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County of Sacramento
Department of Health and Human Services

Sacramento County Child Protective Services
Sacramento County Foster Home Licensing
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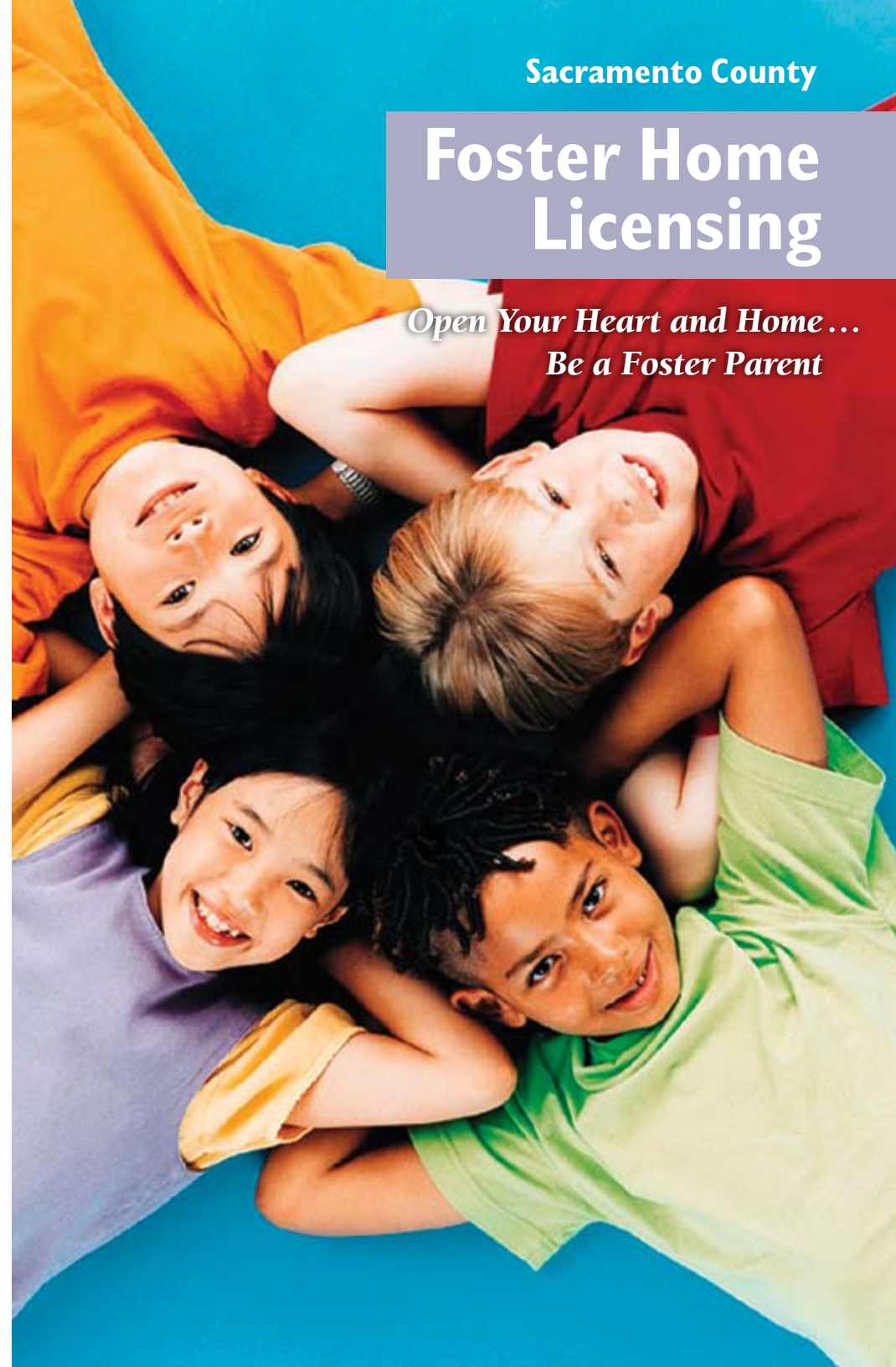
For More Information

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Sacramento County

Foster Home Licensing

*Open Your Heart and Home ...
Be a Foster Parent*





“It takes a community to raise a child.”

