



# Resource Guide

For Region 3E and surrounding areas

Fostering Connections  
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**Connection**  
CHANGES EVERYTHING

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS EXISTS TO UNITE COMMUNITIES FOR THE WELL-BEING OF FOSTER, ADOPTIVE AND KINSHIP FAMILIES. OUR MISSION IS TO CREATE A NETWORK OF CARE SO NO FAMILY WALKS ALONE!

[WWW.FOSTERING-CONNECTIONS.NET](http://WWW.FOSTERING-CONNECTIONS.NET)





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Fostering Connections is dedicated to uniting communities for the well-being of families impacted by foster care, adoption and kinship care. Through collaboration with local churches, businesses and community resources, we strive to provide unwavering support and essential resources to families navigating the foster care and adoption journey. Our commitment is to create a network of care that ensures no family walks alone.

We truly believe that connection changes everything! We hope that this collaborative effort to curate this wealth of important information will help families to find the community, support and resources they need to keep saying yes to the hard work of foster care and adoption.

We want you to know that there are so many amazing resources in our area that are here to support you! While this resource directory strives to be exhaustive, things change quickly in our world. If you have any issues accessing a resource or have any resources to share, please reach out so that we can keep this information up to date and useful for everyone in our community!

Thank you so much for all that your family does to care for children in need.

Sincerely,

Heather Poole

Fostering Connections

[www.fostering-connections.net](http://www.fostering-connections.net)

[heather@fostering-connections.net](mailto:heather@fostering-connections.net)



# Licensing Requirements – First Steps

## **Step 1: Choose an Agency**

All agencies are state contracted to work with CPS or OCOK (region 3B). Your job is to choose the one who best fits your family, schedule and desires. Do you want to adopt? Foster only? Adopt Only? What type of training do you prefer? In class or online? These are all questions you want to ask when “interviewing agencies”. Choose one that best fits your family . You can find links to agencies that Chosen Ones works with on our website under the “Where to Begin” tab. Most agencies have informational meetings you can attend to learn more.

## **Step 2: Fill Out the Agency Application**

This can be a long process, but take it one page at a time. The paperwork can be overwhelming, but there are lots of other families here to help.

## **Step 3: Attend Training Classes**

A schedule will be provided to you by your agency of choice. Each agency has a different schedule and can usually accommodate families for training every month or every other month. The state mandated hours for training are 30 hours per individual. You get these hours in your classes. Some agencies offer classes every Tuesday and Thursday nights along with 2 full Saturday classes which enable you to complete your hours in approximately 2 weeks. If you miss a class, you can always make it up the next month. CPR/First Aid classes are usually a part of your training, but not always, so check your agency to be sure.

## **Step 4: Have your Home and Fire Inspections**

Your home will need to be inspected for health and fire codes. A checklist will be provided by your agency so you can be prepared. Most cities have inspectors for this task, but in the event your city does not do inspections, your agency will do it for you. They are looking to ensure your home is safe for children.

## **Step 5: Home Study Completed**

A home study is a biography of your home. It is used to match you with the appropriate children according to your criteria, especially in the event of a matched adoption. A licensed social worker will come to your home and interview you and members of your household for several hours. They want to know your perspective and views on how you were raised and how you parent. Remember, they are entrusting you with precious children who have been abused or neglected, so this process is very important. After the interview, the worker will then type up your home study and present it to your agency for review. Upon review and approval of the home study, a license is issued to you and you are now an official foster parent!



# Basic Requirements

## **Must be 21 Years of Age and Financially Stable**

Some agencies are 25 and up, please call to verify.

## **Must Show Proof of Marriage or Divorce**

If you are not married or divorced and are living with another person, CPS will only allow one member of the household to get licensed and all others are approved caregivers.

## **Agree to Criminal History Background Check**

All criminal histories are looked at on a case by case basis and are dealt with according to the dates/type of crime; however, if any crimes include domestic violence or child abuse, you will not be considered for licensing.

## **Obtain CPR/First Aid Certification**

Most agencies provide these classes as part of their training. If not provided, you must obtain these classes independently. Chosen Ones has a list of independent contractors for this certification.

## **Obtain TB Testing**

Each family member ages 2 and over are required to obtain a TB test. The tests are available for very little cost at your physician's office or clinic. If you need a referral for TB testing, please let us know.

## **Have Adequate Sleeping Space**

CPS Minimum Standards require 40 sq. ft. per child per room. That equates to 3 children together in a 10X12 bedroom (with a closet). Bunk beds are allowed. Boys and girls are allowed to stay together in a room until age 5. After 5 years, boys and girls must be in separate rooms. There must always be a maximum of 5 years difference between children who share rooms.

### **EXAMPLE:**

5 y/o boy with a 9 year old boy- YES

5 y/o boy with a 14 year old boy-NO.

The same applies to girls. Infants may stay in a foster parent's room in a crib until the age of 12 months. Refer to CPS minimum standards for more information on this topic.

## **Must be Able to Show Proof of Income and Budget**

Foster families will need to complete a worksheet with monthly expenses to ensure your expenses do not exceed your income. In certain instances, credit checks are completed to ensure a bankruptcy has not been filed in the last year.



# Types of Care

## **Foster Care**

Foster Care is temporary care of an abused or neglected child. Referrals are made through teachers, individuals, relatives and others and are reported to CPS. After a report is made, a CPS investigator must investigate the claims of abuse. If the abuse claims are valid, a child is removed from the home and placed in a foster care home.

The goal of foster care is family reunification. In the first 6 months of a case, the parents are assigned “services” by CPS and are required to take steps toward improving their situation (drug classes, domestic violence classes, secure a job, secure housing, etc.) Mandatory court dates are set along the way (SEE Foster Parent Timeline) to check the progress of the parents. At the same time, CPS is trying to locate kinship or fictive kin (non blood related) relatives to see if anyone will take the child.

Foster Care cases in Texas have to be complete by 12 months unless an extension is granted to 18 months. By this time, all parties should be in agreement as to what is in the best interest of the child reunification or termination of parental rights.

## **Foster to Adopt**

In the event biological parents have not completed the mandatory requirements to have their children returned to a safe environment, and all attempts have been made to locate a sufficient relative, the court will set to terminate parental rights and have the case move towards adoption. Foster parents who have had the children in their home are the first option for adoption. A court date is set for termination of parental rights and the foster parent can adopt soon thereafter.

## **Matched Adoption**

In some cases, foster parents are not adoption motivated and do not want to pursue adoption of a foster child. In this case, the child becomes “legally free” for adoption. CPS begins to accept home studies of potential adoptive families and the matching process begins. Waiting, licensed families then are selected and are able to “read” the file of a potential match. If the family agrees to the adoptive placement, the child is then placed in their home for a period of 6 months and the adoption is then finalized.

## **Respite Care**

Respite Care is care of another family's foster child while they are on vacation, have a medical need, are traveling for work etc. This does require a respite certification, but the requirements are not as in depth as that of a foster parent. This is a great way to ease in to foster care and some families choose this route as a segue to fostering.



# Benefits of State Foster Care and Adoptions

## Benefits of Foster Children

- State stipend applies to all foster parents starting at \$830.00 per month for a basic child.
- All foster children have Medicaid Insurance with no copays.
- All infants are eligible for state WIC programs (formula/infants, food/older children).
- Working foster parents are eligible for CCMS, a program that pays for daycare for full-time working foster parents.

## Benefits of State Adoptions

- Adoption incentives for adopting older children include monthly stipend up to \$400.00 per month until 18th birthday, Medicaid benefits until 18th birthday, and FREE in-state college tuition.
- Older children are defined as any child who is over the age of 2 who is non-Caucasian, a child with special needs (as defined by CPS), OR a sibling group of 2 or more children.
- Caucasian children over the age of 6 also qualify for these benefits.
- Children adopted under the age of 2 do not qualify for these benefits EXCEPT free in-state college tuition, unless special needs apply.



## Support Groups

Church/City	Program	Contact Information	Address	Schedule
Acton Baptist Church	Wrap Around	<a href="https://www.actonbaptist.com/wraparound">https://www.actonbaptist.com/wraparound</a>	Granbury, TX	
Avenue Church Waxahachie	Anchors and Arrows		1761 US-77 Waxahachie 75165	3rd Thursday/month 6-8pm
Brazos Church Burleson		817-845-2754	428 SW Johnson Ave	3rd Wed/month 10am
Chosen Ones Tarrant County	Foster/Adopt Support	<a href="http://www.chosenones.org/groupsclasses">www.chosenones.org/groupsclasses</a>	7600 Sand St. Ft. Worth 76118	Various around Tarrant County
Christ Community Church of Denton		<a href="https://c3denton.com/foster-adopt/">https://c3denton.com/foster-adopt/</a>	Denton, TX	
Church at the Cross		<a href="https://churchatthecross.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2892368">https://churchatthecross.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2892368</a>	Grapevine, TX	
Cleburne Bible Church		<a href="https://www.cleburnebible.org/adoption-and-foster-support/">https://www.cleburnebible.org/adoption-and-foster-support/</a>	Cleburne, TX	
Cottonwood Creek Church Allen	Woven Ministry	Terra Towne 214-914-1453 <a href="mailto:terratowne1@gmail.com">terratowne1@gmail.com</a>	1015 Sam Rayburn Tollway Allen 75013	
Embrace Ministries McKinney		Bruce Kendrick <a href="http://www.embracetexas.org">www.embracetexas.org</a>	100 E. Louisiana St. McKinney 75069	3rd Thursday/month 8-9:30pm @ Fuzzy's Tacos
FaithFul Mom's Sherman		April Layman Whitmire		3rd Tuesday/month @ Fulbelli's
Fellowship Church Royse City	Foster	Brittany Brunson	900 Pullin St. Royse City 75189	4th Monday 6:30pm
Fellowship of the Parks Grapevine	Simply Love	<a href="mailto:simplylove@fellowshipoftheparks.com">simplylove@fellowshipoftheparks.com</a> 817-741-3687 <a href="http://www.fotp.church/simplylove">www.fotp.church/simplylove</a>	1901 Hall-Johnson Rd Grapevine 76051	
Fellowship of the Parks Haslet	Simply Love	<a href="mailto:simplylove@fellowshipoftheparks.com">simplylove@fellowshipoftheparks.com</a> <a href="http://www.fotp.church/simplylove">www.fotp.church/simplylove</a>	1029 Avondale Haslet Rd. Haslet 76052	
Fellowship of the Parks Keller	Simply Love	<a href="mailto:simplylove@fellowshipoftheparks.com">simplylove@fellowshipoftheparks.com</a> <a href="http://www.fotp.church/simplylove">www.fotp.church/simplylove</a>	9900 N Beach St. Keller 76244	
Fielder Church		<a href="https://www.fielder.org/foster-care-and-adoption/">https://www.fielder.org/foster-care-and-adoption/</a>	Arlington TX	
First Baptist Church - Allen		<a href="http://www.fbcallen.org">www.fbcallen.org</a>		4th Sunday/Month 5-6:30pm Children's Building Room 213
First Baptist Church - Forney	H.O.P.E.	Kristen Morgan <a href="mailto:kmorgan@fbcforney.org">kmorgan@fbcforney.org</a>	1003 College St. (FM741) Forney, TX 75126	



