

FOSTER CARE in Virginia

**& HOW TO BECOME A
*PROVIDER:***

a kinship, foster, adoptive, or respite family

IN DICKENSON COUNTY



Dickenson County Department of Social Services



DCDSS is currently seeking people like **YOU** to support family connections and provide a safe, nurturing home for children to allow them to begin to heal from the trauma they have experienced.



Foster Care Youth

We are committed to providing stability for all youth in foster care. Foster parenting involves providing a nurturing and supportive home to a child or sibling group on a temporary basis until the children can be reunified with their birth parents, placed in a kinship home, or, as a last option, placed for adoption.

Mission

To help children and youth in foster care to have the childhoods and futures they rightfully deserve.

Vision

That every child, youth, and family in child welfare will have the ability to achieve their hopes, fulfill their dreams, and thrive.

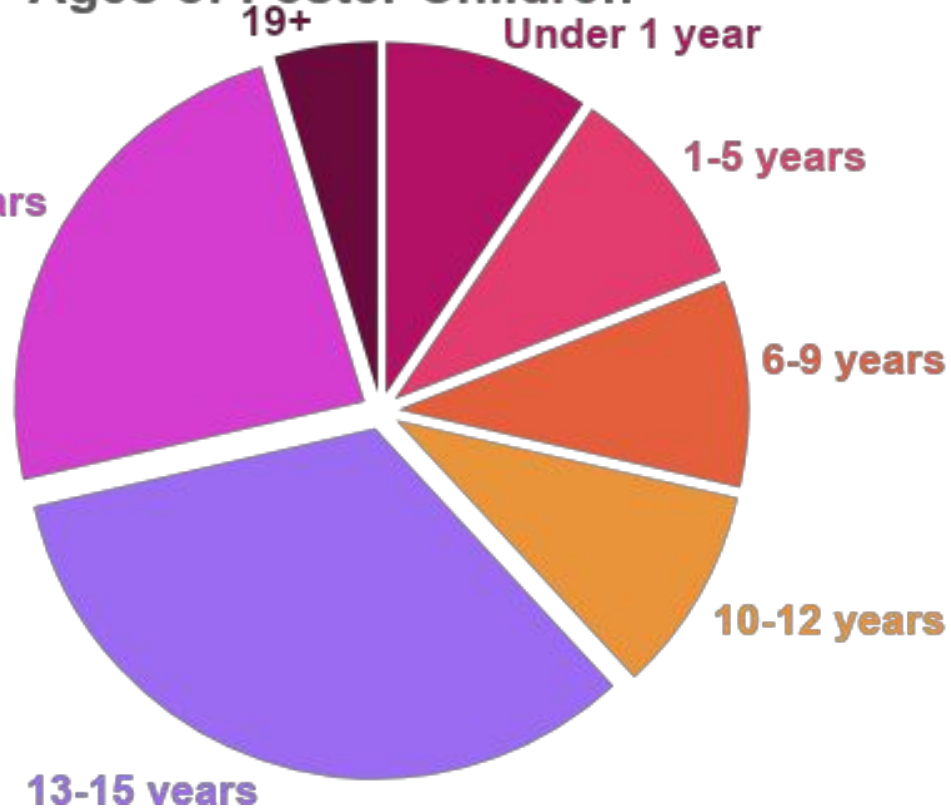


Foster children of **all ages** need providers here in their own community to keep them close to home, relatives, friends, and other supports – like school and church.

