

How to Pick a Foster Care Agency

FAQ	<i>DePaul Community Resources</i>	Your Notes Here
<p>What type of children are referred to your agency?</p>	<p><i>Primarily, the children are school age and older—the greatest need is for families that can take teenagers or sibling placements. The children referred to us often have higher behavioral, social/emotional, and medical needs; however, our parents are provided in-depth training and supportive case management services to help meet the needs of the children placed in their home.</i></p>	
<p>Are foster parents offered financial assistance to help meet the needs of children? Do you utilize Virginia Enhanced Maintenance Assessment Tool (VEMAT)? What about medical expenses?</p>	<p><i>Yes. The Virginia Department of Social Services provides foster parents with a stipend payment to meet the basic needs of the child. We also utilize VEMAT to offer more assistance to foster parents who accept children with a higher level of need. Medical expenses are also separately covered through Medicaid.</i></p>	
<p>How many cases does each foster care worker carry?</p>	<p><i>DePaul strives to provide a high level of individualized support and case management to the foster families we serve. As a result, the case managers (Treatment Foster Care Specialists) typically only carry an average of 6-10 cases, with careful consideration being placed on the level of need of the children on each worker's caseload.</i></p>	

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<p>What training is offered to foster parents initially and ongoing?</p>	<p><i>DePaul provides approximately 27 hours of pre-service training to families before they are certified as an open home. These trainings include a mixture of in-office and online trainings in order to provide flexibility to the families. Our parents also are provided with monthly in-service training on an ongoing basis, some required and some optional.</i></p>	
<p>Will my home be approved for foster care only or as a resource home (opening up the potential for adoption)?</p>	<p><i>DePaul's home study process dually approves families to both foster and adopt, and to provide short-term care as a "Resource Family". Adoption is an option for our families should a child already be, or becomes legally free to be adopted.</i></p>	
<p>What support is available with transporting children to and from appointments?</p>	<p><i>Foster parents are expected to help provide transportation to necessary appointments for children they are fostering just as they would their own children. However, there are at times a good deal of needed appointments for a child in foster care depending on the needs of the child and their specific case. DePaul TFC Specialists can and will sometimes help assist with transportation as necessary and within the abilities of the program.</i></p>	
<p>How long has your organization been providing foster care? Are you a for-profit or nonprofit?</p>	<p><i>DePaul is a private nonprofit licensed child placing agency. DePaul has been providing foster care services to portions of southwest and central Virginia since 1977.</i></p>	