Resources for Foster Children

Children placed in county-licensed foster/resource family homes are eligible for compensation for their daily needs, medical and dental insurance, counseling, and a yearly clothing allowance. Teens are eligible for services from the Sacramento County Independent Living Program, which helps 16-21-year-old foster youth and former foster youth prepare for adulthood.

Taking the First Step

The first step to becoming a part of our team is to attend a foster parent/resource family orientation. Orientations are offered twice a month. To find out when the next scheduled orientation is, contact us at (916) 875-5543 or visit our web site at <http://www.sacdhrs.com/cps>

Foster Home Licensing provides:

- Recruitment of foster/resource family homes in diverse communities
- Resources, training and supportive services
- On-going assessment and evaluation of licensed homes
- Commitment to the well-being of children in need of out-of-home placements

Family to Family

Sacramento is one of at least 24 California counties participating in Family to Family, a nationwide child welfare and foster care reform initiative aimed at helping agencies like Sacramento County Child Protective Services achieve better results for children and families.

The Four Key Strategies of Family to Family are:

- Building Community Partnerships,
- Team Decision Making, Recruitment,
- Training and Support of Resource Families, and
- Self Evaluation.

These strategies support the foster parents/resources families to work effectively with the child's birth parents and extended family, and the agency social worker. This team work eases the transition children encounter when they must be placed in out-of-home care, and it reduces the number of placements a child may have in foster care.

These strategies also utilize available community resources to support foster families and biological families during reunification. Resource families are key participants in the child's life and, in return, need support, too.



Vision and Mission Statement

The Foster Home Licensing Department is committed to providing licensed foster/resource family homes to ensure a safe and nurturing environment for children.

Foster Children in Your Community Need Families

It takes a community to raise a child. Sacramento County needs individuals and families who can care for children who have been removed from their homes temporarily for their own protection.

At some point in everyone's life, we all need a little help. Foster parents, also known as resource families, provide safe and nurturing environments for children in the absence of a parent until they can be reunified with their families or move to a permanent home through kinship placement, guardianship or adoption.

Sacramento County uses the Family to Family model for training, recruiting and supporting foster parents/resource families. Foster parents, adoptive parents and relative caregivers are all known as "resource families" in recognition of the important role they play in helping children find permanent, secure homes and being a resource for the birth family.

California requires that any person caring for children must be licensed if the child is not closely related to the foster family. Licensing of homes is regulated by the California Administrative Code and is supplemented by local regulations. The Sacramento County Foster Home Licensing program supports, trains and offers guidance to foster parents/resource families before they become licensed.

Qualifications

- Individuals and couples over age 18 of all races, ethnic backgrounds and religion
- Married or single
- A house or apartment that meets safety requirements
- Adequate sleeping space for each child
- Passing a criminal background check and a check of the national Child Abuse Central Index, which records substantiated and inconclusive allegations of child abuse
- People who are willing to accept a child as a part of their family
- Willingness to partner with the social worker, the birth family, the community and others who care about the child

The Adoption Option

Some people become foster parents/resource families because they wish to adopt a child. These individuals provide ongoing care to children who are not able to live with their birth families and who may eventually be legally freed for adoption. Foster-adopt parents receive the same support, training and licensing as other foster parents/resource families. Sacramento County social workers will begin a home study – a lengthy psychosocial evaluation required of all adoptive parents – while they are being trained and licensed as Foster parents/resource families.

Criminal Background History

Each adult member of your household will be fingerprinted. If you have specific questions regarding what crimes are prohibited, please call 875-5543 (875-5KID) and talk with a worker from the Foster Home Licensing Program.

What We Offer

Resources for Sacramento County licensed foster/resource families include:

