

Hillside Children's Center

Foster Parent Requirements

All Hillside Foster Parents are NYS OCFS (*New York State Office of Family and Children Services*) certified and trained prior to being approved Respite/Therapeutic Foster Care providers.

Parenting Skills Training:

All prospective NYS Foster Parents must complete a pre-service training. Hillside uses the curriculum by People Places called Parenting Skills Training (PST). Parenting Skills Training is a curriculum that will help equip you as a caregiver with the knowledge, skills, and awareness needed to begin your experience as a Respite or Therapeutic Foster Parent. The trainings are held weekly for 9 weeks. Hillside Homefinding also provides you the necessary mandatory trainings during this initial certification period.

Initial Mandatory Trainings: To be completed before the Foster Home is opened; required by Hillside:

- *Therapeutic Crisis Intervention* *(TCI; Provided by a HCC TCI trained trainer; no physical interventions)
- *CPR/First Aid*
- *Medication Administration and Infection Control Training*
- *Mandated Reporter Training*
- *Corporate Compliance*
- *HIPAA Policy*

Background Clearances: All Foster Parents are cleared through the following databases:

- NYS OCFS DCJS Fingerprints (Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Criminal Justice Services)
- State Central Registry (SCR); identifies reports of child abuse
- Sexual Offender Registry
- Justice Center Staff Exclusion List. If Foster Parents are providing Waiver respite services, they will also need to get OMH Fingerprints (Office of Mental Health).
- LENS Driving clearance through DMV

Paperwork: All Foster Parents must provide the following paperwork prior to certification and at the time of annual re-certification, where applicable.

- 4 Personal References
- Driver Detail Form/copy of Driver's License
- Copy of Car Insurance Declaration page showing \$100,000/\$300,000 liability coverage
- Medical History completed by their primary care physician
- Proof of Income
- Furnace Inspection receipt yearly
- Pet Medical/Rabies vaccination updated every 3 years
- Floor Plan of Home
- Emergency Escape Plan posted in central location; reviewed with youth upon arrival

Agreement: All Foster Parents must be aware of Hillside's policies for ensuring the safety of youth in their care. These policies are included in a Foster Care Agreement that is signed at initial certification and at the yearly recertification.

Discipline Policy:

All Foster Parents are aware of, have signed, and agree to follow Hillside's discipline policy: *"Discipline should be consistently carried out in a firm, yet caring manner. Foster/Resource parents should refrain from any type of verbal or emotional abuse"*. Additionally, Foster parents are trained in de-escalation techniques through the annual training of TCI, as well as other trauma informed trainings that inform how to effectively work with youth who have a history of trauma and abuse.

On-Going Training Requirements:

All foster parents are required to complete 12 hours of training per year which include the yearly mandatory trainings: *CPR/First Aid (every 2 years), Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, and Medication Administration.*

Home Safety Reviews:

All foster homes are subject to home reviews, completed by their Homefinding Specialist. The review requirements adhere to strict OCFS guidelines in order to ensure the safety of youth in their homes. Foster Parents also need to be cleared for driving, as well as have medical clearance from their doctor stating that they are in good health and free of communicable diseases if they are to provide respite care for children. All pets/animals in the home receive rabies vaccinations every 3 years.

All homes require the following:

- ABC Fire Extinguisher for each level
- First Aid Kit
- Lock Box for all medications, including the youth's
- Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detector
- Locked storage for all flammables and cleaning fluids