



NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM



10 QUESTIONS ABOUT *Foster Care*



NYAP FOSTER CARE PROGRAM



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So... what exactly is foster care?

Foster care is the temporary care of youth who have been removed from their family of origin or biological family (either voluntarily or involuntarily). Reasons for the removal might include abuse, abandonment or neglect. In most cases, these youth have been removed from their homes through no fault of their own.

The *primary goal* of foster care is to reunify the youth with their family.

A foster parent's role is to provide a safe and stable environment for them during their stay until they are successfully reunified.

2 What's the difference between *traditional* foster care and *treatment* foster care?

Traditional foster care refers to the out-of-home placement of any child between the ages of 0 to 18 **without** any health restrictions, mental or physical disabilities.

Treatment foster care, or sometimes referred to as *therapeutic foster care*, is fostering children or youth who are specifically dealing with any range of mental, physical or emotional issues or disabilities. The youth in treatment foster care are in great need for **stable, healthy environments** for them to grow and succeed while away from their families.

NYAP provides a number of programs for our treatment foster youth to help them while they are in a placement, ensuring our foster parents are fully equipped to help the youth stay in the home safely and successfully.





What are some benefits I'd receive as a NYAP foster parent?

As a foster parent, you are empowered with the unique ability to bring safety and peace to a child or youth who may feel broken. The healing power you are able to provide is unmatched by any other duty outside of parenthood.

Additionally, being a NYAP foster parents means that you'll receive **competitive monthly compensation to support the youth's needs, ongoing training with our professional teams of social workers and psychologists, 24/7 support and assistance through our quality Service Reception department and referral bonuses as you refer others to become licensed NYAP foster parents.**



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How long would the youth stay with me?

The length of time a youth is placed in your home varies on many different factors. Our NYAP team and the juvenile court system work together to continually assess what's in the child's best interest. Our overall goal is to ensure children do not linger needlessly in the system but rather achieve permanency as soon as possible. At times, you may have a youth placed with you for a number of months, and sometimes even longer; it varies depending on the youth in care and his or her circumstances.

Our role at NYAP is to ensure we continuously communicate the child's status with you and keep you informed on all developments related to their placement status.



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Do you *choose* the youth for me?

It's a team effort. We take the time to listen to you and will do what is best for the foster youth, you and your family. We carefully review and match youth to foster parents based on a thorough home study review process, personal preferences, the age of the child and other children in your home along with their individual needs and more. **We take a collaborative approach in finding the youth that fits best with your family.**



There are so many siblings who
are separated from one another.

Opening your home to a group of siblings allows the family to stay together while being cared for out of the home. This little bit of normalcy for them in the midst of hardship **makes such a difference.**

Do I have to meet with the youth's *birth parents* or family of origin?

In most cases, NYAP staff will immediately work with the youth's family with the primary goal of preparing them for their youth's return home, as well as helping them resolve the issues and concerns that led to the youth's removal in the first place.

If it is in the youth's best interest, **we encourage and support you in creating a transparent and positive relationship between the biological family and foster family.**

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Am I *financially responsible* for the youth and their needs?

Foster families receive a monthly reimbursement to pay for the basic expenses of the youth. Payments come twice each month via direct deposit and are based on the number of days the foster youth was in care. In most cases, the youth's health insurance is taken care of through the Medicaid program.





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What *qualifications* do I have to meet to become a foster parent?

Each state has various income, education and community status qualifications, but NYAP's general qualifications are simple: provide a safe and respectful home for the child or youth while they are in your care. You do NOT need to be married, own a house, earn tons of money or have children of your own to be a foster parent.

What we need are adults who are willing to care for and support these youth who are in need, providing them with a safe space to be while away from their families.

Learn about the specific qualifications that are available in your state by scanning the QR code here!



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How long does it take to get *licensed*? What's the process?

Contact us! We'll walk you through the process to get you licensed and feeling ready for a youth to be placed in your home seamlessly.

The first step towards becoming a foster parent is completing a training course. This course is designed to help you fully understand the foster care process, giving you everything you need to know to properly equip you for the journey ahead. On average, these courses are a number of weeks long. Once the training is completed, prospective foster parents are required to complete licensing paperwork and the home study process begins. The entire process may take up to three months. If you're determined to get licensed in a timely way, we will work with you to make this process as easy and smooth as possible for you.

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How do I know if foster parenting is for *me*?

Do you want to help the youth in your community who don't have a place to go?