## Support Groups

Church/City	Program	Contact Information	Address	Schedule
First Baptist Church - Keller		Tony Richmond www.fbckeller.org	222 Keller Parkway Keller 76248	
First Baptist Church Rockwall	Mosaic	mosaic@firstrockwall.org 972-771-8459	610 S. Goliad Rockwall 75087	Supports but doesn't offer Regular group meetings
First United Methodist Hurst	Foster/Adopt Support	Dorothy Romero 512-636-5734 www.fmchurst.org	521 W Pipeline Rd Hurst 76053	2nd Sunday EOM 6:30-8pm
Foundations of Life Church - Ennis		Eunise Richardson eunise@folcennis.com	Ennis, TX	Support - Parents Night Out
High Ridge Church		<a href="https://highridgechurch.com/choose/">https://highridgechurch.com/choose/</a>	Fort Worth, TX	
Irving Bible Church Irving	Tapestry	Ryan North 972-560-4600 tapestry@irvingbible.org	2435 Kinwest Pkwy. Irving 75063	Connected Families 1st Wed/Month @ 6:30pm; Foster Support Group 2nd Wed/Month; Moms or Dads Group (separate) 4th Wed/Month
Lakepointe Church Rockwall	Foster Care & Adoption Support	Jay Jordan jay.jordan@gmail.com 469-698-2200 www.lakepointe.org/counseling/groups/	701 I-30 Rockwall TX 75087	First Wednesday/Month 7-8pm Room: W214
Northplace Church Sachse	Foster/Adopt Support	Crystal Liechty and Ashley Brittain 972-495-1116 www.northplacechurch.com	2800 Pleasant Valley Rd Sachse 75048	Wednesdays 7:15pm
One Community Church Plano	One by 1	Trisha Weber oneby1@visitonecc.com		
Pathway Church Burelson		<a href="https://pathway.church/ministries/outreach/">https://pathway.church/ministries/outreach/</a>	Burleson, TX	
Prestonwood Church Plano	Chosen Ministry	Cara Von Tress 469-766-9513 info@chosenforchildren.org		
Restoration Church		www.restorationtx.com	1280 E Highland St., Southlake, TX 76092	
Stonegate Church Foster Ministry		<a href="https://stonegate.church/foster-and-adoption/">https://stonegate.church/foster-and-adoption/</a>	Midlothian, TX	
TCAL Mansfield	TCAL FAM / Foster Adopt Ministry	Brandi Raines brandi@mytcal.com 817-449-7389	3810 Hadley Lane, Venus TX 76084	Meets 2nd Sunday every month 1-3pm

# Support Groups

Church/City	Program	Contact Information	Address	Schedule
The Bridge Denton		William McDonald mac.mcdonald1979@gmail.com or students@thewellargyle.com		Men 3rd Fri/month 7-8:30pm @ West Oak Coffee; Women 2nd Tues/Month 7-8:30pm @ Zera Coffee
The Heights Baptist Church Richardson		972-238-7243	Creekside Campus 1105 N. Waterview Dr. Richardson 75080	Women 1st Thursday/Month 6:30-8:30pm; Men 3rd Tues/month
The Mount Keller	Orphan Care Fellowship	817-431-1410	860 Keller Smithfield Rd. Keller 76248	
The Oaks		<a href="https://oakschurch.formstack.com/forms/oaks_foster_and_adoption_support_groups">https://oakschurch.formstack.com/forms/oaks_foster_and_adoption_support_groups</a>	777 SI-35E, Red Oak, TX 75154	Second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 pm
The Paradox Church Ft. Worth	Tapestry	817-458-8797	330 E 4th St. Fort Worth 76102	
The Village Church Dallas		<a href="http://www.thevillagechurch.net">www.thevillagechurch.net</a>   972-537-1320	3877 Walnut Hill Ln, Dallas, TX 75229	
The Village Church Denton		<a href="mailto:fostercare@thevillagedenton.church">fostercare@thevillagedenton.church</a> 940-382-8888	1106 W Oak Street Denton 76201	
The Village Church Flower Mound		972-537-1100	2101 Justin Road, Flower Mound, TX 75028	
The Village Church Fort Worth		Groups Pastor: Jake Ledet   <a href="mailto:jledet@thevillagechurch.net">jledet@thevillagechurch.net</a>   972-537-1350 or 972-537-1231	2100 Morrison Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76112	
The Village Church Plano		972-867-1940	5333 Independence Pkwy, Plano, TX 75023	
The Well Argyle		<a href="https://www.thewellargyle.com/chosen">https://www.thewellargyle.com/chosen</a>	Argyle, TX	
Trinity Church Cedar Hill	Ohana Ministries	Cheryti Hames   972-338-0004   <a href="mailto:ohana_ministries@hotmail.com">ohana_ministries@hotmail.com</a>   972-291-2501	1231 E. Pleasant Run Rd., Cedar Hill, TX 75104	
Watermark Community Church Dallas	Tapestry Ministry	Wes Butler and Jessica Coats   214-361-2275   <a href="http://www.watermark.org/dallas">www.watermark.org/dallas</a>	7540 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75251	
Watermark Community Church Fort Worth		817-869-1199	6115 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Suite 230, Ft. Worth, TX 76116	
Watermark Community Church Plano			6400 K Avenue, Plano, TX 75074	
Waxahachie Bible Church		Tiffany Burns <a href="mailto:burns987@gmail.com">burns987@gmail.com</a>	Waxahachie, TX	

# Warehouses, Closets, Ministries

Organization	Location/Area	Contact Information	Notes
Anthony Drive Baptist Church - Care Closet	Ennis, TX	Contact: Heather Poole heather@fostering-connections.net 972-584-7609   beautifullyblendedtx@gmail.com	Clothing closet providing new or gently used clothing and supplies for foster and adopt families
Beautifully Blended Families	Benbrook, TX 76126	beautifullyblendedtx@gmail.com	Benbrook Foster Closet
Benevolent House Resource Center	Red Oak, TX	<a href="https://benevolenthouse.org/resource-center/">https://benevolenthouse.org/resource-center/</a>	Clothing School Supplies Toys and Games Linens Other Necessary Products
Beyond Clothing Closet	Plano	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/BeyondClothingCloset">www.facebook.com/groups/BeyondClothingCloset</a>	
Blessed Connections	Waxahachie	Text Belinda Henderson at 682.444.6835	Connect4Life Church; By appointment only
Chosen Ones Just 4 U Warehouse	Fort Worth, TX 76118	<a href="http://www.chosenones.org/just-4-u-warehouse.html">www.chosenones.org/just-4-u-warehouse.html</a>	
Clothed in Grace Foster Closet	Kaufman County	214-212-7456   <a href="https://www.facebook.com/clothedingracefc">facebook.com/clothedingracefc</a>	Serving by appointments only; 3rd Saturday of the month at local churches; Clothing NB-Adult 2X (teens clothing), shoes, accessories & baby equipment
Embracing Esther Foster Closet	Terrell, TX	Contact April 469.286.8810   EmbracingEstherCloset@gmail.com	Wednesdays 10-1
Everything A to Z Foster Care Closet	Weatherford/Parker County	Contact Marlin Whittington 817.360.0402	
Forever54	Cleburne, Johnson County	682.231.2638   <a href="http://www.forever54.org">www.forever54.org</a>	Call to make an appointment
Foster Love	Burtleson/Alvarado, TX	Contact: Louisa Swafford   817.381.8749	By appointment
Foster Village DFW	Denton and Surrounding Counties	<a href="https://www.fostervillagedfw.org/">https://www.fostervillagedfw.org/</a>	
Foster Village North Texas	Bonham, TX/Rockwall, TX	<a href="https://www.fostervillagentx.org/">https://www.fostervillagentx.org/</a>	
Foster/Adopt Support Trilogy	North end of Lewisville Lake	972.762.4505   trilogyfoster@gmail.com	Ministry of Trilogy Community Church; Currently premie-youth 4/5; By appointment only
Fostering Rescue Care Closet	Waxahachie, TX	<a href="https://www.fosteringrescue.com/fosterfamilies">https://www.fosteringrescue.com/fosterfamilies</a>	Clothing closet, first night bags, support for foster, adopt, kinship families
Harvest City Foster Closet	Wylie, TX	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/2048516438698599/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/2048516438698599/</a>	Open every 3rd Saturday of the month 9:00am-1:00pm; By appointment for emergency placements
Heart for the Fatherless	Garland, TX	Luana Araujo 469.569.2563   Luana@arapahoroad.org   Rebecca Shedrick 214.240.4778   twigished@yahoo.com	

## Warehouses, Closets, Ministries

Organization	Location/Area	Contact Information	Notes
Kids Closet	Plano, TX	Contact: Kimberly Vesley 214.577.1873   Kimberly.vesley1@gmail.com	Not specifically for foster care
Project Love	Farmers Branch, TX	Contact: Sherry Burchett 972.805.3499	By appointment
Puddin Pop	DFW Area	<a href="https://puddinpop.org/">https://puddinpop.org/</a>	Provides backpacks of new clothes and hygiene products for new placements
Revolution Foster Closet	McKinney, TX	Contact: Chrystal Wilcox 469.667.8757   <a href="http://www.RevolutionChurchTx.com">www.RevolutionChurchTx.com</a>	
Shining Light	Denton, TX	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/shininglightfc/">https://www.facebook.com/shininglightfc/</a>	Clothing closet providing new or gently used clothing and supplies for foster and adopt families
SWAGG	Waxahachie, TX	<a href="http://www.swaggprograms.com">www.swaggprograms.com</a>   972.213.8212	Provides foster and homeless children with quarterly shopping experiences and activities
The Foster Closet at River Oaks	Greenville, TX	Facebook/TheFosterClosetatRiverOaks-HuntCounty	Clothing closet providing new or gently used clothing and supplies for foster and adopt families
The Fostering Collective	Tyler, TX	<a href="https://thefosteringcollective.org/closet-2/">https://thefosteringcollective.org/closet-2/</a>	Clothing closet providing new or gently used clothing and supplies for foster and adopt families
The Isaiah Closet	Bonham, TX	<a href="http://www.theisaiahcloset.org">www.theisaiahcloset.org</a>	Serves 60 mile radius and can deliver
Waxahachie Foster Closet	Waxahachie, TX	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070363478203">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070363478203</a>	Clothing closet providing new or gently used clothing and supplies for foster and adopt families



# Foster Placement Timeline

**Ex-Parte Order** – happens before removal. This is a hearing to inform the court of the removal and have the judge sign the Petition for removal.

