Children's Home Society of North Carolina

Your Journey to Becoming a Foster Parent

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A SAFE, LOVING HOME—AND YOU CAN BE PART OF THAT STORY.

At Children's Home Society of North Carolina (CHS), we walk alongside individuals and families who feel called to foster, providing guidance, preparation, and ongoing support every step of the way.

Becoming a licensed foster parent is a thoughtful, supportive process designed to prepare you - not just approve you. Most families complete the journey in 4–6 months.

1. Start the Conversation

It begins with a simple step: reaching out. Fill out an inquiry form or attend a free, no commitment info session.

Our team will answer questions, explain expectations, and help determine whether fostering is the right fit for your family.

2. Take the First Step Forward

You will complete an application and required background checks – including criminal history screenings and child welfare clearances for all adult household members.
This helps ensure every child is placed in a safe and secure environment.

3. Learn & Prepare

Through pre-service training, you will gain the tools to:

- Understand the impact of trauma
- Support children's emotional and behavioral needs
- Navigate the foster care system with confidence

4. Open Your Home

A CHS specialist will complete a home assessment—a process that includes:

- In-home visits and safety inspections (fire/water safety)
- Interviews with all household members
- Review of medical, financial, and personal history
- Conversations about your strengths and support systems
- Ensuring your home is ready to welcome a child

5. Become Licensed

Once training, background checks, and the home assessment are complete, the application is submitted to the state for approval.

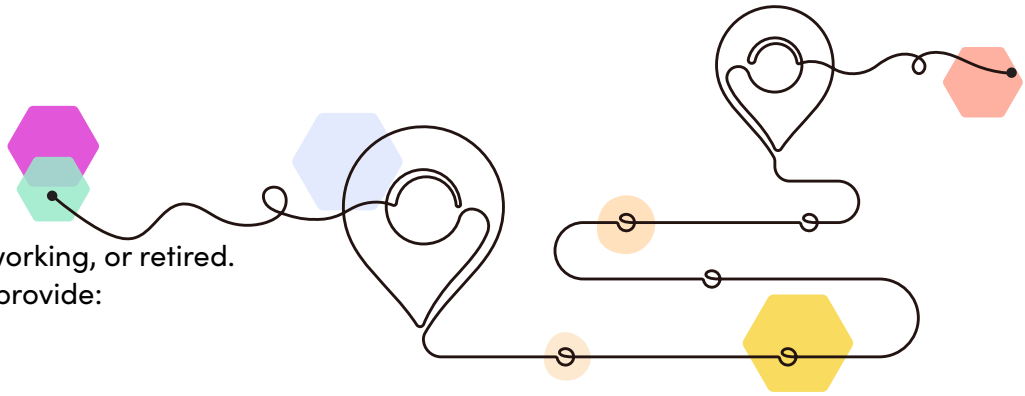
Upon approval, families are officially licensed as foster parents in North Carolina.

6. Welcome a Child—With Support!

When a child is referred for placement, you will receive an email/text from CHS with details. CHS works with families to match children based on needs and strengths. Some families receive a placement quickly—sometimes within days.

You can opt to accept or decline the placement. Once you accept a placement, you are never alone. CHS provides:

- Ongoing case management
- 24/7 support
- Continued training and resources



Who Can Foster?

Foster parents come from all walks of life. You may be single, married, working, or retired. What matters most is your ability to provide:

- A safe, stable home
- Patience and compassion
- A commitment to supporting children and families

Why It Matters

Right now, children across North Carolina are waiting for someone to step in with care, consistency, and hope.

"Fostering isn't about having all the answers—it's about showing up, again and again, for a child who needs you."

Take the First Step

You do not have to be perfect to foster.
You just have to be willing to help.
Start your journey today.

Start Here.

Inquire today or
Sign up for a FREE info session

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