

What is a Resource Family?

A Resource Family is an individual or family that fosters. Resource Parents and Resource Families are as diverse as our community. YOU can become a Resource Parent/Resource Family, too!

Agency requirements to become a resource parent/family:

- Minimum age of 25 for at least one parent
- Employed inside or outside the home
- Living in the City of Alexandria or any of the neighboring counties in Virginia
- Renter or homeowner

Resource parents may be:

- Single, married, divorced or living with a partner
- With or without biological children
- Any race, ethnicity, religion, culture, and sexual orientation
- Renters or homeowners

A Snapshot of Alexandria's Children

The Department of Community and Human Services usually has about 100 children in care. About half of the children are part of large sibling groups, almost half are middle school age or older, and the majority are Black. The average time an Alexandria child spends in foster care is at least one year.

Only a few can be Resource Parents, but everyone can help children in foster care. You can help, too!

Children in foster care in Alexandria rely on community support. The Fund for Alexandria's Child aids vulnerable children by providing resources for experiences and necessities that cannot be funded otherwise, such as sports equipment, school pictures, music lessons, and graduation attire. These provisions are essential for helping children grow and integrate with their peers.



What is Foster Care?

Foster care is a temporary living arrangement providing parenting for children who cannot stay in their homes because of abuse, neglect or other family problems. The goal of foster care is to make children safer and strengthen families. When a child or youth comes into the care of DCHS, reunification with their family is always the first goal and preferred plan. While a child is in foster care, social workers, resource parents and birth parents work together to help the child return home. Resource parents are key partners in achieving the best outcomes for families.

Who Are the Children in Foster Care?

Children in the City of Alexandria's foster care system are between the ages of 0-18. Most often the children in need of placement are not babies or toddlers; they are teenagers, sibling groups, or children with varying mental behavioral, emotional or physical health needs. Some children have been significantly impacted by traumatic experiences and very much need stability and attention.

While all types of resource families are desired, there is a strong need in the City of Alexandria for resource families who are willing to care for teenagers. Resource families who can care for sibling groups and individuals who can speak Spanish are also needed. The resource unit matches children with parents who can best meet their needs. We are committed to your success as a resource parent, providing the training, resources, and unwavering support you need to thrive.

Scan to learn more:



03.04.2025

Resource Parenting In Alexandria

Foster Care Program



DEPARTMENT OF
**COMMUNITY &
HUMAN SERVICES**

4850 Mark Center Dr., Seventh Floor
alexandriava.gov/DCHS

Make an Inquiry/Find out More

The process begins when you call the Resource Home Recruiter at 703.746.5858 to obtain more information.

1

How to Become a Resource Parent

ROADMAP FOR APPLICANTS

2

Pre-service Training: NTDC (National Training and Development Curriculum for Foster and Adoptive Parents)

We will provide training to introduce you to parenting and supporting children, youth, and families impacted by foster care.

3

Submit an application

Submit a completed application. An assessor will be assigned to discuss the next steps with you and help with the certification process. Every adult member in your household will need to consent to criminal history and child abuse background checks.

4

Mutual Family Assessment (MFA)

The home study includes interviews, home visits, reference checks, meeting with your children and others who may live in the home, safety inspections, financial, and medical information. In most cases, these activities are completed within 90-120 days.

5

Mutual Selection Process

You will better be able to make the decision about becoming a resource parent after you've attended training and completed the home study. Together we will assess whether resource parenting is right for you and your family. Making the decision to become a resource parent is a difficult one, and you may opt out at any time. Final approval rests with the agency.

6

Certification Complete

Once all required paperwork is complete and the MFA is approved, you will receive a certificate of approval to be a resource parent for a three-year period. You are ready to welcome a child or youth into your home and begin supporting families.

Call us: 703.746.5858

To learn more about the Resource Parent Program in the City of Alexandria, please contact:
DCHS-FosterParentInfo@alexandriava.gov