When You Are Not In Agreement With A Decision, Regarding Your Approval, You Have The Right To Due Process

If you are denied approval as a Resource Family, you will receive a written "Notice of Action." You have the right to appeal in writing to the County within 25 days after you receive the Notice. If you are not satisfied with the County's decision, you can request a hearing by an Administrative Law Judge.



Los Angeles County needs loving, families for children, youth and young adults.

What Are The Benefits for Existing Caregivers:

◊ The approval process and standards are the same for ALL caregivers—relatives and nonrelatives, foster parents and adoptive parents. You will not need to be assessed again if you decide to care for an unrelated child or if you decide to adopt the child you are caring for.

◊ All caregivers will receive monthly benefits, in an amount based on the child's individual needs.

◊ You will have an RFA social worker who can answer questions and help with the a approval process and yearly reassessment.

◊ Resource family support centers are available to help you find services and supports you and the child may need.

◊ Ongoing trainings and classes are offered at no cost to you.

For more Resource Family support please call: (888) 694-7263

Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services

RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL

Resource Family Approval (RFA) Program

Information for Existing Caregivers



Committed Families Create Thriving Children

The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is the nation's largest public child welfare agency. Our primary goal is to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. We work with parents to keep families together and to reunify families whenever possible. For children who cannot safely remain with or return to their parents, we look for committed foster and adoptive families to provide safe, loving permanent homes.

What is Resource Family Approval?

Resource Family Approval is the assessment process an individual or couple must go through to provide care for a child or non-minor dependent (a young adult ages 18-21) who is in the foster care system. Resource Families may be relatives or family friends interested in caring for a specific child, or non-relatives interested in becoming foster or adoptive parents.



What do I need to know?

Starting January 1, 2017, all existing relative caregivers, non-relative caregivers, foster parents, and legal guardians will need to transition and become an approved Resource Family by December 31, 2019. In addition, all new relative and non relative caregivers, foster parents, legal guardians and adoptive parents will have to be approved under the new RFA guidelines.

RFA is about approving families not denying families.

The Good News...

All approved existing caregivers will be contacted by a RFA social worker who will provide support and assist you with your transition to become a resource family. Also, caregivers who have a child in placement for any length of time between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017, will not be required to comply with the full RFA process. Instead, all that will be required is a successful completion of a psychosocial assessment.

What is a Psychosocial Assessment?

A psychosocial assessment is a review of the family environment including mental, physical, and emotional health, as well as a home assessment. This process helps to identify the family's strength's, as well as the support or additional training that may be needed for the family to best meet the needs of children and youth.



RFA is about creating safe and loving homes.

Resource Family Training

You will receive 12 hours of pre-approval training, and at least 8 hours of post-approval training every year. The training is family-focused and child-centered, and helps resource families improve their skills in the following areas:

- ◊ Understanding the needs of children who have been victims of child abuse and neglect.
- ◊ Knowledge of age-appropriate child developmental needs.
- ◊ Ability to act as a reasonable and prudent parent.
- ◊ Trauma-informed parenting to address grief and loss for children that have experienced abuse and neglect.



RFA is about: Supporting connections and permanency