



FOSTER CARE



MENTAL HEALTH



ADOPTION SUPPORT



Our mission is to help children & families realize the possibilities of their lives!

Why Pathway?

- Experienced compassionate care.
- Individualized support.
- Serving children, teens, caregivers and families.

Pathway Caring for Children is a private, non-profit social services agency serving Northeast Ohio since 1973.

Our vision is to strengthen the lives of children and families.

Scan to make an impact today! 



**Pathway Caring for Children
Administration Office:**
4895 Dressler Rd NW Suite A
Canton, OH 44718

**Pathway Caring for Children
North Olmsted Office**
25300 Lorain Rd Suite #330
North Olmsted, OH 44070

- ✓ **Foster Care:**
We recruit, train, and support foster parents who provide safe, loving homes for children. Families receive thoughtful placement matching, 24/7 support, respite care, and foster-to-adopt options.
- ✓ **Family Connections- Post-Adoption Support and Kinship Services:**
We help all family structures including adoptive, kinship, and foster families. We help caregivers understand trauma, strengthen family relationships, and meet the needs of the whole family.
- ✓ **Support Services:**
Youth Engagement Specialists provide one-on-one support to help children and teens build confidence, social skills, healthy relationships, and emotional skills.
- ✓ **Transitional Age Services for Teens and Young Adults:**
Pathway helps teens and young adults prepare for life on their own by building important life skills like budgeting, employment, and healthy decision-making. We are also a Bridges provider serving young adults ages 18–21 who have aged out of foster care.
- ✓ **Prevention for Youth:**
Free, evidence-based programs help children, youth, and caregivers strengthen communication, coping, and decision-making skills. Early childhood mental health services (birth–6) and evidence-based programs support healthy development and long-term success.
- ✓ **Mental Health Services for Children, Teens, and Families:**
Counseling for children, teens, and families facing challenges such as anxiety, depression, trauma, grief, and behavioral concerns. Our licensed therapists create individualized plans to support healing and growth.
- ✓ **Family Empowerment:**
This program supports caregivers who are struggling with their child's behavior. We provide guidance, tools, and strategies to build trust, strengthen relationships, and create healthier family dynamics.
- ✓ **School Based Therapy Services:**
Pathway partners with schools to provide therapy and support for students during the school day. Therapists and case managers work alongside teachers and families to address emotional and behavioral challenges to help students thrive.



1-800-838-7284



info@pathwaycfc.org



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STEPS TO BE A PATHWAY FOSTER PARENT



Want to make a **DIFFERENCE**? Will you provide **STABILITY**?

Children are waiting & **Need YOU!**



Pathway Caring for Children's mission is to help children and families realize the possibilities of their lives through **foster care, adoption, & mental health.**

Scan to learn all about Pathway Foster Care!



1. Inquire and Connect!

- Submit an **inquiry through our website**
- Look for an email from our Licensing Coordinator within 48 hours
- Check your spam/junk folder if you don't see it
- Review the information packet, application and attachments provided
- **Connect with our Licensing Coordinator or Licensing Assessor**

2. Submit Your Application

- You'll receive an application in your information packet. We recommend submitting it **prior to Pre-Service, preferably before or during the Licensing Meeting.**
- Once submitted, you'll meet with a Licensing Assessor for a **Licensing Meeting** that includes a brief interview, application notarization, fingerprinting/background checks, and to receive your licensing checklist as well as review licensing requirements.
- Household members 18 and older must provide proper ID and Social Security cards and be fingerprinted.
- Your **State of Ohio foster care license is valid for two years** and allows you to foster and foster-to-adopt.

3. Pre-Service Training

- Complete 24 hours of Pre-Service Training, offered several times throughout the year as **FREE 4-Day Power Weekend** trainings. Both online and in-person.
- Spouses and live-in partners must also complete the training.
- Completed training is valid for 18 months.
- There is no cost to become a licensed foster home through Pathway.