**Emergency Order** – removals are presented and signed by judge within 24/48 hours.

**Show Cause** – within 14 days after removal. This court date is to make sure the parents have been served, and are aware of the CPS involvement, and the service plan options that will be available. 14 days into the case, a new worker is assigned called a sub-case worker. This worker takes the case from the investigator and will stay with the case for the duration of the case.

**Contested Show Cause** – is held as soon as possible after the initial show cause.

**Status Review** – usually 60 days from removal. This court date is for checking the status of the case. How is the child doing? Have any fit relatives been located? Have any home studies been done? Have the parents been given copies of their service plans? Has any progress been made?

**Permanency Review** – 4 months from the status review. What is CPS 's plan for this child? Has CPS done any home studies? Have the bio parents done any of their services? This is usually the court date where reunification is either upheld as the permanent plan, or the plan may be changed to termination if CPS has just cause. Tell the court the permanency plan: 1. Reunification, 2. Termination/adoption 3. PMC to relative or 4. PMC to department.

**Set for a Final Hearing** – usually between 8 months and 10 months from removal. This can get tricky depending upon any changes the bio parents have made as well as any progress they may have made since the 6 month hearing. Basically, this is like another permanency review to see if any changes have been made. At this review, a date is set for a FINAL hearing to take place by the 12 month mark. The final hearing will determine the permanent place for the child unless a parent files an extension (6 more months to work on their case).

**Final Hearing** – could be a trial or agreement among parties to the case. It's possible the child could be on a monitored return before then.



## Common Abbreviations in Child Welfare

Abandonment	ABAN	Developmental Delay	DD
Adopted Child	AC	Department of Family & Child Protective Services	DFPS
Adopted Daughter or Adoptive Dad	AD	Date of Birth	DOB
Assistant District Attorney or Americans with Disabilities Act	ADA	Designated Perpetrator	DP
Act		District Attorney	DA
Attention Deficit Disorder	ADD	Domestic Violence	DV
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	ADHD	Early Childhood Education	ECI
Adjudication	ADJ	Emotional Abuse	EMAB
Office of the Attorney General	AG, OAG	Emergency Room	ER
Also Known As - Alias	AKA	Father	FA
Adoptive Mom	AM	Foster Adoptive Unit or Worker	FAD
Anonymous	AN	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	FAS
Absent Parent or Alleged Perpetrator or Adoptive Parent	AP	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders	FASD
Another Permanent Planned Living Arrangement	APPLA	Family Based Safety Services (CPS)	FBSS
Adopted Son	AS	Foster Care or Foster Child	FC
Adoption & Safe Families Act	ASFA	Foster Dad or Foster Daughter	FD
Authorized to Participate	ATP	Foster Family Home	FFH
Aunt	AU	Family Group Home	FGH
Birth Child	BC	Caregiver not related to child/ren, but has a relationship	Fictive Kin
Bureau of Citizenship & Immigration (was INS)	BCIS	Foster Mother	FM
Birth Father or Biological Father	BF/BioF	Foster Parent(s)	FP
Bureau of Indian Affairs	BIA	Foster Son	FS
Birth Mother or Biological Mother	BM/BioM	Failure to Thrive	FTT
Bureau of Vital Statistics	BVS	Guardian Ad Litem	GAL
Behavior	BX	Child Abuse Hotline	Hotline
Client Assessment, Review and Evaluation	CARE	Home Study	HS
Court Appointed Special Advocate	CASA	Home Visit	HV
Child	CH	Interstate Compact Placement or Children	IICPC
Case Manager or Care Manager	CM	Indian Child Welfare Act	ICWA
Child Placing Agency	CPA	Individual Education Plan	IEP
Child Protective Services	CPS	Care Givers related to the child/ren	Kinship
Criminal History	CRM HX	Law Enforcement	LE
Court	CT	Level of Care	LOC
Conservatorship	CVS	Maternal	MA
Case Worker or Care Worker	CW	Medical Examiner or Medicaid Eligibility	ME

Source: [thefosteringcommunity.org](http://thefosteringcommunity.org)



# Common Abbreviations in Child Welfare

Maternal Grandfather	MGF	Reason to Believe	RTB
Maternal Grandmother	MGM	Residential Treatment Center	RTC
Mental Health	MH	Prescription	RX
Mental Health Mental Retardation	MHMR	Substance Abuse	SA
Mother	MO	Satori Alternative to Managing Aggression	SAMA
Multi-ethnic Placement	MEPA	Substance Abuse Mental Health	SAMH
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children	NCMEC	Sibling	SB
Neglectful Supervision	NSUP	Shaken Baby Syndrome	SBS
Non Verbal	NV	Severely Emotionally Disturbed	SED
Our Community Our Kids	OCOK	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	SIDS
Oldest Victim	OV	Supervised Independent Living	SIL
Parent/Parental	PA	Sherriff's Office	SO
Program Administrator (CPS)	PA	Safety Plan	SP
Police Department or Program Director (CPS)	PD	Social Security Administration	SSA
Program Director (CPS) PD Pervasive Developmental Disorders	PDD	Single Source Continuum of Care	SSCC
Paternal Grandfather	PGF	Supplemental Security Income	SSI
Paternal Grandmother	PGM	Social Security Number	SSN
Physical Abuse	PHAB	Social Worker or Service Worker	SW
Physical Neglect	PHNG	Statewide Intake	SWI
Permanent Managing Conservatorship	PMC	Symptom	SX
Primary Medical Needs	PMN	Sexual Abuse	SXAB
Plan of Service (Child POS = CPOS; Family POS = FPOS)	POS	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	TANF
Paramour	PP	Trust Based Relational Intervention	TBRI
Permanency Planning Team	PPT	Therapeutic Foster Care or Home	TFC
Service Provider	PR	Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy	TF-CBT
Principal in Case	PRN	Trauma Informed Care	TIC
Psychological Evaluation	Psych Eval	Temporary Managing Conservator	TMC
Quality Assurance	QA	Termination of Parental Rights	TPR
Quality Parenting Initiative	QPI	Treatment	TX
Reactive Attachment Disorder	RAD	Unknown	UK
Refusal to Accept Parental Responsibility	RAPR	Uncle	UN
Residential Child Care Licensing	RCCL	Unable to Determine	UTD
Reunification	REUN	Victim Child	VC
Request for Proposal	RFP	Youth for Tomorrow	YFT

Source: [thefosteringcommunity.org](http://thefosteringcommunity.org)

# CCMS Child Care (aka: Day Care for Foster Children)

## Authorizing and Reauthorizing Services

To initiate, authorize, add, extend or reauthorize Foster Child Day Care, a case worker contacts the:

- CPS regional day care coordinator about the availability of funding; and
- Child care management service (CCMS) agency about the availability of space.

If funding and space are available, the worker completes Form 1800 Word Document Day Care Referral and sends it by e-mail to the supervisor for approval.

After the supervisor approves the form, it is sent by e-mail to the CPS regional day care coordinator for review and approval. To authorize payment for services, the worker generates Form 2054 Service Authorization by entering the details into the appropriate stage of the IMPACT case management system.

For other requirements, see Completing Form 2054 Service Authorization.

After generating Form 2054, the worker must submit it to the supervisor for approval. For other requirements, see Time Frames for Services below.

Form 2054 must be approved before clients use day care services. This procedure is also referenced in 8161.14 Adding, Extending, or Reauthorizing Service.

## How to Find CCMS Child Care Providers Near You

To find out which child care providers in your area accept children whose parents are subsidized through the CCMS program, run a search on this page, and make sure you check the box labeled "Accepts Child-Care Subsidies" (see image to right).

[www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child\\_Care/Search\\_Texas\\_Child\\_Care/ppFacilitySearchDayCare.aspx](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Search_Texas_Child_Care/ppFacilitySearchDayCare.aspx)

## Time Frames for Services

The initial service authorization for Title IV-E and non-Title IV-E Foster Child Day Care may be approved for a maximum of two months.

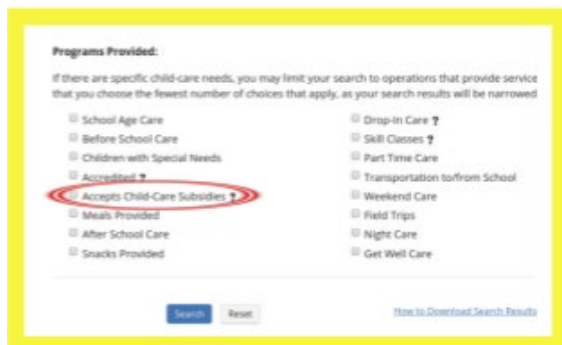
Subsequent service authorizations for cases in which the child meets all of the eligibility requirements for Title IV-E or non-Title IV-E Foster Child Day Care may be approved for a maximum of six months.

If at any time a child's billing service level increases from Basic to Moderate or higher, day care is provided only through the term of the current authorization.

