



Respected Partners
Nurturing Children
Supporting Families
Strengthening Communities

Our Kids Foster Parent Mentor Program Overview

Donald Machacon, Mentor Program Coordinator

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Purpose:

- Newly licensed Foster Parents benefit from hands-on training and support. Our Kids recognizes that experienced Foster Parents are one of the best resources to provide this support with the system of care and community.
- Foster Parent Mentors (FPM) provide the support needed to improve retention and placement disruptions.
- Foster Parents often serve as informal mentors of each other; Our Kids would like to formalize this relationship with training, criteria, recognition and compensation of a monthly stipend for their services.

Expected Outcomes:

- Improve retention of Licensed Foster Homes
- Improve placement stability
- Improve partnership in the system of care
- Increase the number of co-parenting opportunities

Who will be served:

- Newly licensed Foster Parents of Our Kids Full Case Management Agencies (FCMA)
- Current Foster Parents recognized as requiring some additional assistance or support

Foster Parent Mentor's Role:

- To provide guidance and support to new Foster Families including:
 - contact upon placement of new child and help advocate for specific needs
 - assist in dealing with system issues through guidance in navigating the system of care
 - support with school system issues and court-related issues
 - support through transitions with grief and loss
- To provide support for existing Foster Families in crisis, including situations such as disruptions, abuse investigations and foster care referrals
- Serve as an Advisory Group to Our Kids QA Department and QPI Steering Committee

Foster Parent Mentor's Duties:

- Mentor new Foster Family for a minimum of 6 months
 - Establish a personal, working relationship with Foster Parents
 - Physically meet with the Foster Parents in their home at least once
 - Make phone/e-mail contact as requested
 - Advocate attendance at FAPAs
 - Assist new Foster Parents in navigating the system of care
 - Available to Foster Parents 24/7
- Monthly Meetings with Mentoring Program Coordinator - Reports, Logs, Reviews
- Be available to help co-present PRIDE to prospective Foster Parents
- Maintain a positive relationship with OK/QA and FCMA Licensing and Placement



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FP Mentor Minimum Qualifications:

- Current and active in the system or previous Foster Parent past 2-3 years
- 2-3 years minimum experience with children of various ages and behavior challenges
- No Open Abuse Reports , History of Reports with Indicators
- Open to partnering with:
 - biological and extended family,
 - potential adoptive families; and,
 - child welfare professionals
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to maintain confidentiality
- Committed to a positive approach
- Flexible time schedule
- Cell phone and computer

FP Mentor Training:

- 3-4 day Foster Parent Mentor Training, including but not limited to:
 - Role, staying objective, review of issues requiring assistance
 - Communication and Feedback; Conflict Resolution and Assessment
 - Partnership Plan
 - System of Care, Courts and Schools
 - Trauma Informed Care
- PRIDE Overview
- FAST 101 – 2 hours
- 4 Additional hours of in-service related to Mentoring Program each year.

FP Mentor's Compensation:

- Monthly Stipend \$ 300 / month
- Travel Reimbursement \$ 0.445/mile
- PRIDE Co-Presenter \$ 30 / class
- Attend Annual DCF Child Protection Summit
- Attend Annual FSFAPA Education Conference