



Ascentria Foster Care

Did you know that there are approximately 9,000 children in foster care in Massachusetts and still more children are waiting to be matched with a family?

Ascentria Care Alliance is a non-profit organization that has been serving youth since 1872. For over twenty years Ascentria Intensive Foster Care (IFC) has been providing safe, stable and nurturing homes to vulnerable children.

The IFC Program of Ascentria serves children from birth to 22 years old who are in the care and custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). These children have been removed from their families for reasons ranging from abuse and neglect, to disrupted adoptions and voluntary removals. Depending on the specific goals designed for each individual, a foster child may be placed in a foster home anywhere from several weeks to several years. Goals for children in DCF care include adoption, reunification with biological family and kinship arrangements with family, and transition to self-sufficiency. Children are from different cities throughout the Commonwealth. Their commonality is the need for adults with love in their hearts and room in their homes, who are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of the child.

Please consider making a difference in the life of a child today by opening your heart and home. Ascentria's IFC team is here to support you through this remarkable and rewarding journey. By becoming a foster parent or adopting a child in need you will gain more than just a new family member, you will make a profound and lasting difference in the life of a child.

Sincerely,
Ascentria Intensive Foster Care Team

Contact us today

508.580.6716

ifc@ascentria.org

ascentria.org/fostercare

As one of the largest human service organizations in New England, Ascentria Care Alliance empowers people of all backgrounds to rise together and reach beyond life's challenges.



**Ascentria Services
for Children and Families**

A member of Ascentria Care Alliance

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can become an IFC parent?

The Intensive Foster Care Program seeks caring and committed people who meet the following requirements:

- Are at least 25 years old
- Are legal residents
- Have at least one household caregiver who can communicate in English
- Can pass a criminal background check
- Practice and maintain a responsible, mature, and healthy lifestyle that serves as a model for a child
- Live in a residence that meets safety standards and spatial requirements

How do we support IFC parents?

We offer:

- Free informational sessions
- In-depth training and preparation to become a licensed foster parent
- Thoughtful review and consideration in identifying the right child for your family
- Regular home visits by a social worker to aid in stability
- On-going support groups and trainings
- Emergency on-call support, 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Generous financial reimbursement
- Regular respite to allow for periodic breaks for both you and your foster child

Why do people become foster parents? Here's what some of our current foster parents have to say:

"We wanted to help kids and add to our family."

"I realized how many foster children needed a place to live."

"I love caring for people especially the individuals who need me."

Steps to Becoming an Intensive Foster Care Parent



STEP 1 INQUIRY – Call the Intensive Foster Care Program Family Resource Representative at 508.580.6716 or email ifc@ascentria.org to express your interest in providing care. You will be asked to provide basic contact information and complete a short questionnaire to determine your eligibility. You can also fill out an inquiry form by visiting our webpage at ascentria.org/fostercare.



STEP 2 APPLICATION – Upon confirmation of your eligibility to become a foster parent you will be sent an IFC application. Complete the application and return it to the Family Resource Representative via email, fax or mail. We will contact you upon receipt and your application will be reviewed.



STEP 3 BACKGROUND CHECK – Background (criminal, sex offender, DCF and fingerprint) checks and reference (personal, employment, school, and medical) checks are completed. Your home will then be inspected to ensure it meets State-mandated regulations before proceeding with the application.



STEP 4 TRAINING – Upon approval of your application, you will be required to attend and complete a State-mandated Massachusetts Approach to a Partnership in Parenting (MAPP) training. The MAPP training highlights the many different profiles of children in the foster care system. The MAPP curriculum comprehensively covers key topics such as grief and loss, importance of culture, attachment and bonding, as well as child development.



STEP 5 HOME STUDY/LICENSING – A Family Resource Representative will visit with you and your household members throughout a series of home visits in order to get to know your family. The home study is an opportunity to reflect upon your family's history and the strengths your family will bring to fostering. Upon completion of the home study, you will officially become a licensed foster parent.



STEP 6 MATCHING – A clinical team will review referrals and match the needs of a child with your family's strengths. You will receive all available information about the child, so that you may make an informed decision, as to whether the child is a good match for your home.



STEP 7 PLACEMENT – Now the real journey begins. When you establish that a child is a good fit, the child will transition into your home. You and the child will be closely supported by a team of licensed professionals including, the child's Family Specialist and your Family Supervisor. This partnership will continue as we collectively empower the child to reach their full potential, while supporting you as a new foster parent through on-going training and mutual partnership.

Ascentria Services for Children and Families

Ascentria Services for Children and Families offers a wide range of programs and services for children, at-risk youth and families.

What we do

Adoption Services – Ascentria Adoption Services is a full-service, non-profit adoption program serving children and families throughout New England. Our services include pre-adoption counseling and education, home studies and child placements.

Intensive Foster Care – Ascentria Care Alliance provides professional and comprehensive support to foster families who can parent a child in need. Our services include clinical case management for foster children as well as 24/7 emergency on-call support and generous financial reimbursement, training, networking and respite opportunities.

Refugee Youth – Our Unaccompanied Refugee Minors program is the only program in New England that assists refugee and migrating youth exclusively. It helps refugee, asylee and trafficked young people who are in the U.S. without a parent or guardian. The program places these minors in foster care with specially trained families and provides culturally and linguistically appropriate support.

Teen Parenting Program – Our Teen Parenting Program provides transitional living in a safe and supportive environment for low income and often homeless teen mothers. This therapeutic program builds upon each individual's strengths with the goal of helping young families move toward self-sufficiency.

Contact us

Ascentria Services for Children and Families
11 Shattuck Street
Worcester, MA 01605
774.243.3100
ascentria.org

130 Liberty Street, Suite 7
Brockton, MA 02301
508.580.6716