Eligibility for Foster Child Day Care cannot be extended or renewed for a child with a Moderate billing service level or higher unless the service level decreases to a Basic billing service level and all other eligibility requirements are met. The child's need must be re-examined prior to each subsequent authorization.

The supervisor approves all services of Foster Child Day Care.

**REMEMBER TO ASK FOR  
REAUTHORIZATION**  
After the initial APPROVAL - before the  
6 MONTH MARK - or your CCMS  
benefit will stop and you will pay out of  
pocket until it is re-approved.



**Programs Provided:**

If there are specific child-care needs, you may limit your search to operations that provide service that you choose the fewest number of choices that apply, as your search results will be narrowed

<input type="checkbox"/> School Age Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Drop-in Care
<input type="checkbox"/> Before School Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Skill Classes
<input type="checkbox"/> Children with Special Needs	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Time Care
<input type="checkbox"/> Accredited	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation to/from School
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepts Child-Care Subsidies	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekend Care
<input type="checkbox"/> Meals Provided	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips
<input type="checkbox"/> After School Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Night Care
<input type="checkbox"/> Snacks Provided	<input type="checkbox"/> Get Well Care

Search Reset [How to Download Search Results](#)



# CCMS Child Care (aka: Day Care for Foster Children)

## Tip Sheet - Daycare for Foster Care Redesign

### Who Qualifies for Foster Daycare?

- Each foster parent must work full-time (40 hours per week minimum). They must be earning a wage. Being a full time student or volunteer time does not qualify.
- The child must be in DFPS conservatorship.
- The child must be in kindergarten or younger (during the school year) or 13 yrs old & younger (during the summer & spring break, if funding permits)
- If the child is being adopted - Daycare ends the day the adoption agreement is signed

### How to select an appropriate daycare before requesting services:

- Check the DFPS Child Care Licensing website for day care violations at [www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child\\_Care/Search\\_Texas\\_Child\\_Care/ppFacilitySearchDayCare.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Search_Texas_Child_Care/ppFacilitySearchDayCare.asp)
- Tour the daycare to see if you like it, the location and the staff
- Confirm with the daycare that they are contracted with the CCMS Board you are required to use
- Confirm with the daycare that they have an open spot for the child's age group
- Confirm with the daycare that they meet your needs with hours of operation & transportation (if needed) and any special needs the child might have

### Documents required when requesting daycare services:

- Required full time employment verification - last 3 months of pays stubs. The stubs should clearly show a minimum of 40 hours a week. This is needed for each caregiver.

If it is new employment, then a letter from the employer attesting to the employee being employed a minimum of forty hours a week or, in the case of self-employment, a completed Statement of SelfEmployment Income (form 1806).

- Form 1809 - "Foster/Relative Other Designated Caregiver Daycare Verification" - must be completed and signed by the foster parent
- Also needed: Foster parents name, address, phone number, DOB & SSN
- Child's name & age
- Day care name, address & phone number
- Days & hours day care is needed
- Note if transportation is needed

### What if there is a problem or question?

- If you are a foster parent, contact your Child Placing Agency
- If you are CPA staff, contact Our Community Our Kids

Note: There is a mandatory 10 business (not holiday or weekends) waiting period for all day care requests. The 10 days begins once the day care request has been submitted to the day care coordinator's workload.

**Find the Daycare Request and other forms here:** [https://www.dfps.texas.gov/site\\_map/forms.asp](https://www.dfps.texas.gov/site_map/forms.asp)



# Resources for Empower 3E

**Crisis Line:**

*In case of life-threatening emergency, please call 911*

**Dallas, Ellis, Navarro, Rockwall, Hunt Counties**

North Texas Behavioral Health Authority - 24/7 Crisis Hotline (866) 260-8000.

**Collin County**

LifePath Systems – 24/7 Crisis Hotline (877)422-5939

**Grayson, Fannin Counties**

Texoma Mental Health Services - 24/7 Crisis Hotline (877)277-2226

**DFPS Offices – Region 3E:**

County	Address	Phone Number
Dallas	1111 W. Ledbetter, Suite 50, Dallas TX 75224	(214)372-8700
Dallas	5351 Samuel Blvd., Dallas TX 75228	(214)319-1700
Dallas	5455 Blair Rd., Dallas TX 75231	(214)750-4619
Dallas	8700 N. Stemmons Frwy, Dallas TX 75247	(214)951-7902
Dallas	801 S. State Hwy 161, Grand Prairie TX 75051	(972)795-6550
Collin	550 E. 15th St., Suite 120, Plano, TX 75074	(469) 229-6900
Rockwall	1203 Sigma Court, Rockwall, TX 75087	(972)771-6366
Grayson	2607 N. Loy Lake Rd., Sherman, TX 75090	(903)892-0580
Fannin	1205 E. Sam Rayburn, Bonham, TX 75418	(903)583-5535
Hunt	2500 Stonewall Ste 601, Greenville TX 75401	(903)455-7636
Ellis	208 YMCA Dr., Waxahachie, TX 75165	(972)937-0892
Navarro	800 N. Main, Ste. B Corsicana, TX 75110	(903)872-3901



## Licensing and Compliance Resources:

Organization	Website	Location	Description
Action Fire Pros	<a href="https://actionfirepros.com/">https://actionfirepros.com/</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Licensing and compliance, fire extinguishers, fire extinguisher inspection, minimum standards
Advantage Medical Clinic	<a href="https://advantage-med.com/">https://advantage-med.com/</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Licensing and compliance, foster parent medical exam, home study physical
American Heart Association	<a href="https://atlas.heart.org/home">https://atlas.heart.org/home</a>	Various Regions	Licensing and compliance, CPR, first aid and AED training
Charlie's House	<a href="https://charlies-safety-supplies.my-online.store/">https://charlies-safety-supplies.my-online.store/</a>	Online	Free safety and childproofing supplies
DFPS Foster Parent Training	<a href="https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Child_Protection/Foster_Care/Training.asp">https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Child_Protection/Foster_Care/Training.asp</a>	Various Regions	Licensing and compliance, foster parent trainings
DPS Driving Record Request	<a href="https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/how-order-driver-record">https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/how-order-driver-record</a>	Various Regions	Licensing and compliance, driver record, home study documentation
Ellis County Fire Marshal	<a href="https://www.co.ellis.tx.us/92/Fire-Marshal">https://www.co.ellis.tx.us/92/Fire-Marshal</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Licensing and compliance, fire inspection, home study documentation
Empower	<a href="https://3empower.org/empower-awarded-community-based-care-contract-in-metroplex-east-region/">https://3empower.org/empower-awarded-community-based-care-contract-in-metroplex-east-region/</a>	North Texas	Community based care for Region 3, foster care administration, foster parent education and support
Penny Paws - Low Cost Pet Vaccinations	<a href="https://pennypaws.com/mobile-vaccination-clinics/dallas-fort-worth/">https://pennypaws.com/mobile-vaccination-clinics/dallas-fort-worth/</a>	North Texas	Licensing and compliance, low cost pet vaccinations
Step One Testing	<a href="https://steponetesting.net/">https://steponetesting.net/</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Licensing and compliance, background check, FBI fingerprinting services
TBRI Trainings	<a href="https://child.tcu.edu/professionals/#sthash.3ts8lwdr.dpbs">https://child.tcu.edu/professionals/#sthash.3ts8lwdr.dpbs</a>	Various Regions	Trauma Training, foster care and adoption education
Texas Ombudsman Office	<a href="https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/your-rights/hhs-office-ombudsman">https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/your-rights/hhs-office-ombudsman</a>	Various Regions	Foster Care advocacy, foster care rights and responsibilities, file a complaint



## Healthcare – Medical:

Organization	Website	Location	Description
Childrens Health	<a href="https://www.childrens.com/">https://www.childrens.com/</a>	North Texas	Medicaid providers, medical services, emergency medical, speciality medical care
Cooks Children's Health	<a href="https://www.cookchildrens.org/">https://www.cookchildrens.org/</a>	North Texas	Medicaid providers, medical services, emergency medical, speciality medical care
Cooks Childrens Pediatric Clinic	<a href="https://www.ennischildrensclinic.com/">https://www.ennischildrensclinic.com/</a>	Ennis, TX	Medicaid providers, 3 Day Medical Exams, low cost/income based medical provider, primary pediatric care
Cooks Childrens Urgent Care	<a href="https://www.cookchildrens.org/visit/urgent-care/mansfield/">https://www.cookchildrens.org/visit/urgent-care/mansfield/</a>	Mansfield, TX	Urgent Care accepting foster care Medicaid
Dallas Medical Physician Group	<a href="https://dallasmedphysicians.com/">https://dallasmedphysicians.com/</a>	Desoto, TX	Medicaid providers, 3 Day Medical Exams, low cost/income based medical provider, primary pediatric care
Hope Health	<a href="https://www.hopehealthtx.org/">https://www.hopehealthtx.org/</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Medicaid providers, 3 Day Medical Exams, low cost/income based medical provider, primary pediatric care
Ferris Pediatrics	<a href="mailto:ferrispediatrics1@gmail.com">ferrispediatrics1@gmail.com</a>	Ferris, TX	Medicaid providers, 3 Day Medical Exams, low cost/income based medical provider, primary pediatric care
Medsourc LLC	<a href="https://medsourcellc.com/">https://medsourcellc.com/</a>	Online	Medical products and DME, medical services, Accepts Medicaid
My Pediatrician TX	<a href="https://www.mypediatriciantx.com/">https://www.mypediatriciantx.com/</a>	Murphy, TX	Pediatric provider accepting Medicaid
Leon Pediatrics (formerly Pressley Pediatrics)	<a href="https://walterleonmdpa.com/insurance/">https://walterleonmdpa.com/insurance/</a>	Midlothian, TX	Medicaid providers, 3 Day Medical Exams, low cost/income based medical provider, primary pediatric care
Reese Jones Foster Care Clinic / Children's Health	<a href="https://www.reesejones.com/services/specialty-centers-and-programs/health-care-for-foster-children/about-the-rees-jones-center-for-foster-care-excellence">services/specialty-centers-and-programs/health-care-for-foster-children/about-the-rees-jones-center-for-foster-care-excellence</a>	Dallas, TX	Medicaid providers, medical services, emergency medical, speciality medical care
Superior Healthplan Support Resouces	<a href="https://www.superiorhealthplan.com/members/medicaid/resources/caregiver-resources/support-resources.html">https://www.superiorhealthplan.com/members/medicaid/resources/caregiver-resources/support-resources.html</a>	Various Regions	Foster care Medicaid information, education and resources, Medicaid provider database
Scottish Rite Hospital	<a href="https://scottishriteforchildren.org/">https://scottishriteforchildren.org/</a>	Dallas, TX	Medicaid providers, pediatric orthopedic specialty care
Sniffles and Giggles Pediatric	<a href="https://www.mdmedicalgroup.us/">https://www.mdmedicalgroup.us/</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Pediatric provider accepting Medicaid



