

Foster Change with Foster Care

CYS Therapeutic Foster Care Program

Community Youth Services' Therapeutic Foster Care Program is looking for foster homes and respite homes to support youth in our communities that are in need of a stable, safe and nurturing home.

Foster care providers are people who want to share their home and provide a nurturing family environment to a youth. They should be warm and understanding, have a sense of humor, must be flexible in their approach to parenting. Foster parents can be homeowners or renters, single or married, traditional or same gender families, and families who are culturally diverse. They must also:

- Be consistent and patient with youth
- Be able to pass a FBI Fingerprint Background check
- Be at least 21 years of age
- Meet state home safety and licensing requirements
- Have a regular source of income
- Able to participate as a member of the youth's treatment team

CYS seeks foster parents who understand the importance of healthy relationships at home, at school and in the community. By providing stability, nurturing, trust, enrichment, and a sense of belonging, foster parents can help a youth see the world in a more positive light and develop the skills necessary to become a healthy adult.

CYS foster families receive

- Excellent support services
- 24/7 crisis support
- Financial reimbursement
- On going training
- Peer networking
- Respite



Who are the youth we serve?

Community Youth Services provides Therapeutic Foster Care for youth ages 8-18 years old who are referred by Washington State's Division of Children and Family Services. The youth we serve often have experienced multiple placements, trauma, domestic violence, neglect and abuse, and are in need of safe, stable and nurturing homes.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

CYS utilizes a wraparound approach to provide intensive home, community and school based services designed to ensure placement stability, improve school functioning, decrease behavior challenges, increase pro-social skills and improve mental health.

The Therapeutic Foster Care program staff are committed to being a strong voice on behalf of foster youth and a dedicated resource for foster families.

For more information on becoming a CYS Foster Parent contact
Amanda Phinney at (360) 943-0780 x104 or
email: fostercare@communityyouthservices.org

A Foster Dad's Perspective

Written by a CYS Foster Parent

The darkness, the unknown, the different, these are all reasons our kids fear the foster care system. No matter what their biological family is going through the kids understand the "Order of things." No matter how caring, loving, supportive we are this is their worst fear. No amount of training, support, and coaching can prepare you for this journey that you now share with a "foster child." I use to see myself as the perfect foster parent that I could change any child's life just by having them live in my home; boy o boy was I wrong. Never has this been more clear to me then these past few months, but that will not change my desire to change the world.

I am very true to the saying "Wear your heart on your sleeve," and this has caused me many sleepless nights. I have been through the ringer with many of my youth from school issues to court issues. I have seen it all. I have cried many tears for the youth in my care. I have also been taught that simple joys of being a child from these kids. I have learned that we as humans can overcome anything with the simple support of a parent(s). Now there are four simple words that have forever touched my heart, something I was sure I would never hear from my "PTSD, RAD, ADD/ADHD" boys "I love you dad." Through the pain, through the darkness we have become a family, and as a family we can overcome anything.

I have had my heart broken many times by my boys, but they always find a way to mend it back. It takes an entire community to raise a child and that is what you have here at CYS. The dedication that I give my children each and every day is only matched by that of CYS, their entire staffs are here for one purpose and that is the children. We work together on a daily basis to improve the lives of the children/teens in our care, know that you are never alone. The future is unwritten and uncertain for these children by opening your home to them you can help write a new future for them.



History of CYS

CYS was founded as a small, non-profit social service agency in 1970. Since that time, it has grown steadily, responding to the diverse and ever-changing needs of our community. Today, CYS offers a variety of programs that serve nearly four thousand children, teens, and families in the South Sound area each year.

What is Respite Care?

Respite care is short term care of youth outside of their foster home to allow the foster parents a break from the daily routine of parenting.

CYS foster families receive two days of respite per month. Respite families go through the same licensing process as full time foster parents. CYS has some respite families that provide respite care in addition to having full time placement of other foster youth, as well as, families that only provide short term respite care.

Providing respite care can be a great way to determine if full time foster parenting is right for your family.

Vision Statement

We envision every child growing up in a supportive home and community and achieving their full potential for personal growth.

Mission Statement

Community Youth Services supports youth and families in achieving their needs for health, safety, security and community.

Background Clearances

In Washington State all applicants and other persons in the home over the age of 16 must pass a background check. Persons 18 years and older must also complete FBI Fingerprint check. Certain crimes are automatic disqualifiers. However, please know that a criminal history does not necessarily prohibit you from being a foster parent. We recognize that many people make mistakes, learn from them and move on with their lives.

If you have lived outside of Washington, you must also consent to a search of the Child Abuse and Neglect Registry from other states you have lived in. This process allows for the greatest protection of the youth that we serve.

Please talk to your CYS Licensor if you have questions about the background check process.

TB Testing

In Washington State all persons residing in the foster home over the age of 18 must provide documentation that they are TB negative.

You can obtain TB testing from your personal doctor or at many walk in clinics. Additionally, Some county health departments offer TB testing.

Contact your CYS Licensor if you need assistance in finding a TB testing location in your community.



Need your First Aid/CPR/HIV/AIDS training?
View the upcoming schedule and register online at www.keepthebeatcpr.net or call Keep the Beat at **888-704-6074**

What are the Training Requirements?

Prior to becoming a licensed foster parent, applicants must complete PRIDE Training (Pre-Service). PRIDE is a 27 hour training course that covers the basics of foster care. It is frequently offered by DSHS in many communities across Washington.

You can access the DSHS Pre-Service (PRIDE) schedule at www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/preservice.asp.

After becoming licensed, families must complete Parenting Plus within their first two years of being licensed. Parenting Plus is a 36 hour course, which will satisfy your CYS training requirements for the first year.

CYS requires foster parents to have 30 hours of on-going training per year. There are many ways you can meet these requirements. You can attend CYS or DSHS trainings, trainings hosted by your local school district or other relevant community trainings.

Additionally, online courses are available through DSHS. To view the DSHS Training Calendar and available online courses go to www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/ongoing.asp.

Other required trainings include First Aid, CPR and HIV/AIDS. You can receive these trainings free of charge from Keep the Beat. If Keep the Beat is not convenient for you, you can contact your local resources to obtain the trainings individually.

Please be sure to provide your CYS Licensor with copies of all trainings that you complete, both prior and after being licensed.

Washington Basic Health

Are you without health insurance? Did you know that as a licensed foster parent you may qualify for Washington Basic Health? To learn more, go to their website at www.basichealth.hca.wa.gov/foster.html.