

The Resource Family MODEL

Children come into state custody every day through no fault of their own. While we know you are seeking to adopt, we ask you to consider another option that will allow you to impact the lives of children and families forever – **the resource family model**.

The resource family model is a process in which families begin as foster parents and, in cases where children are unable to return home, the foster family has the opportunity to adopt the children who have been in their care. Within this model, the majority of children placed with you will ultimately return home. However, fostering highly increases your opportunities to adopt at some point in your journey.

Children being able to safely return home is the ultimate success story! This means that families have worked to correct the conditions that originally brought their children into foster care and that they have learned the skills and behaviors necessary to successfully sustain their families into the future. As a foster family, you would be part of that success story, helping to nurture and heal the children in your home while also supporting and healing their families. It is difficult work and you must be prepared to experience heart break, grief and loss through the process. But, we will offer supports to your family and walk with you as you navigate the difficult times and will celebrate with you as the families you are helping are restored and forever changed.



Some birth families, however, are unable to resolve their problems and reunification isn't possible. When this happens, the State is responsible for finding these children a permanent home, often through adoption. As a foster family in our resource family model, there is a strong possibility that you may be asked to provide a forever home for a child in your care. In fact, 95% of children adopted in 2017-2018 were adopted by their current foster parents.

While you foster, you can have an adoption case too. This allows you to attend adoption events and be considered through a statewide matching process to be matched with a child waiting for adoption. While your home is open for fostering, you are expected to have at least one foster child placed in your home. If you have no children placed in your home for more than 30 days, then your worker will begin having a conversation with you about the reasons and to ensure your goals are aligned with DHS' goals.

If the resource family model does not sound like a good fit for your family, DHS is willing to recruit adoption-only families only if they are willing to adopt children who are 12 years of age and older, large sibling groups (three or more), children who have special needs or specific children who are available for adoption. If this is not what your family is seeking, we can provide you with contact information for private adoption agencies.

We hope you will consider the resource family model and the opportunities your family has to change lives forever. Your worker will be happy to discuss any questions you may have and to help guide you on your journey.

Your Worker's Information:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____



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