### Healthcare – Dental:

Organization	Website	Location	Description
Gifted Smiles	<a href="https://aaoinfo.org/treatments/gifted-smiles/">https://aaoinfo.org/treatments/gifted-smiles/</a>	National	Orthodontic scholarships for braces
iKids Pediatric Dentistry	<a href="https://www.ikidsdental.com/">https://www.ikidsdental.com/</a>	Ennis, TX	Medicaid dental provider, 30 Day Dental Exams, pediatric dentistry
Smiles Change Lives	<a href="https://smileschangelives.org/for-kids-and-parents/foster-care-families/">https://smileschangelives.org/for-kids-and-parents/foster-care-families/</a>	National	Orthodontic scholarships for braces
Adventure Smiles	<a href="https://www.adventuresmileswaxahachie.com/">https://www.adventuresmileswaxahachie.com/</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Medicaid dental provider, 30 Day Dental Exams, pediatric dentistry
Dental Defenders	<a href="https://www.dentaldefendersdallas.com/">https://www.dentaldefendersdallas.com/</a>	Dallas, TX	Medicaid dental provider, 30 Day Dental Exams, pediatric dentistry
Jubilee Dental and Braces	<a href="https://www.jubileedentalgroup.com/">https://www.jubileedentalgroup.com/</a>	Sherman, TX	Medicaid dental provider, 30 Day Dental Exams, pediatric dentistry
Kings Dental	<a href="https://www.kingsdentaltx.com/">https://www.kingsdentaltx.com/</a>	Garland, TX	Medicaid dental provider, 30 Day Dental Exams, pediatric dentistry
Family Health Center on Virginia	<a href="https://fhcntx.org/services/dentistry/">https://fhcntx.org/services/dentistry/</a>	McKinney, TX	Medicaid dental provider, 30 Day Dental Exams, pediatric dentistry
Dallas County Dental Society	<a href="https://www.dcds.org/">https://www.dcds.org/</a>	Dallas, TX	Low Cost Dental Services in Dallas County
Just For Kids Dental	<a href="https://www.justforkidsdental.com/">https://www.justforkidsdental.com/</a>	DFW	Medicaid dental provider, 30 Day Dental Exams, pediatric dentistry
Smile for a Lifetime	<a href="https://hipaa.jotform.com/201316321877149">https://hipaa.jotform.com/201316321877149</a>	National	Orthodontic scholarships for braces

### Healthcare – Vision:

Organization	Website	Location	Description
Pediatric Eye Specialists	<a href="https://www.pedieyes.com/">https://www.pedieyes.com/</a>	Mansfield, TX	Medicaid vision provider, pediatric optometry
Gold Eye Clinic	<a href="https://goldeyeyclinic.com/locations">https://goldeyeyclinic.com/locations</a>	Ennis, TX	Medicaid vision provider
Zenni Optical	<a href="https://www.zennioptical.com/">https://www.zennioptical.com/</a>	Various Regions	Online optical provider, low cost glasses
Richardson Eye Associates	<a href="https://www.richardsoneyeassociates.com/">https://www.richardsoneyeassociates.com/</a>	Richardson, TX	Medicaid vision provider, pediatric optometry
Cooks Children's Alexander Vision Center	<a href="https://www.cookchildrens.org/services/ophtalmology/contacts/ophtalmology/">https://www.cookchildrens.org/services/ophtalmology/contacts/ophtalmology/</a>	Fort Worth, TX	Medicaid vision provider, pediatric optometry

**Mental/Behavioral Health:**

Organization	Website	Location	Description
A Home Within	<a href="https://www.ahomewithin.org/">https://www.ahomewithin.org/</a>	Various and Virtual	Free virtual and in person therapy for foster youth
All Star Equestrian Foundation	<a href="https://www.allstarfoundation.org/">https://www.allstarfoundation.org/</a>	Mansfield, TX	Therapeutic Equestrian Riding and Animal Therapy
Arise Behavioral Health	<a href="https://arisebehavioral.com/">https://arisebehavioral.com/</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Behavioral Health, Mental Health, Psychiatric Evaluation, counseling, behavioral therapy services
Branches	<a href="https://brancheslewisville.com/">https://brancheslewisville.com/</a>	Lewisville, TX	Psychiatric Services, Mental Health, Behavioral Health
Center for Psychological Services of Texas	<a href="https://cfpsonline.com/">https://cfpsonline.com/</a>	Arlington TX	Psychiatric Services, Mental Health, Behavioral Health, Psychological evaluations, CANS assessment
CK Behavioral Health	<a href="https://ckfamilyservices.org/">https://ckfamilyservices.org/</a>	Arlington TX	Psychiatric Services, Mental Health, Behavioral Health, Play therapy, home health
Clearview Counseling Center	<a href="https://cvcounselinggroup.com/">https://cvcounselinggroup.com/</a>	Dallas, TX	Counseling, play therapy, grief and trauma therapy
Compass Psychological	<a href="https://www.compasspsych.com/">https://www.compasspsych.com/</a>	Dallas, TX / Virtual	Psychological Evaluations, ADHD Assessment, IQ and Disability Determination
Connected Family Wellness	<a href="https://connectedfamilywellness.com/">https://connectedfamilywellness.com/</a>	Dallas, TX / Virtual	Counseling and Group Therapy for moms
Ellis County Child Advocacy Center	<a href="https://www.elliscountycac.org/">https://www.elliscountycac.org/</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Forensic interviews for victims of child abuse, support and information for the legal, investigative, prosecutorial process, mental health, play therapy, family therapy
Ellis County Counseling Network	<a href="https://www.fostering-connections.net/counselor-list">https://www.fostering-connections.net/counselor-list</a>	Ellis County, TX	Listing of counselors in Ellis County
EmpathyHQ	<a href="https://www.empathyhq.org/">https://www.empathyhq.org/</a>	Mansfield, TX	Play therapy, child counseling, family counseling, Medicaid provider
Family Counseling Center	<a href="http://www.family-counseling.org">www.family-counseling.org</a>	Arlington, TX	In home therapy sessions ages 3+
Hope Health - Behavioral Health	<a href="https://www.hopehealthtx.org/what-we-do">https://www.hopehealthtx.org/what-we-do</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Behavioral and mental health, psychology, medication, play therapy, counseling
Kevin Do-Nguyen, LMSW	<a href="https://elliementalhealth.com/team-members/kevin-do-nguyen/">https://elliementalhealth.com/team-members/kevin-do-nguyen/</a>	Rockwall, TX	Counseling
Lakes Regional MHMR Center	<a href="https://www.lakesregional.org">https://www.lakesregional.org</a>	North Texas	Behavioral Health, Mental Health, ECI, Substance Abuse, Intellectual and Developmental Disability



## Mental/Behavioral Health:

Organization	Website	Location	Description
LifePath - Collin County Mental Health Authority	<a href="https://www.lifepathsystems.org/">https://www.lifepathsystems.org/</a>	Collin County, TX	Mental and Behavioral health authority for Collin County, Crisis Services
Metrocare - Center for Children with Autism	<a href="https://www.metrocareservices.org/locations/united-states/texas/desoto/">https://www.metrocareservices.org/locations/united-states/texas/desoto/</a>	Desoto, TX	Behavioral Health, Mental Health, Psychiatric Evaluation, Inpatient mental health services
MHMR of Tarrant County	<a href="https://www.mhmrtarrant.org">https://www.mhmrtarrant.org</a>	Tarrant County, TX	Behavioral Health, Mental Health, Psychiatric Evaluation, Inpatient mental health services
Millwood Hospital	<a href="https://millwoodhospital.com/">https://millwoodhospital.com/</a>	Arlington TX	Behavioral Health, Mental Health, Psychiatric Evaluation, Inpatient mental health services
North Texas Behavioral Health Authority	<a href="https://ntbha.org/">https://ntbha.org/</a>	North Texas	Behavioral Health, Mental Health, Psychiatric Evaluation, Inpatient mental health services
NTBHA Crisis Hotline	866-260-8000	North Texas	Behavioral Health crisis hotline
Pathways Youth and Family Services	<a href="https://pathway.org/">https://pathway.org/</a>	Dallas, TX	Child placing agency, licensing, foster and adopt services, behavioral health services
Paws for Reflection	<a href="https://www.pawsforreflectionranch.org/">https://www.pawsforreflectionranch.org/</a>	Midlothian, TX	Counseling, Equine Therapy, Play Therapy, Animal Assisted Therapy, Therapeutic Riding
Psychiatry List - Donaldson Wellness Center	<a href="https://www.fostering-connections.net/psychiatry-list">https://www.fostering-connections.net/psychiatry-list</a>	Ellis County, TX	Listing of psychiatrists local to Ellis County
Pursuit of Happiness	<a href="https://www.pursuitofhappinesscounseling.com/">https://www.pursuitofhappinesscounseling.com/</a>	North Texas	Counseling, play therapy, grief and trauma therapy
Runnin Free Ranch	<a href="https://www.runninfreeranch.org/">https://www.runninfreeranch.org/</a>	Ennis, TX	Counseling, Equine Therapy, Play Therapy, Animal Assisted Therapy, Low or no cost therapy services
Second Chances Wellness	<a href="https://sccwellness.org/">https://sccwellness.org/</a>	Plano, TX	Provides home, school, and community mental health rehabilitation services
Southern Area Behavioral Healthcare	<a href="https://sabhc.org/">https://sabhc.org/</a>	Southern Dallas	Behavioral Health, Mental Health, Crisis, Urgent Care, Medication Management
Texoma Mental Health Authority	<a href="https://texomacc.org/">https://texomacc.org/</a>	Grayson and Fannin County	Mental and Behavioral health authority for Texoma Area, Crisis Services
The Center for Integrative Counseling and Psychology	<a href="https://texascip.com/">https://texascip.com/</a>	Coppell, TX	Behavioral Health, Mental Health, Psychiatric Evaluation, counseling, behavioral therapy services