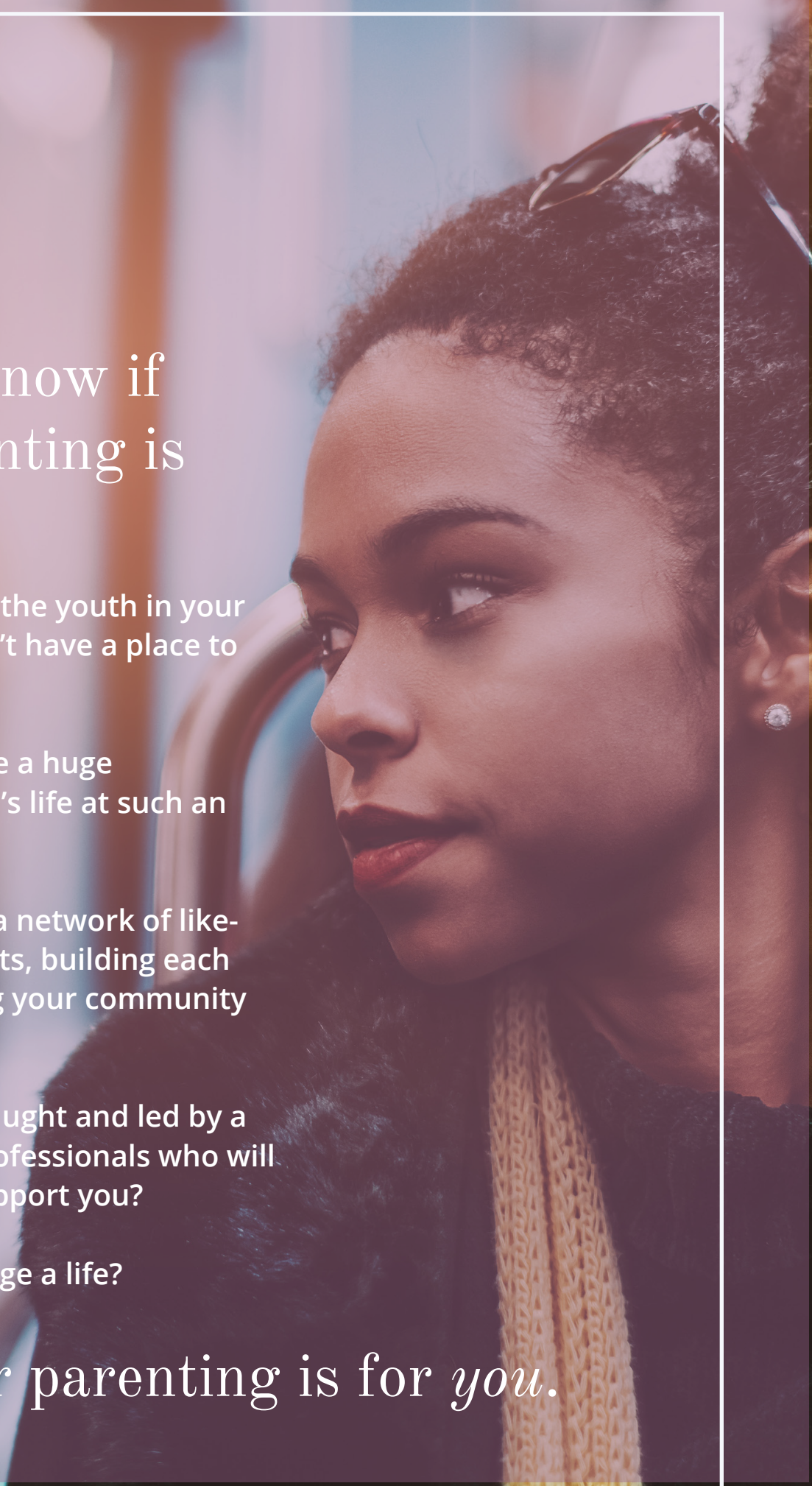
Do you want to make a huge difference in a youth's life at such an impressionable age?

Do you want to join a network of like-minded foster parents, building each other up and making your community all-the-more better?

Do you want to be taught and led by a team of excellent professionals who will do all they can to support you?

Do you want to change a life?

Then foster parenting is for *you*.





Ready to take
the next steps
and change a
youth's life?

We'd love to connect with you and answer any more questions you may have, or begin the process if you are ready! We're here to help you feel as ready and able as possible to become an effective NYAP foster parent.

**INQUIRY
FORM**



*Fill out the inquiry form
to get started on the
process*

**CONTACT
US**



*Contact our office near
you to speak with a
foster care expert*

**TRAINING
CALENDAR**



*Check out our calendar
for any online trainings
happening in your state*



NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Caring for People, Connecting Communities, Promoting Peace