



ACS works diligently to support children and families so they can remain safely in their homes. However, there are times, due to serious neglect or maltreatment, a child must enter foster care. Caring adults are needed to open their hearts and homes to care for these children. In particular, New York City's is seeking foster parents who can provide a stable and loving home to:

- Children and youth with complex behavioral health, developmental and medical needs
- Adolescent youth ages 13 and older
- Children who are part of sibling groups

Please contact the [ACS WISHline](tel:212-676-WISH) at [212-676-WISH \(9474\)](tel:212-676-WISH) or request an [Information Packet](#) for more information.

Below please see an overview of the certification process.

1. **Attend an Orientation and Complete the Application** – *The orientation for prospective foster parents offer an in-depth explanation of foster care and what being foster parent involves. Interested parents can complete and return an application to start the process.*
2. **Complete the Certification Process:** *The pathway to becoming a Foster Parent requires completing various steps in the certification process, including:*
  - Attend **Foster Parent training** to learn more about foster care and develop skills to be a supportive foster parent.
  - Obtain a **Medical Clearance** as foster parents are expected to be healthy to best care for a child.
  - Successful completion of a comprehensive **Background Check**, which is required for all adults 18 and older living within your household.
  - Participate in a **Home Study** which is an assessment of your home to determine if it is safe and appropriate for children.

Successful completion of these steps is required for foster parent certification. Once certified, foster parents will receive on-going support and guidance from the foster care agency.

### Once A Child is Placed in Your Home

Once you're a certified foster parent, the foster care agency will work to appropriately match a child/youth with you to be placed in your home. Most children can return home safely to their parents. When that can't happen, some foster parents become adoptive parents.

We look forward to pairing you with one NYC's foster care agencies to provide you with critical information, guidance and support throughout the process.