky.edu/trc/ASK

1 877 440-6376



Medically Fragile Training Program

UK Training Resource Center

Provides initial and ongoing Medically Fragile training for DCBS & PCP foster parents and PCP staff.

Services

Medically Fragile pre-service training

Statewide ongoing Medically Fragile training

Maintains a listserv to share information and resources specific to Medically Fragile care

www.uky.edu/trc/MCT

1 877 440-6376



UK Training Resource Center

Provides relevant, moment-in-time support and training to newly approved DCBS foster parents through a six month mentoring relationship with veteran foster parents.

Services

Reinforces skills learned during initial foster parent training

Weekly contact and continuous availability

Models and encourages appropriate partnership with DCBS

Emotional support

Parenting strategies

Resource information

www.uky.edu/trc/FPM

1 877 440-6376



UK Training Resource Center

Provides child specific educational resource and logistical information to DCBS & PCC foster/adoptive parents in an effort to improve educational outcomes for foster and adoptive children.

Services

Phone, email and one-to-one support to foster/adoptive parents in need of assistance regarding their child's education

Attend education planning meetings with foster/adoptive parents

www.uky.edu/trc/SAFE

1 877 440-6376



MSU Training Resource Center

Addresses the unique local and regional training, recruitment, and retention needs of foster/adoptive parents and DCBS.

Services

Regional parent-led teams

Confidential, peer crisis support

Recruitment of new foster/adoptive parents

Training and education programs

Proactive contacts each month

www.murraystate.edu/trc

1 877-994-9970