4. Complete the Home Study

- The home study begins after your application is submitted and typically takes **3-4 months to complete.**
- A Licensing Assessor will conduct an in-home interview with family members.
- Your home must meet required **health, safety, and fire inspection standards.**
- Required documents, such as **health records and income verification**, must be submitted before licensure.

5. Placement Expectations

- Pathway receives many placement referrals each week from the **14 counties we serve.**
- When considering a placement for your home, Pathway takes into account the preferences and characteristics you identify, including the **number of children, ages, gender, and individual needs or characteristics.**
- These preferences help Pathway determine which referrals may be an appropriate match for your family.
- *Pathway Case Managers offer 24/7 support to you and your family!*

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LICENSING MEETING FOSTER PARENT FYI'S

Pathway staff are here to *Support you!*



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*Scan to learn all about
Pathway Foster Care!*



THERE WILL BE UP FRONT OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES

- Fire Inspection (Depending on Department)
- Smoke Alarms
- Child Locks
- Medication Lock Box
- Up to date Carseats and Cribs

TRANSPORTATION

You are responsible and required to transport children to:

- Home Visits
- Mental Health Appointments
- Medical Appointments
- School and Activities, etc.

WHO WILL BE YOUR SUPPORT SYSTEM TO HELP?

It takes a village! These individuals will need to be fingerprinted and have a clean driving record.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE LICENSING MEETING WITH THE ASSESSOR

- Photo I.D./Driver's License
- Social Security Card
- Completed application if not turned in already.
- Be sure to have current addresses of all 4 of your references.
- Addresses of your residential history for the last 10 years.

We are here to answer ALL your questions! All of this will be discussed at your licensing meeting.



CONTACT Makenna Taylor, *Licensing Coordinator*, with any questions!
EMAIL: mtaylor@pathwaycfc.org

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1. How long does it take to become licensed?

To become licensed, you must complete Pre-Service Training, a home study, your foster care checklist, and all Pathway and State of Ohio requirements.

Pre-Service is offered as a FREE 4-day Power Weekend and prepares you to care for children who have experienced trauma. Pathway staff will guide you through each step of the licensing process.

2. Does Pathway transport children to visits or appointments?

Foster parents are responsible for transporting children to visits and appointments. Mileage reimbursement is available for approved transportation. Pathway staff may assist when possible.

3. Can a foster child attend my local school district?

Yes. Your Pathway case manager will help with school transitions and adjusting to new schedules.

4. How long will it take to receive a placement?

It could be as soon as the next day! Timing depends on referrals from our partner county agencies and the types of placements you are willing and able to accept.

5. How are foster parents paid?

Foster parents receive payments through direct deposit. The daily amount, or per diem, is based on the child's placement level and other factors determined by the placing county agency. Rates may vary and are subject to change.

6. Can foster children attend church with us?

Yes. However, a child cannot be required to participate in religious services if it conflicts with their beliefs or the wishes of their birth parents.

7. How much ongoing training is required?

After becoming licensed:

- Family Foster Care: 30 hours of ongoing training
- Treatment Foster Care: 45 hours of ongoing training

8. Does Pathway provide ongoing training?

Yes! Pathway regularly offers free ongoing training. Most sessions are virtual with a live trainer, with occasional in-person opportunities.

9. What happens during the home inspection?

Your home must meet required health and safety standards. A Pathway Licensing Assessor will conduct a safety audit and explain the requirements during your initial licensing meeting.

10. Can foster children have babysitters?

Yes. Family members and friends may become Alternative Care Providers after completing required background checks and other requirements.

11. Does Pathway pay for childcare?

No. Foster parents are responsible for childcare costs outside the home. The child's daily per diem is intended to help cover basic care expenses.

12. Do foster parents have to be married to adopt?

No. If two licensed foster parents are co-parenting but are not married, one parent may adopt the child. Your Licensing Assessor can provide more information based on your situation.

