

How to Become a Resource Parent

1. Make an Inquiry

The process begins when you call the Resource Home Recruiter at 703.746.5858 to obtain more information about the foster/adopt process.

2. Attend an Informational Meeting

Each month, a resource parent informational meeting is held in the City of Alexandria.

3. Schedule an Initial At-Home Consultation

When you decide to move forward with the process, we will meet with you in your home to discuss the training and approval process.

4. Pre-service Training: PRIDE (Parent Resource Information, Development and Education)

The PRIDE training is a 35-hour course designed to help you become a successful resource parent. It covers a wide variety of topics, such as family relationships, meeting children's developmental and emotional needs, as well as working as a member of a professional team.

5. Mutual Selection Process

You will better be able to make the decision about becoming a resource parent after you've attended training and completed the home study. Together we will assess whether resource parenting is right for you and your family. Making the decision to become a resource parent is a difficult one, and you may opt out at any time. The entire licensing process usually takes four to six months to complete. Final approval rests with the agency.

Learn More

To learn more about the **Resource Parent Program** in the City of Alexandria, please contact:

Chrissy Levine

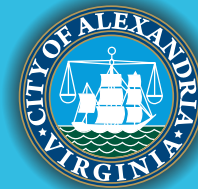
Resource Home Recruiter
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Resource Parenting in Alexandria



Department of
Community and
Human Services

703.746.5902

www.alexandriava.gov/DCBS

What is a Resource Parent?

A resource parent is someone who is licensed as both a foster and adoptive parent. Resource parents provide a safe and nurturing home environment for children who have been separated from their birth families due to abuse and/or neglect. Resource parents and families are willing to work, as members of a team of caring professionals, to help children return to their birth families, if at all possible. If a child cannot return to his or her birth parent and parental rights are terminated, a resource family may have the opportunity to adopt the child.

Agency requirements to become a resource parent:

- Minimum age of 25 (in a two-parent home, only one has to meet the age requirement)
- Resident of Virginia
- Financially stable
- Agency training
- Home study
- Criminal and Child Protective Services background checks

A snapshot of Alexandria's children who depend on Resource Parents...

The Department of Community and Human Services' Division of Social Services usually has about 100 children in care. About half of the children are part of large sibling groups, almost half are middle school age or older, and the majority are African American. The average time an Alexandria child spends in foster care is at least one year.

What is Foster Care?

Foster care is the provision of services and substitute care (resource homes, relatives, group homes, residential facilities and independent living) for children, who cannot live with their birth families. Children in foster care need the strength, stability and security of a nurturing home environment. The Department of Community and Human Services is responsible for providing temporary and sometimes permanent living situations for these children.

Who Are the Children in Foster Care?

Children in foster care are newborn to age 21 and have been deemed by the court to be abused, neglected or abandoned. On occasion, parents themselves entrust their children into foster care for their children's own protection or in a time of crisis when no other resource is available.

Children in foster care come from every racial, ethnic and socio-economic background. Some children may have difficulty controlling their behaviors or handling their emotions due to the abuse or neglect they have suffered. Some children may have physical, emotional or intellectual challenges that require special care and professional services.

While all types of resource families are desired, there is a strong need in the City of Alexandria for resource families who are willing to care for teenagers and pregnant and/or parenting teens. Resource families who can care for sibling groups and individuals who can speak Spanish are also needed. The resource unit matches children with parents who can best meet their needs.

How Much Does Fostering Cost?

Resource Parents receive a monthly stipend, based on the age of the child, to help cover the expenses of raising a child in foster care. Child care expenses are covered by the agency for working resource parents. Health care costs are covered by either Virginia Medicaid or by the agency, depending on the child's eligibility.

Only a few can be Resource Parents, but everyone can help children in foster care. You can help, too!

Alexandria's children in foster care depend on our community for all kinds of support. The Fund for Alexandria's Child helps meet the needs of our City's most vulnerable children—those who are in foster care or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. The Fund provides money that is used to provide experiences and things for children in foster care that cannot be paid for any other way: sporting team equipment, uniforms, school pictures, music lessons, scouting, field trips, band camp, soccer club fees, graduation caps and gowns—all important parts of being a kid, growing up and fitting in with peers at school and on the playground.

To find out more about The Fund and to make a donation of money or time, visit:

www.alexandriava.gov/TheFundForAlexChild