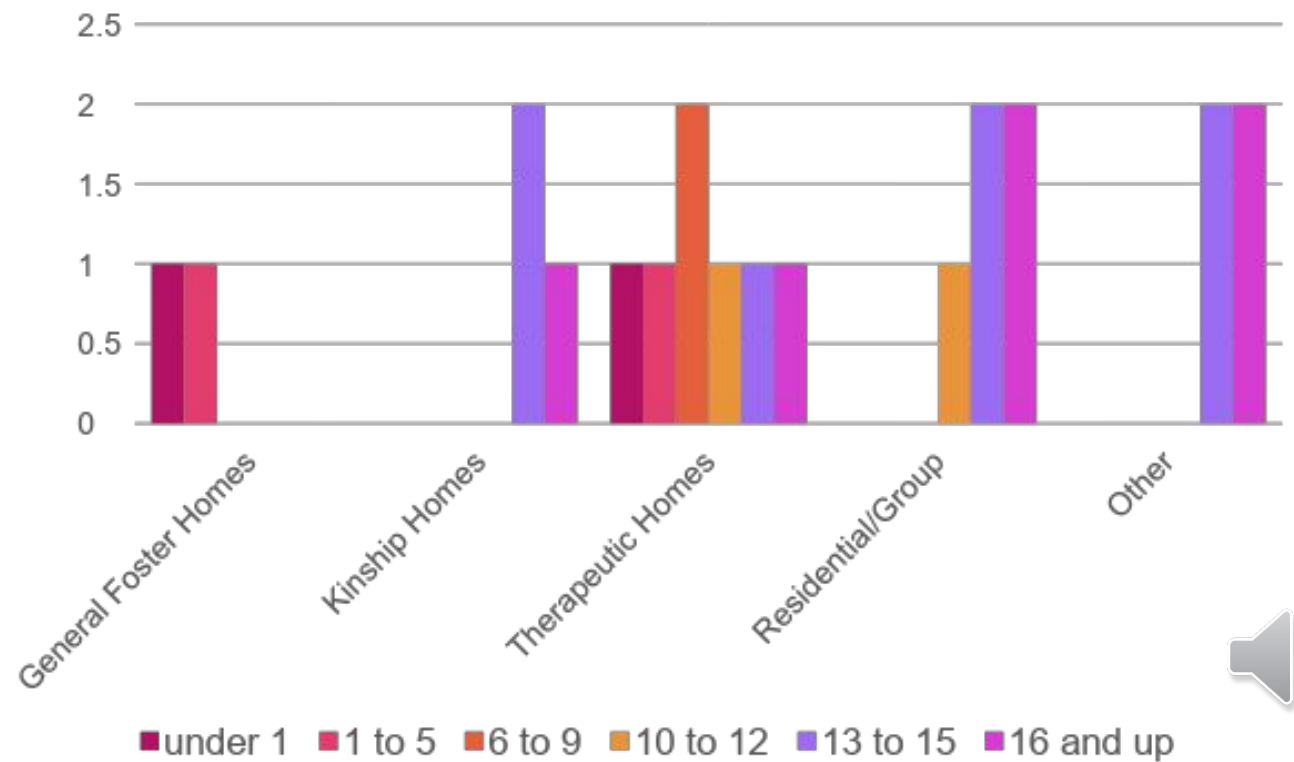


Dickenson County Specific Statistics

Ages of Foster Children



PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN



Keep SWVA Kids in SWVA!

- ▶ The data shows that Dickenson County is in dire need of families in **OUR** community who are willing to foster teens.
- ▶ Children do best, and are more likely to heal from past trauma, when they are placed in family-like settings.
- ▶ Without available homes in our county, children are forced out of their community in order to find adequate placements.

62% **71%**

of foster children in
Dickenson Co. are
13 and up

are not currently
placed in a
family-like setting



Qualities to Consider When Applying to Become a Provider:

- Empathy
- Perseverance
- Flexibility
- Patience
- Humor
- Listening



- Stability
- Consistency
- Adaptability
- Ability to Guide
- TEAM Player



Pre-Service Training

- ▶ 15 hours of pre-service training (New Gen PRIDE or TOC), along with 4 online training clusters through FosterParentCollege.com.
- ▶ Mandated Reporters Training.
- ▶ New Gen PRIDE is a training service that pools many resources together to create a comprehensive, competency-based program for the development and support of foster and adoptive parents as team members in child protection.
- ▶ Tradition of Caring (TOC) is a similar training service made for kinship families. TOC helps service staff use a strengths-based approach to working with relatives who are caring for their younger family members.



5 Competencies of Fostering

- ▶ 1) Protect and nurture children.
- ▶ 2) Meet children's developmental needs and address developmental delays.
- ▶ 3) Support relationships between children and their families.
- ▶ 4) Connect children to safe, nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime.
- ▶ 5) Work as a member of a professional team.



Foster Care Maintenance Payment Rates

Foster care providers receive a monthly maintenance payment for each child placed in their care. The maintenance rates are as follows:

Age of Child	Room & Board	Clothing	Monthly Allowance	Personal Care, Recreation, Reading	Total Payment
0-4	\$374	\$68	\$0	\$105	\$547
5-12	\$427	\$88	\$12	\$112	\$639
13+	\$519	\$136	\$36	\$120	\$811

*Please note that children who require an extended amount of care due to various medical and/or behavioral needs could receive an Enhanced Maintenance Payment (VEMAT).



Who can Become a Resource Parent?



You must be **at least 18 years of age** or older to be approved as a foster parent. Individuals and/or couples must have the time and energy to give to a child and **must meet all approval requirements**. i.e.

- Successfully complete pre-service training
- Participate in at least three (3) face-to-face interviews
- Submit to a Fingerprint Criminal Record check, child abuse/neglect history check & a DMV check
- Provide physician's report verifying you are physically and mentally capable of caring for a child
- Verify that you have enough income to provide for your family
- Submit the names of three (3) references
- Work with the department to complete additional requirements

Virginia has many requirements of foster parents, but there are **no** restrictions based on marital status, home ownership, race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. Foster families are part of a child's **TEAM** with the biological families, social workers, and other professionals who work toward reunification with the birth parent or placement with a kinship family before considering adoption.



Are You or Someone You Know Interested in Applying to Become a Resource Parent?

The decision to become a foster parent is one that will take time and consideration before you commit to the process. If you are interested in fostering for Dickenson County, please **contact us** or **scan our QR code** to get started. If you cannot foster, please spread the word and consider contacting us or your local DSS to find out how you can support foster children, families, and your community!



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