### Mental/Behavioral Health:

Organization	Website	Location	Description
The Donaldson Wellness Center	<a href="https://www.donaldsonwellnesscenter.com/">https://www.donaldsonwellnesscenter.com/</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Behavioral Health, Mental Health, Psychiatric Evaluation, counseling, behavioral therapy services
Turning Point Program	<a href="https://www.fostercaretx.com/formembers/stay-healthy/behavioral-health/turning-point.html">https://www.fostercaretx.com/formembers/stay-healthy/behavioral-health/turning-point.html</a>	North Texas	Psychiatric hospital diversion and crisis intervention program for children in STAR Health Plan, mental health assessment, counseling, referrals to services
Winners Circle	<a href="https://winnerscirclegroupoftexas.com/">https://winnerscirclegroupoftexas.com/</a>	Dallas, TX	Skills Training and Development, social skills, anger management, individual therapy, family therapy

### Therapeutic Resources:

Organization	Website	Location	Description
Wonderfully Made Therapies	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/wonderfullymadetherapies">https://www.facebook.com/wonderfullymadetherapies</a>	Ennis, TX	Speech and language pathologist, Medicaid provider, speech therapy
River Kids Pediatric Home Health	<a href="https://riverkidstexas.com/">https://riverkidstexas.com/</a>	North Texas	Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Home Health
Children's Specialty Clinic	<a href="https://www.childrens.com/locations/sc-waxahachie">https://www.childrens.com/locations/sc-waxahachie</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Medicaid provider
BCM Innovative Therapies	<a href="https://bcminnovativetherapies.com/about-us">https://bcminnovativetherapies.com/about-us</a>	Corsicana, TX	Speech, Physical, Occupational Therapy
Cooks Childrens Specialty Services	<a href="https://www.cookchildrens.org/">https://www.cookchildrens.org/</a>	Dallas/Fort Worth	Pediatric medical and specialty services
Green Apple Therapy	<a href="https://www.greenappletherapy.com/">https://www.greenappletherapy.com/</a>	Dallas/Fort Worth	Pediatric Speech and language therapy
Tri-Trax Rehab	<a href="http://www.tritraxrehab.com/index.html">http://www.tritraxrehab.com/index.html</a>	Dallas/Fort Worth	Pediatric Speech, occupational, and physical therapy
North Texas Therapy	<a href="https://www.northtexastherapy.com/">https://www.northtexastherapy.com/</a>	Dallas/Fort Worth	Pediatric Speech, occupational, and physical therapy
Monkey Mouths	<a href="https://monkeymouths.com/">https://monkeymouths.com/</a>	Dallas/Fort Worth	Speech, Occupational and feeding therapy
Scottish Rite	<a href="http://www.scottishriteforchildren.org">www.scottishriteforchildren.org</a>	Dallas/Fort Worth	Orthopedic Occupational Therapy
Beelieve Pediatric Therapy	<a href="http://www.beelievepediatrictherapy.com">www.beelievepediatrictherapy.com</a>	Aledo, TX	Pediatric Speech, occupational, and physical therapy

**Autism Specific Resources:**

Organization	Website	Location	Description
A Better Approach	<a href="https://www.abetterapproach.net/">https://www.abetterapproach.net/</a>	Midlothian, TX	Autism education and support, ABA therapy provider
AANE	<a href="https://aane.org/">https://aane.org/</a>	National	Autism education and support, ABA therapy provider
ABA of North Texas	<a href="https://abantx.com/">https://abantx.com/</a>	Decatur, TX	Autism education and support, ABA therapy provider
Autism Treatment Center	<a href="https://www.atcoftexas.org/">https://www.atcoftexas.org/</a>	North Texas	Autism education and support, ABA therapy provider
Behavioral Innovations	<a href="https://behavioral-innovations.com/autism-101/insurance/texas-medicaid/">https://behavioral-innovations.com/autism-101/insurance/texas-medicaid/</a>	Addison, TX	Autism education and support, ABA therapy provider
Blue Sprig Autism	<a href="https://www.bluesprigautism.com/find-a-location/">https://www.bluesprigautism.com/find-a-location/</a>	North Texas	Autism education and support, ABA therapy provider
Concept Connections	<a href="https://www.concept-connections.com">https://www.concept-connections.com</a>	Frisco, TX	Autism education and support, ABA therapy provider
Easterseals	<a href="https://www.easterseals.com/">https://www.easterseals.com/</a>	Carrollton, TX	Autism education and support, ABA therapy provider
Galliant Therapy	<a href="https://www.galliantcare.com">https://www.galliantcare.com</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Autism education and support, ABA therapy provider
Leap Autism Therapy	<a href="https://www.leap2aba.com/">https://www.leap2aba.com/</a>	Duncanville, TX	Autism education and support, ABA therapy provider
Prospera	<a href="https://prosperahealthcare.com/aba-therapy/texas/grand-prairie/">https://prosperahealthcare.com/aba-therapy/texas/grand-prairie/</a>	Grand Prairie, TX	Autism education and support, ABA therapy provider
Team PBS	<a href="https://www.teampbs.com/">https://www.teampbs.com/</a>	Irving, TX	Autism education and support, ABA therapy provider
Butterfly Effects	<a href="https://butterflyeffects.com/">https://butterflyeffects.com/</a>	North Texas	Autism education and support, ABA therapy provider, home health
29 Acres	<a href="https://29acres.org/">https://29acres.org/</a>	Crossroads, TX	Autism education and support, ABA therapy provider, residential services, adult autism living
Sir Kendrick's Smile for Autism	<a href="https://www.sirkendrickssmileforautism.org/">https://www.sirkendrickssmileforautism.org/</a>	Rice, TX	Autism education and support, autism resources, sensory gym
We Rock the Spectrum	<a href="https://www.werockthespectrumdallas.com/">https://www.werockthespectrumdallas.com/</a>	North Texas	Autism education and support, autism resources, sensory gym
Thrive Therapies	<a href="https://www.thrivetherapytx.com/">https://www.thrivetherapytx.com/</a>	Farmers Branch, TX	Autism education, ABA therapy, Speech therapy, occupational therapy
Spectra Therapies and Evaluations	<a href="https://spectratherapies.com/">https://spectratherapies.com/</a>	Dallas, TX	Autism, Asperger's, ADHD, Anxiety, behavioral therapy, social skills, testing and learning differences



**Educational Resources:**

Organization	Website	Location	Description
Butterfly Kids	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/BKTSJM/">https://www.facebook.com/BKTSJM/</a>	Ennis, TX	Tutoring, homeschool support, special education, autism, ADHD and dyslexia support
DFPS College Tuition Waiver	<a href="https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Education/state_college_tuition_waiver.asp">https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Education/state_college_tuition_waiver.asp</a>	Texas	Information on the Tuition Waiver Program for foster youth and how to access
DFPS Educational Specialist Directory	<a href="https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Child_Protection/State_Care/education_specialists.asp">https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Child_Protection/State_Care/education_specialists.asp</a>	Various Regions	Education advocate for public school, 504 accommodations, special education, IEP and ARD meeting support
DFW Advocacy for Special Education	<a href="https://dfwadvocacy.com/">https://dfwadvocacy.com/</a>	Dallas, TX	Education advocate for public school, 504 accommodations, special education, IEP and ARD meeting support
Education Reach for Texans	<a href="https://www.educationreachfortexans.com/foster-care-liaison-info">https://www.educationreachfortexans.com/foster-care-liaison-info</a>	Flower Mound, TX	Education liaison for higher education, assistance with navigating free college for foster youth, higher education benefits
Findhelp.org	<a href="https://www.findhelp.org/">https://www.findhelp.org/</a>	Online	Find local community services for at risk youth, foster youth, low income families
Learning Bridge	<a href="https://learningbridgetx.org/">https://learningbridgetx.org/</a>	Online/Austin Area	Free virtual tutoring for children in foster care, former foster and unhoused youth
SPEDTex	<a href="https://www.spedtex.org/">https://www.spedtex.org/</a>	Austin, TX	Education advocate for public school, 504 accommodations, special education, IEP and ARD meeting support
TEA - Texas Education Agency	<a href="https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/foster-care-and-student-success">https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/foster-care-and-student-success</a>	Austin, TX	Texas Education Agency, public school minimum standards, education rights and responsibilities
WHIT Program	<a href="https://www.whitprogram.org/index.php">https://www.whitprogram.org/index.php</a>	Online	Free virtual tutoring for children in foster care



**Camps & Activities:**

Organization	Website	Location	Description
Kids in a New Groove	<a href="http://www.KidsInANewGroove.org">www.KidsInANewGroove.org</a>		Free instruments and free music lessons for kids in foster care
316 Outdoors	<a href="https://316outdoorsministries.com/">https://316outdoorsministries.com/</a>	Ennis, TX	Ministry providing unique outdoor adventures for men and families, mens retreats and bible study
Boys and Girls Club - Ennis	<a href="https://www.ennisbgc.org/s/?language=en_US">https://www.ennisbgc.org/s/?language=en_US</a>	Ennis, TX	Low cost camps and childcare for Medicaid recipients
Camp El Tesoro de la Vida	<a href="http://www.campfirefw.org">www.campfirefw.org</a>		817.831.2111
Camp Hope	<a href="http://www.centerofhopetx.com">www.centerofhopetx.com</a>	Weatherford, TX	Weatherford- 817.594.0266; East Parker County 817.441.2442
Care2Rock	<a href="https://learn.texascasa.org/resource/care2rock-free-remote-music-lessons/">https://learn.texascasa.org/resource/care2rock-free-remote-music-lessons/</a>	Online	Virtual music lessons for foster youth
Dallas Arboretum	<a href="https://www.dallasarboretum.org">https://www.dallasarboretum.org</a>	Dallas, TX	Low cost admission to botanical gardens and children's play area with Medicaid card
Ellis County United - Special Olympics	<a href="https://www.elliscountyunited.org/">https://www.elliscountyunited.org/</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Special Olympics delegation for Ellis County offering sports and activities for adults and youth living with special needs
En Route Academy of the Arts	<a href="https://www.enrouteacademy.com/">https://www.enrouteacademy.com/</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Discounts for foster youth for music and art lessons
Fritz's Adventure Park	<a href="https://www.fritzsadventure.com">https://www.fritzsadventure.com</a>	The Colony, TX	Indoor adventure park, zip lines, ropes course, indoor playground, Free admission for foster/adopt children!
Hope Ranch	<a href="https://rushcreek.org/hope-ranch/">https://rushcreek.org/hope-ranch/</a>	Arlington TX	Camps and outdoor events and activities for foster groups
Liberty Cheer - Cheerabilities	<a href="https://libertycheerallstars.com/">https://libertycheerallstars.com/</a>	Midlothian, TX	Gymnastics, competitive and in house cheer programs, open gym, Cheerabilities team for youth with special needs
Lonesome Dove Ranch	<a href="https://lonesomedovetexas.com/">https://lonesomedovetexas.com/</a>	Royse City, TX	Summer Camps, retreats, clinical counseling, therapeutic horseback riding, intensive one-on-one ministry for families and kids

