

# FAQs



**Did you know Summit County Children Services licenses foster-to-adopt homes in the following counties in the State of Ohio:**

Summit, Cuyahoga, Medina, Portage, Stark, Wayne



Summit County  
**CHILDREN SERVICES**  
*Building Families . . . Building Futures*

BE THE  
**REASON**  
*For*  
LASTING IMPACT

## How old do you need to be?

You must be age 18 or older to become a foster parent...there is no maximum age.

## Do you have to earn a certain income?

You must be able to meet your household needs.

## Do you have to be married?

No, you can be married, single, divorced, widowed or be a co-parent or have a domestic partner.

## Do you have to own your own home?

No, you can rent. But you must have adequate space available and your landlord's approval to care for children in foster care.

## Can you be a foster parent if you work?

Yes. Extra help for the cost of childcare may be available.

## How many children can be placed in my home?

For the first two years, licensed foster parents may take up to three foster children. After two years of service, they may take up to five children with a total of 10 children maximum including your own children, foster children and any children for whom you provide care.

## What happens after training is completed?

You will need to contact SCCS (330.379.1990) to request an application packet. Once you receive it you must fill it out and return it to SCCS. SCCS will then assign a foster home coordinator to review the packet with you.

## Can a foster parent request specific ages or sex of children in foster care?

You may ask for the age and gender of children you think would fit in best with your family situation and needs.

## What is the home study?

The home study is a process that involves information sharing and gathering for the purpose of determining an applicant's suitability in meeting the general criteria to be licensed and/or approved as a foster or foster-to-adopt parent. This process usually takes three to six months. During the home study:

- All family members will be interviewed by the Licensing Specialist.
- Applicants will assess whether or not foster care and/or adoption is the appropriate option for their family.
- Applicants and the Licensing Specialist will mutually assess which child(ren) the applicants are best suited to parent.

## When can I have children in foster care come to my home?

After your home study has been completed and approved, the agency recommends the family to the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services for licensing. When you receive your license, the agency can begin placing children with your family.

## What kind of assistance does the agency provide to foster parents in caring for children?

- Foster parents receive monthly reimbursement checks for the care of each child. This reimbursement check may include childcare assistance if a foster parent is employed.
- Foster parents receive mileage reimbursement and are provided with ongoing training opportunities.
- Medical care is provided for foster children in foster care at Akron Children's Hospital and its affiliates.
- Each foster home is assigned a foster home coordinator to provide personal support.
- The agency offers regular support group meetings for foster parents.
- There is a Foster Parent Association dedicated to providing support and resources to foster parents.



Foster Parents  
**are the reason**  
families have  
a chance  
to rebuild.

# How To Become A Foster Parent

We need help from our community.

For more information call **330.379.1990** or visit **summitkids.org**



**1**

## Attend a Foster Information Meeting

Learn more about fostering and speak to our staff about any questions you may have.

**2**

## Complete Foster Training

Attend the required training and learn more about the process, agency and children in care.

**3**

## Submit an Application

Fill out and submit an application at any point in time during the training process.

**4**

## Complete Home Study

Includes up to 3-4 home visits, approximately 2 hours each.

**5**

## Placement

Once licensed, families can expect to receive placement of a child at any time.

A foster home coordinator is assigned to your family and will assist you by providing ongoing support to you and the child(ren) placed in your home.

# Our need by the numbers

These Summit County zip codes have the highest number of children in our custody and lowest number of foster homes\*  
\*numbers accurate as of December 2022