13. What is the difference between a stipend and a per diem?

A stipend is a one-time payment for completing eligible training after you are licensed.

A per diem is the daily payment provided to help cover the cost of caring for a foster child.

Both are paid through direct deposit.



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TREATMENT & FAMILY FOSTER CARE

What are your options?



Pathway Caring for Children's mission is to help children and families realize the possibilities of their lives through **foster care, adoption, & mental health.**

Scan for more info about different levels of Foster Care!



Two Types of Foster Care Licensure:

1. Family Foster Home

This is the starting level for foster parents who do not have qualifying previous experience caring for children. Family foster homes typically care for children with lower-level needs.

2. Treatment Foster Home

Treatment foster homes care for children with higher or more specialized needs. To qualify, foster parents must meet specific State of Ohio experience or training requirements.

Ways to Qualify for Treatment-Level Licensure

You may qualify by meeting one of the following:

- 5 years of cumulative experience caring for a child in your home on a daily basis.
- 1 year of cumulative experience caring for a child with special or exceptional needs in your home.
- 365 days of experience caring for a foster child as a certified foster caregiver. Families who do not initially qualify may be able to upgrade after gaining this experience.
- 60 hours of qualifying specialized training completed within 24 months before treatment-level licensure. This may require additional training beyond Pre-Service before becoming licensed.

Your Pathway Licensing Assessor will help determine which option applies to you and explain any additional requirements.

Benefits of Treatment-Level Licensure:

- Receive specialized training and 24/7 support from Pathway.
- Be prepared to care for children with higher or more specialized needs.
- Have the ability to accept a wider range of placements.
- Receive a higher per diem to help meet the additional needs of children in your care.
- When appropriate and space allows, have greater flexibility to care for siblings together, helping prevent sibling separation.

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Open your heart and change a life.
Make room for more love.

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Scan to help a child today!



**Pathway office
located in Canton &
North Olmsted, OH**

What makes Pathway Different?

Pathway is a private agency that works with 14 Northeast Ohio counties to place kids in loving homes. Being a foster parent takes resilience, creativity, flexibility, humor, and love. There is so much room for healing. YOU will be that soft landing spot as children begin to pick up the broken pieces of their lives.

YOU will receive all the support and training needed to help a child in need.

✓ **Training:**

- FREE In house pre-service classroom training both virtual and in-person
- Ongoing training opportunities

✓ **Support:**

- 24-hour crisis support from well-trained and experienced staff
- Case management to promote stability of placement
- Seamless collaboration among the entire Pathway team for child success.
- All support services are offered in-house by Pathway staff including mental health counseling.

✓ **Mental Health Counseling:**

- We provide Mental Health services to support foster youth by addressing their emotional, behavioral, and trauma-related issues comprehensively.
- Family Empowerment for all families to build trusting relationships.

✓ **Community Building:**

- Holiday parties and social events for foster families
- Ongoing communication with your case manager
- Monthly newsletters with updates to build support and share resources.

✓ **Additional Resources and Special Programs:**

- Respite care provides relief for full-time foster families by allowing the foster child to "visit" at another foster family's home
- Pathway Youth Engagement Specialists (YESs) offer one-on-one mentoring
- Transitional age programs and skills training for teens
- A week-long Summer Camp opportunity for foster teens



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Be a Pathway Foster Parent

POWER WEEKEND

NEW Foster Parent Training October 22 - October 25

**FREE to you! Complete ALL Pre-Service
Foster Parent Training in just 4 days!**

- **Thursday, Oct. 22:** 6pm-9pm *In-Person at Pathway*
- **Friday, Oct. 23:** 6pm-9pm *Virtual*
- **Saturday, Oct. 24:** 8:30am-5:30pm *Virtual*
- **Sunday, Oct. 25:** 12pm-6pm *In-Person at Pathway*

Scan for more info:



Questions or RSVP:

Makenna Taylor, Licensing Coordinator
330-818-0425 or mtaylor@pathwaycfc.org