**Camps & Activities:**

Organization	Website	Location	Description
Miracle League of Ellis County	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/miracleleagueofelliscounty/">https://www.facebook.com/miracleleagueofelliscounty/</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Special needs baseball program
Operation Orphans	<a href="https://www.operationorphans.org/">https://www.operationorphans.org/</a>	Mason, TX	Organization that provides children with outdoor experiences, hunting trips, fishing trips
Our Father's Children	<a href="https://www.ourfatherschildren.org/">https://www.ourfatherschildren.org/</a>	North Richland Hills, TX	
Perot Museum	<a href="https://www.perotmuseum.org/visit/discounts/">https://www.perotmuseum.org/visit/discounts/</a>	Dallas, TX	\$1 Admission with Medicaid card
Royal Family Kids Camp	<a href="https://www.ourfatherschildren.org/royalfamilykids/">https://www.ourfatherschildren.org/royalfamilykids/</a>	North Richland Hills, TX	Summer camps, weekend retreats for foster children
Savannah Bananas - Bananas Foster	<a href="https://bananasfoster.org/">https://bananasfoster.org/</a>	Savannah, GA	Entertainment sports team foster awareness program, foster awareness, foster family activities
Skiin' with the Galilean	<a href="https://www.swtgtx.org/">https://www.swtgtx.org/</a>	Lake Athens and Marble Falls, TX	Family lake day, boating and water skiing activities for foster families and special needs families
Splash Kingdom	<a href="http://www.splashkingdomwaterpark.com/hudson-oaks/">www.splashkingdomwaterpark.com/hudson-oaks/</a>	Weatherford, TX	Contact Rebecca Haug for foster care discount, (817) 598-0777 email: <a href="mailto:info@splashkingdomwaterpark.com">info@splashkingdomwaterpark.com</a>
Waxahachie YMCA - Angel League Swim	<a href="https://ymcadallas.org/locations/waxahachie-family-ymca">https://ymcadallas.org/locations/waxahachie-family-ymca</a>	Waxahachie, TX	Special needs swim team

**Additional Resources:**

- Supreme Court of Texas Children's Court: [www.texaschildrenscommission.gov](http://www.texaschildrenscommission.gov)
- DFPS Forms [https://www.dfps.texas.gov/site\\_map/forms.asp](https://www.dfps.texas.gov/site_map/forms.asp)
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
  - o Dallas County <https://www.dallascasa.org/>
  - o Ellis County <https://casaofelliscounty.org/>
  - o Collin County <https://casaofcollincounty.org/>
  - o Rockwall, Kaufman County <https://lonestarcasa.org/>
- Child Welfare Boards <https://www.tccwb.org/boards>
- DFPS Foster Family Resource Directory [https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Child\\_Protection/Foster\\_Care/Resource\\_Directory.asp](https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Child_Protection/Foster_Care/Resource_Directory.asp)
- Findhelp.org <https://www.findhelp.org/>



**Attorneys:**

Name	Phone	Location	Practice/Notes
Jennifer Wiggins	817-860-9900	Arlington	Adoptions
Natasha Combs	214-901-6573	Collin County	Adoption/Interventions
Cynthia Palmer	469-635-6900	Dallas	Adoptions
David Joyce	972-851-0700	Dallas	Adoption/Interventions
Jessica Dunne	214-361-5600	Dallas	Adoptions
Brent Hill	940-381-3688	Denton and Cooke Cty	Adoptions
Emily Hindman	469-901-2592	Ellis County	Adoptions/Family Law
Michael Butz	469-379-2668	Ellis County	Adoptions/Family Law
Trina Dorsey	214-734-3941	Forney/Kaufman	Adoptions
Belker Paschall	817-870-1273	Fort Worth	Foster Adoptions
Eric Freeby	817-338-3888	Fort Worth	Adoption/Consulting
Frank Adler	817-633-3838	Fort Worth	Adoption/Interventions
Jamie Taylor	817-210-4802	Fort Worth	Adoptions
Brent Money	903-455-1600	Greenville	Interventions
Lauren Hudgeons	903-461-7400	Greenville	Adoptions
Tom McKenzie	817-282-3868	Hurst	Adoptions
Kelly Reeves	817-465-4664	Pantego	Adoption/Interventions
Amy M. Lee	817-909-6059	Tarrant and surrounding counties	Adoptions
Tara Kersh	817-899-0322	Tarrant and surrounding counties	Adoption/Interventions
Courtney Wortham	972-740-9571	Terrell, TX	Adoptions



# Adoption Assistance Worksheet Example

**-EXAMPLE-**

Re: Child's Name Put child's pre-adoptive name  
Last name, first name

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
address

The information you provide on this worksheet will be the focus of discussion in negotiating your child's adoption assistance benefits. This information will help us to identify how you may be unable to meet your adopted child's needs and to what extent you may require assistance.

First, review this entire form before filling it out. You only need to fill out the sections that relate to your child's needs and your ability to meet those needs. Please provide specific information and details regarding meeting your child's needs, including exact dollar amounts, if known and supporting documentation. Should the child's needs change as the child grows, you may ask to re-negotiate the adoption assistance benefits.

Note: Please return this form to the adoption assistance negotiator before your scheduled discussion regarding adoption assistance benefits.

### Part One

#### Areas of Need

##### Exceptional Initial Placement Expenses

Sometimes, to incorporate a large sibling group or a child with physical disabilities into the adoptive home requires an initial outlay of money by the adoptive family to accommodate the child(ren). Examples of exceptional initial expenses include the following:

- Remodeling or adding on to the home to accommodate sibling groups. Purchase of beds, bedding and dressers to accommodate sibling group placements.
- Adding ramps, lifts and the like to the home for children with disabilities.
- Special or additional clothing needed for the child because the child is being placed in a climate with severe weather or the child's clothing is completely inadequate.

These types of expenses relate only to the adoptive family's ability to accommodate the child's initial placement. When a family needs this type of help, it is expected that this assistance will be limited in duration. For example, under an adoption assistance agreement, you may be provided a specified monthly amount that would only last for a couple years and another amount that would extend through the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The agreement can accommodate two separate monetary amounts and payment periods. NOTE: Under no circumstances can the total amount provided to you each month exceed the maximum adoption assistance monthly payment ceiling. (See 40 TAC §700.844)

Exceptional placement expenses do not include allowable costs of non-recurring adoption expenses such as attorney fees and court costs. These expenses can only be reimbursed after the final order of adoption is entered.

Any furniture or supplies you purchased for child's room. Example: bed, bedding, mattress, dresser, car seat, toys, clothes, diapers, desk, lamps, Safety Ac., Paint, decoration

Estimated monthly cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Duration in months/years don't worry  
Attach documentation of cost, if known

**Special Maintenance**

Medicaid coverage (or the state-provided equivalent) is available to any child that is eligible for adoption assistance. Therefore, expenses relating to a child's medical needs are not commonly included in the negotiation of adoption assistance monthly monetary payments. At times, however, meeting a child's medical needs may directly relate to additional expenses not covered by Medicaid or other insurance resources available to you.

Special maintenance, therefore, includes periodic expenses related to meeting the special health needs of a child with disabilities, significant health conditions, and/or significant behavioral health issues, such as the following:

- Frequent or costly transportation, and child care for other children, directly related to getting the adopted child's health care needs met.
- Cost of providing the child with special equipment or food, adaptive clothing or other necessary services relating to the child's special medical needs, to the extent such costs/expenses are not reimbursable by Medicaid or your other insurance resources.
- Attendant care not covered by Medicaid or another resource such as private health insurance.
- Replacement of durable items necessitated by the child's exceptional use or destruction.

1.) Does the child attend therapy, speech therapy, Psy, OT, PT, etc? How often does the child attend? 2.) Do you lose money at work to take child to appointment?

Estimated monthly cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Duration in months/years \_\_\_\_\_  
Attach documentation of cost, if known

3.) Do you have to get childcare for your other children when you take them to doctor?  
4.) Does your child take medication?  
Asthma, Eczema, glasses, braces, seasonal allergies



**Child Care**

Assistance with child care is only available for the adopted child and includes day care, after school care and summer care. Please specify why the care is needed.

Does child attend daycare? How much  
does daycare cost?

- After school or summer care.

Estimated monthly cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Duration in months/years \_\_\_\_\_  
Attach documentation of cost, if known.

**Supportive Educational Needs**

Supportive educational expenses are to assist a child whose educational needs cannot be fully met by the public education system due their disability or therapeutic needs. This assistance is intended to augment services the child is entitled to receive and not replace or serve as a substitute for services the public school system is required by law to provide.

*Supportive educational expenses may include:*

Academic tutoring specialized schooling, and special equipment when the school system will not provide the service/equipment. Private school tuition is considered only when all of the following apply:

- 1) the child has a diagnosed learning disability, developmental disability, or other diagnosed therapeutic need that impairs learning;
- 2) the child is not progressing in the public school system;
- 3) a credentialed professional such as a medical doctor or psychologist recommends the child be enrolled in a specialized school or receive special support services (such as tutoring and equipment); and
- 4) the public school officials concur that the child would best benefit from a specialized setting, tutoring, etc.

