



## DCF Foster Parents as Informal Child Care Program

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The Department of Children and Families, in conjunction with the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC), is launching a new program to utilize foster parents as Informal Child Care (ICC) Providers.

Licensed foster parents will provide childcare for other children in DCF custody to ensure these children have a safe and appropriate place to spend the day while DCF staff works to find the child a foster care placement and appropriate long-term childcare.

This program is available during the daytime to support placement stability for children in DCF custody.

### Funding and Rates

- Funding is limited
- All foster parents paid \$30 per day per child on days DCF uses their service. Please note: this money may be taxable as stated in the MOU.
- DCF staff is responsible for transportation.
- Numbers of ICC Foster Parent providers are determined by the Area Office's needs.

### Eligibility

Any child with in DCF custody in need of childcare to promote placement stability may be referred for Informal Child Care. Examples of children who qualify include, but are not limited, to:

- A child who recently came into DCF custody and for whom DCF is actively searching for a foster care placement (child may be in night-to-night placement)
- A child who has a kin placement identified, but the kin cannot take the child until regular childcare is set up.

Please note: This program should only be used when it can safely and appropriately meet the needs of the specific child. **DCF will screen children daily for COVID-19 before proceeding with referral or drop-off. Program cannot be used for children who are COVID positive, exposed or symptomatic.**

### Inappropriate Use

Foster parents as ICC Providers should not be used in the following situations:

- As a regular childcare alternative for a child in a placement.
- Indefinitely; this is a time limited, temporary solution.
- To provide overnight care.

All Foster parents must have a signed MOU in order to care for children.

*Note: parents who are EEC licensed Family Child Care Providers can't participate in this program. Those foster parents may apply to be part of the DCF Temporary Child Care Program.*

### Length of utilization

- The ICC service is authorized for each child on a daily basis or for up to 5 days at a time.
- A child may stay in ICC longer if needed and approved by management.

### Recruitment

- Offices will recruit ICC Foster Parents from their, licensed, Unrestricted and Child Specific/Kin foster parents. ADLU homes may also be utilized.
- Each Area Office will use their clinical discretion and their knowledge of the foster parents that serve their office to select the most appropriate foster parents for this Program.