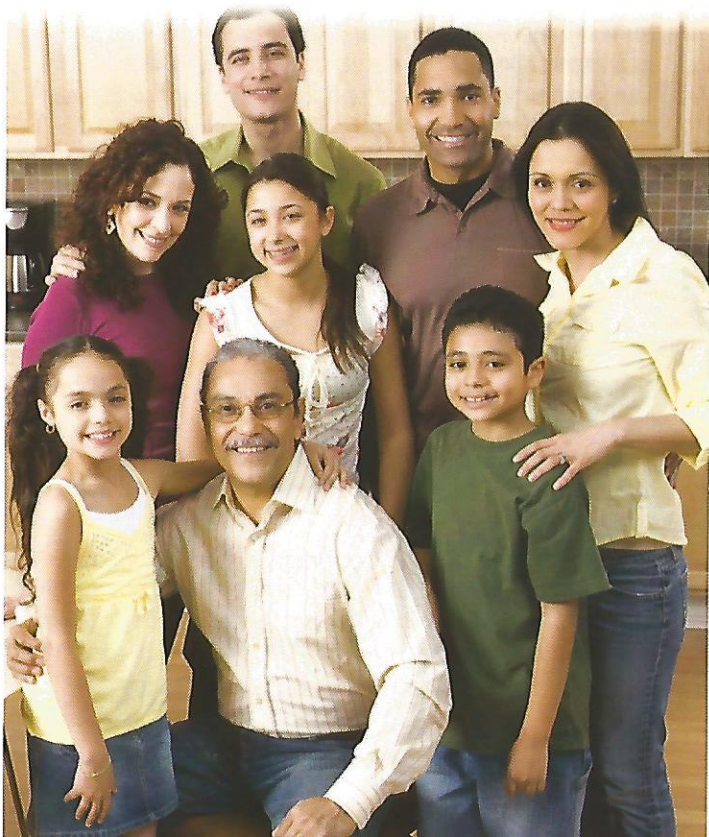


Open Your Home.

What can **you do** to **help?**

**Your Ordinary Can Be a Child's
Extraordinary!**

"Open your Heart...Open Your Home" to a child in need. These children, their families and DHR need you!!!!



Chambers County
Department of
Human Resources(DHR)

P.O. Box 409
LaFayette, AL 36862
(334) 864-4000
Toll Free 877-756-9640

An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer



Become a Chambers County
Foster Family/Adoptive
Resource Home.

**Is a Family
too much to ask?**



Open Your Heart.

Open Your Home.



What is Foster Care?

What is Adoption?

When parents or relatives are unable to care for a child, foster care is provided as a temporary home to the child(ren) in a safe, nurturing and loving environment. Foster care offers a support system for a family so that the child(ren) can be protected and gives the family time to work toward reunification. Adoption can occur when the parental rights of birth parents are terminated and the child is free to become a part of your home. The child is then legally yours and you have the same rights and responsibilities of a birth parent.

Who can be a Foster/Adoptive Resource Home?

Foster parents may be single or married. If married, they must have been married for at least one year. For a married couple at least one of the Foster Parents must be a US citizen. If a single person, he/she must be a US citizen. Foster parents may or may not have birth children. Foster parents must have sufficient income to be able to meet their own financial needs, must be over 19 years of age. The home must meet minimum standards which includes personal space for the child. The foster parent(s) must be healthy enough to meet the child's needs and must undergo a background check, including criminal history.

There are minor changes to the requirements for adoption such as, if married, must be married 3 years and there are some changes in home study information required. Primarily, the main requirement for successfully fostering/adopting a child in Alabama is a willingness and commitment to be a parent, as well as the ability to love and rear a child who needs you.

What is the process for becoming a Foster/Adoptive Home?

Interested persons should contact DHR to obtain information which includes a copy of the Minimum Standards for Foster/Adoptive Resource Homes. The application process includes completion of forms with information about applicants and household members. All adult household members are fingerprinted, have a criminal records check, and have CPR/First Aid Certification Training. All household members age 14 and over must submit to a child abuse/neglect clearance. An assessment is done with the family to ensure that the home meets minimum standards. Medical information will be needed on members of the prospective family. Together through the process of Trauma Informed Partnership in Parenting (TIPS), prospective foster/adoptive parents and the agency decide if expectations and abilities of the family match the realities of being a foster/adoptive home. During the TIPS training process, partnerships are established which help prepare foster/adoptive parent applicants to work with DHR and for the role of caring for "our" children.

Foster homes can be approved to serve up to six children. The foster family is given first consideration regarding adoption when a child in their home becomes free for adoption. DHR works in partnership with the foster families throughout the placement process in providing guidance, assistance and support. Foster Parents are valuable members of a team of



individuals who work with DHR to protect children safe in their own home.

Who are the children in Foster/Adoptive Care?

Children who need care range from infancy to male and female, and from different ethnic backgrounds. Children come into care for a variety of reasons, including abuse and neglect. Some children need care due to the death or illness of a parent. Foster care is provided for the child so that he or she can be reunited with parents or relatives, placed in an adoptive home or live independently. Most children who have experienced some type of traumatic experience will have affect the way they react to people and situations.

What financial assistance does a Foster/Adoptive Parent receive?

Foster parents will receive a board payment based on the needs of the child. The Department can provide for a child's needs beyond the board payment through a process called an ISP (Individualized Service Plan). The plan is developed with the family, providers of services, attorneys, and DHR in an effort to help the family and child(ren) meet goals and achieve better outcomes and achieve permanency for the child.

Most children in foster care have medical coverage through Medicaid. If children are ineligible for Medicaid, the foster parent is responsible for medical expenses. DHR works with foster parent applicants to determine eligibility when a child is placed in a foster home.

College funds may be available for some foster children depending on age or foster care status.