1.) Does the child have special needs?

2.) Does school require uniforms?

3.) Will the child need tutoring outside of school?

4.) Will child be attending private school?

Estimated monthly cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Duration in months/years \_\_\_\_\_  
Attach documentation of cost, if known.



**Maintaining Sibling/Other Family Contact**

When an adoptive family has committed to helping the adopted child maintain personal contact with siblings and other family members important to the child, any extraordinary costs associated with maintaining contact (e.g., transportation costs) can be considered in negotiating adoption assistance.

- 1.) Will the child have contact with SB's, Aunts, Uncles, grandparents?
- 2.) How often will they visit?
- 3.) Where do the relatives live?

Estimated monthly cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Duration in months/years \_\_\_\_\_  
Attach documentation of cost, if known.

**Routine Maintenance**

Routine maintenance refers to the typical and routine expenses necessarily involved in raising a child to age 18 (e.g., food, clothing, shelter, school supplies, and recreational/extracurricular activities). Involved in the decision to adopt a child is the expectation that you will be able to provide for the child's very basic needs and routine maintenance until the child is an adult. The primary consideration for determining when assistance with routine maintenance is required in order for the adoption to proceed is to determine how the adoption will cause there to be exceptional maintenance expenses, above and beyond the norm.

However, when a family is uniquely qualified to adopt a child (e.g., having an emotional or biological bond with the child, or prior experience raising a child with similar special needs), the extent to which the adoptive family is unable to meet the routine expenses of raising the child can be considered and discussed in negotiating adoption assistance payments. Also, at times families experience temporary life events (e.g., working parent loses job, one parent quits job to return to school, etc.) that may require a specific monthly payment related to routine maintenance for a limited period of time.

Activities you will enrolled the child in:  
 Dance, Karate, Piano lessons, YMCA, Scouts  
 School Sports  
 Other: allowance, cellphone, birthday party, car insurance  
 car, driving school etc

Estimated monthly cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adoptive Parent Signature and Date      Adoptive Parent Signature and Date



**Part Two**

**Monthly Adoption Expenses**

Note: The following section is completed together by the adoptive family and with the adoption assistance benefits negotiator.

Except. Initial Placement Expenses	Cost \$ _____	Family contribution \$ _____	Agency contribution \$ _____
Special Maintenance	Cost \$ _____	Family contribution \$ _____	Agency contribution \$ _____
Child Care	Cost \$ _____	Family contribution \$ _____	Agency contribution \$ _____
Supportive Educational Needs	Cost \$ _____	Family contribution \$ _____	Agency contribution \$ _____
Maintaining Sibling/ Other Family Contact	Cost \$ _____	Family contribution \$ _____	Agency contribution \$ _____
Routine Maintenance	Cost \$ _____	Family contribution \$ _____	Agency contribution \$ _____
Total	Cost \$ _____	Family contribution \$ _____	Agency contribution \$ _____

Child's income \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Part Three Negotiated Benefits**

The negotiator completes this section to reflect the negotiated agreement with the adoptive family.

\_\_\_\_\_ Deferred agreement negotiated

\_\_\_\_\_ Medicaid only negotiated

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month beginning \_\_\_\_\_ and ending \_\_\_\_\_, the month of the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or earlier if agreed to by the adoptive family

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month beginning \_\_\_\_\_ and ending \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for short-term expenses, if applicable.

\_\_\_\_\_ Medicaid coverage to be provided in addition to monthly payments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
adoptive parent signature and date

\_\_\_\_\_  
adoptive parent signature and date

\_\_\_\_\_  
adoption assistance benefits negotiator signature and date

*Do not need to fill out*



This form is to be completed when there is no detailed information about resources and expenses in the adoption home study or the information is out-of-date.

I. RESOURCES

Provide the following information about your Resources & Expenses:

Monthly Income

Woman's Income Source: <input type="checkbox"/> Employment <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Gross \$	Net \$
Man's Income Source: <input type="checkbox"/> Employment <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Gross \$	Net \$
All Other Household Income Source: Rental Income, Alimony, Child Support, Dividends, Adoption Assistance, Foster Care Reimbursement, etc.	Gross \$	Net \$
Child's income (SSI, RSDI etc.)	Gross \$	Net \$
<i>Please include any foster care payments</i> <b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$</b>

Additional Resources

Specify Sources (Stocks, Bonds, Savings, Investments, Interest Bearing Accounts, etc.)	Value \$
--	-------------

II. HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES

Enter your household's average monthly expenses for the following items. DO NOT INCLUDE EXPENSES THAT ARE DEDUCTED FROM PAYCHECKS.

House/Rent Payments <i>include taxes for home</i>	\$ _____	Medical and Dental Insurance	<i>If not deducted from income</i> \$ _____
Groceries and Household Supplies	_____	Automobile Payments	_____
Utilities - <i>Gas/Water/Elec.</i>	_____	Gasoline and Auto Maintenance	<i>Include oil changes etc</i> _____
Medical Care (Not covered by Insurance)	<i>CO-pay</i> _____	Telephone cell/home/Internet/cable	_____
Clothing	_____	Automobile Insurance	_____
Dental Care (Not covered by Insurance)	<i>CO-pay</i> _____	Other Debts/Expenses (specify)	_____
Child Care	_____	<i>Credit cards/loans/Gym membership</i>	_____
Recreation and Entertainment	<i>Vacation/Movies McDonalds/Zoo etc</i> _____	<i>Life Insurance/HOA fees/Taxes/tithe/savings/Netflix Sirius</i>	_____
		<b>TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>



**FOSTERING  
CONNECTIONS**

# Handicapping Condition Letter Sample



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Re: Child's First Name Child's Last Name  
Date of Birth: Month/Date/Year  
Adoption:  Pending  Consummated on: Month/Date/Year

Dear Provider:

Per the request of the parents of the above-named child, the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services is evaluating whether this child is eligible for adoption assistance benefits.

Our rules require that an appropriately qualified professional make a diagnosis:

- That the child has a verifiable physical, mental or emotional handicapping condition; *and if the adoption of the child has been consummated, that*
- The condition existed, but could not be diagnosed, before the child's adoption.

Your response to the following questions (**on your office letterhead**) will enable us to best serve this child and family.

1. **Have you diagnosed Child's First Name with one or more physical, mental, or emotional handicapping conditions?** If so, list the condition(s) and indicate whether they are handicapping.
2. Please include a reference to the **professional status** (e.g. M.D., Ph.D.) **that qualifies you to make the diagnosis or diagnoses** and offer your opinions on the questions above.

**INCLUDE THIS PARAGRAPH ONLY IF ADOPTION HAS BEEN CONSUMMATED:** 3. **Can you determine if any of the handicapping conditions existed, but could not be diagnosed, before Child's First Name's adoption on Month/Date/Year?**

If so, please explain why this diagnosis could not be made before the child's adoption? (e.g. child was too young for diagnosis before adoption; or perhaps some characteristic of condition)?

Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions. Please submit this information to me at:

AA SPECIALIST'S NAME

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services  
"AA SPECIALIST'S ADDRESS AND MAIL CODE"  
CITY Texas "ZIP CODE"

If you have any questions, please call me at: (xxx) xxx-xxxx.



DISCLAIMER: This document is provided for general informational and educational purposes only. It does not constitute legal, financial, or tax advice. Tax laws change frequently and individual situations vary. Families should consult a licensed CPA, tax advisor, or attorney (specifically one with specialized knowledge and experience about the adoption credit) regarding their specific circumstances before making tax decisions.

# TAX BASICS FOR FOSTER & ADOPTIVE PARENTS

## **FOSTER CARE & TAXES**

### ***Are foster care reimbursements taxable income?***

No. Payments you receive from a state agency or licensed placement agency for foster care are not considered taxable income by the Internal Revenue Service. These payments are reimbursements for the child's care.

### ***Do I report foster reimbursements on my tax return?***

No. Foster care maintenance payments are not reported as income.

### ***Can I claim a foster child as a dependent?***

You may claim a foster child if:

- The child lived with you for more than half the year,
- The child was placed with you by a state or licensed agency, and
- No one else is claiming the child.

To claim a foster child as a dependent, you will be required to provide their social security number. If you do not have this information, request it from your caseworker as soon as possible.

## **ADOPTION & TAXES**

### ***What Is the Adoption Tax Credit?***

The Adoption Tax Credit is a **partially refundable** credit (as of 2025) that helps offset qualified adoption expenses. This means that a portion of the credit may be received as a refund, even if your tax liability is less than the total credit amount. It is claimed using Form 8839. The maximum credit amount is **per child** and is adjusted annually for inflation (see current limits at Internal Revenue Service).

Qualified Adoption Expenses May Include:

- Agency fees, Attorney fees, Court costs, Travel expenses, Home study fees

Any unused credit may be **carried forward for up to five additional tax years** (subject to current Internal Revenue Service rules).

### ***Special Needs Adoption***

If you adopt a child determined by the state to have "special needs":

- You may qualify to claim the full adoption tax credit amount, even if you had little or no out-of-pocket expenses.

"Special needs" generally means:

- The child cannot or should not return home, AND
- The state determines the child is unlikely to be adopted without assistance.
- **If your child receives subsidy, they qualify for the special needs adoption tax credit.**

Many families adopting from foster care qualify under this provision.

### ***When Can You Claim the Credit?***

- Domestic adoption (not yet finalized): Claim expenses the year after you paid them.
- Finalized domestic adoption: Claim expenses in the year finalized.
- International adoption: Claim expenses only in the year finalized.

### ***What If You Didn't Claim the Credit?***

You may be able to amend your tax return to claim the Adoption Tax Credit if:

- You are within the amendment time limit.

Generally, you have:

- 3 years from the date you filed the original return, OR
- 2 years from the date you paid the tax, whichever is later.
- To amend, you file Form 1040-X.

Because amendment rules and credit carryforwards can be complex, it is strongly recommended that you work with a qualified tax professional.

Read more here:

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/improvements-to-the-adoption-tax-credit-make-adoption-more-affordable>