

## We believe...

- Behavior change and the work of change is a part of our daily challenge.
- Safety for children is achieved through positive protective relationships with caring family and community members.
- Meaningful decisions require close family participation in decision making.
- Strengths of families and supporting these strengths contribute to life-long permanent relationships for children.
- Families' success depends on community involvement and shared problem solving.
- Practice with families is interrelated at every step of the casework process.
- Sustainable success with families is the work of a team.
- The entire system must support frontline practice to achieve positive outcomes with families.
- Every staff position, role, and activity of the Division shows continuous effort to build and maintain professionalism.
- Skill based training and consultation forms the foundation for successful practice with families.
- Quality improvement and accountability guide all of our work. How we do the work is as important as the work we do.



Below is **YOUR** local county's number of foster homes vs. the number of children in Foster Care. YOU are needed to

 Pen Your Heart,  
Pen Your Home



Our Website is

[www.fosterarkansas.org](http://www.fosterarkansas.org)

### Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Children and Family Services

Our mission is to keep children safe and help families. DCFS will respectfully engage families and youth and use community-based services and supports to assist parents in successfully caring for their children. We will focus on the safety, permanency, and well-being for all children and youth.



**Together for Arkansas  
Children and Families**

PUB-20

## Be a Foster Parent

 *Open your heart,  
pen your home...*



**CARE...**  
*about local children*

**COMMIT...**

*your time and love*

**CONNECT...**

*become a Foster Parent*



## Enhance a child's life...

Open your heart and your home to a child during a time of crisis and change. As a foster parent, you will guide and support your foster child every day. By your actions, you can help children and their families cope with the challenges that life brings their way.



Foster care gives children a temporary home when their parents cannot take care of them. In foster care, a child lives in a safe, stable, and nurturing home while the child's family will focus on getting the assistance they need to become a successful family.

The goal is to return the child home safely. If that is not possible, a permanent home will be found.



## A Child Is Waiting....

- At DCFS we strive to:
- Value and support families at every step of a family's encounter with our system.
- Safely keep children with their families.
- Enhance well-being in all of our practices with families.
- Use foster care and any other placements as temporary services to help achieve reunification.
- Use permanent placements with relatives or other adults, when reunification is not possible, who have a close relationship to the child or children (preferred permanency option).



- Make certain all youth in foster care have access to an array of resources to help them achieve a successful transition into adulthood.
- Ensure that when adoption is the best permanency option that adoptions are timely, well-supported, and lifelong.



## Who Are the Children in need of Foster Care?

Children in foster care are all ages, from birth to teenagers. Children are from all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Foster families are desperately needed to care for sibling groups, teenagers, and children with disabilities. Our need in Arkansas for foster homes is **URGENT!**

**Will you open your heart and home to become a foster parent?**