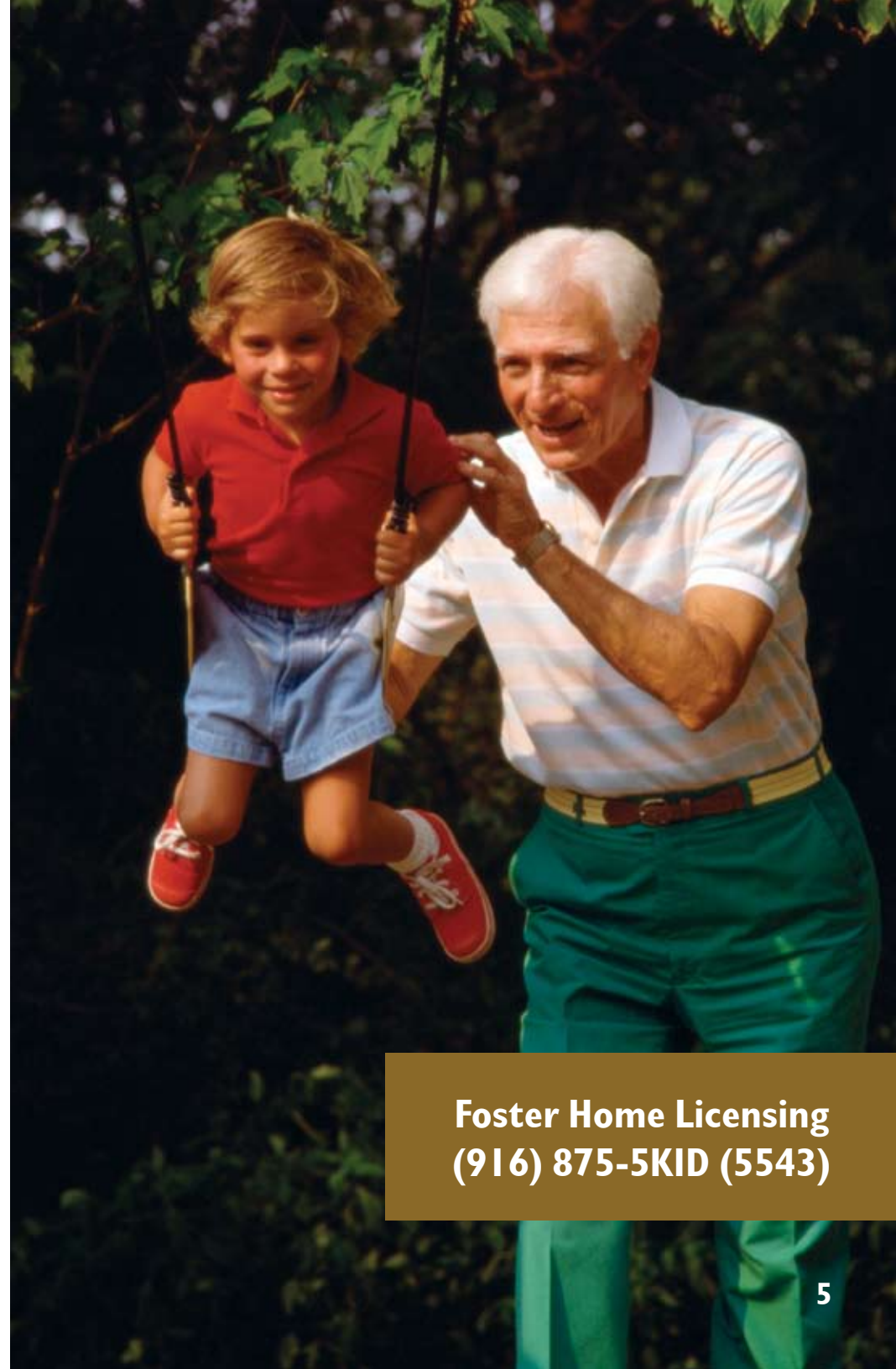
- Community events
- Access to community resources
- Koffee Klatches (Recruitment Incentive Program)
- Support groups
- Annual Foster Home Licensing Picnic and Appreciation Dinner
- Family to Family Convening, (Annual Foster Parent Convention)
- PRIDE training (Spanish and English)
- Services of a Foster Parent Liaison
- Foster Parent focus groups and mentorship program
- Team Decision Making
- Public Health nursing support
- Support from local Foster Parent Associations

Unique Features

- No fees for services, including First Aid/CPR instruction, fingerprinting, training and home assessment
- Professional & culturally competent social workers
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) services, evening & weekend visits.

PRIDE Training

Both foster and foster-adopt parents are required to complete eight weeks of PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information Development and Education) training. PRIDE is a national model that prepares foster parents/resource families in such areas as helping children deal with issues of grief and loss, being sensitive to cultural differences, and working as a team with the child's social worker.



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