

FOSTER CARE ○ ADOPTION ○ MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



Founded in 1973, Pathway Caring for Children is a private, non-profit social services agency. Our vision is to strengthen the lives of children and families.



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

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**Pathway Caring for Children
Administration Office:**

4895 Dressler Rd NW Suite A
Canton, OH 44718

Telephone: 330.493.0083

Pathway North Olmsted Office:

25300 Lorain Rd. Suite 330
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Telephone: 440-586-8202

Foster Parent Recruitment and Training:

Our foster care program recruits, qualifies, and supports foster parents who lovingly open their homes to children from hard places. We provide you with all the tools and training you, as the foster parent, would need to provide a safe and nurturing home.

Foster Care Services- Placement, Support, and Foster-to-Adopt:

A patient and loving home can make a world of a difference for a child coming from a troubled background. Our Intake team works on making the best fit for the child and the foster or foster to adopt family. We provide our foster parents with 24-hour support to ensure stability and ease. Respite care is another support available to our foster families. Respite care is a program designed to provide full time foster families relief by allowing the foster child to visit another foster family's home.

Family Connections- Post-Adoption Support and Kinship Services:

We help all family structures including adoptive, kinship, and foster become trauma-competent, healing caregivers who take an active role in helping their children – and their families – heal. Pathway offers comprehensive services to meet the needs of the whole family with special understanding of the family's dynamics. Support groups, educational, respite and mental health services are provided to help families create positive, lasting connections for years to come.

Support Services:

Our team of dedicated Youth Support Specialists act as encouragers and constant support systems for Pathway children and teens. Staff spend 2-3 hours per week for one-on-one mentoring with individuals who may be in foster care, have been adopted or children from the community. During this time a therapeutic goal or social skills may be worked on.

Transitional Age Independent Living Services for Teens and Young Adults:

Pathway staff work individually and in groups with teens to develop goals in gaining necessary life skills for teens transitioning to life on their own. Pathway is a Bridges provider, helping young adults ages 18-21 who have emancipated from foster care.

Mental Health Services for Children, Adults, and Families:

Our licensed mental health therapists and clinical social workers can assist children, families, and individuals experiencing a wide range of difficulties. These can include depression and anxiety, behavioral issues, ADHD, social and peer relationships, trauma, grief or loss, and stresses related to everyday life. We are committed to forming an individualized plan that may include individual or group therapy, support groups, or case management to bring about positive change and growth.

School Based Therapy Services:

We partner with teachers and parents to provide services to children and teens to address the emotional and behavioral issues students face every day. Our therapists and case managers are part of school meetings and schedules, and can engage with students where and when they need it.



STEPS TO FOSTER CARE

1. Pre-Service Training

- 28 hours of training offered various times * see attached schedule.
- Classes are offered several times per year in both our Canton and North Olmsted location.
- All spouses and live-in partners must attend training, however children are not allowed
- Each training session is good for 18 months.
- There is no cost to you to become a licensed home.

2. Application Submission

- Applications are distributed in your information packet before the first pre-Service session.
- Application is to be completed and returned while attending Pre-Service preferably right after Orientation.
- When you submit your application and paperwork, you will be invited to a Licensing Meeting with the Licensing Assessor; here they will conduct a short interview, notarize your application and take fingerprints for your background check. You will also receive a packet of documents and a checklist that will need completed and turned in before Licensure.
- All household members over the age of 18 must have proper ID and social security cards and be fingerprinted.
- Your license is a state of Ohio license good for 2 years to foster and foster to adopt.

3. The Home Study

- HOME STUDY BEGINS AFTER APPLICATION SUBMISSION.
- Usually your home can be licensed in 3-4 months. Sometimes the process is quicker- it can depend also on the speed you want to go.
- You will have an in home interview by the licensing accessor. All family members will be interviewed.
- We must ensure that safety site regulations are met and a fire inspection conducted.
- Paper work, including- but not limited to: health records and income verifications, for example, must be submitted before licensing is complete according to Ohio Administrative Code. (These items are part of the checklist given at the Licensing Meeting)

4. Placement Expectations

- We receive many referrals a week from the 14 counties that we serve.
- Information regarding the amount of children, sex, age and characteristics identified by you are considered when making a placement.



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LICENSING MEETING FOSTER PARENT FYI'S

*Want to make a DIFFERENCE? Will you provide STABILITY?
Children NEED YOU and Pathway staff are here to SUPPORT YOU!*

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.



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Makenna Taylor

Licensing Coordinator

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Caroline Grimmert, LSW

Licensing Assessor

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cgrimmert@pathwaycfc.org



FOSTER CARE FAQ'S



1. How long does it take to get licensed?

Pre-service Training needs to be complete and all Pathway and ODJFS requirements are met. Pre-Service is a 12 week series meant to educate you on caring for a child who has experienced trauma. Licensing also includes your home study and completing your foster care checklist. You will be guided by Pathway staff through each of these steps.

2. Does Pathway transport children to visits and or appointments?

Foster parents are required to transport their foster children. Paid mileage is given for approved transportation needs. Pathway staff may help if possible.

3. Can the foster children go to the school district I live in if they are from a different district?

Yes, Pathway case manager will assist with all transitions to help with new schools and new schedules.

4. How long does it take to get a placement once licensed?

As soon as the next day! This all depends on referrals from partner Ohio county agencies and foster parents agree or willingness to take a placement in their home.

5. How are Foster Parents paid and how much?

You are paid by a direct deposit to your bank account. This is why we need your banking information. The amount will be determined by the child's placement level from the county agency. The daily rate range is \$21 – \$59. Please note there are many different determinates, and these are only estimates, as per diems are subject to change.

6. Are we allowed to take children to church?

Yes, but a child cannot be forced to attend a religious service if they choose not to due to religious reasons or if birthparents request that they do not.

7. After Pre-service, how much Training is required each year?

Family foster care level families must complete 30 hours of training and Treatment level Families must complete 45 hours of ongoing training all provided by Pathway.

8. Does Pathway provide the training? Is it all virtual?

Pathway provides continual training on a regular basis. Most trainings are virtual with a live trainer, in-person trainings are also offered all free of cost to you.

9. What happens during the home inspection?

The home must be kept in a safe and sanitary condition, with some inspections required. The Pathway Licensing Assessor will conduct a Safety Audit. Your Licensing Assessor will review all of this at the initial licensing meeting!

10. Can the children in foster care have babysitters?

Yes, family members and friends can become Alternative Care providers in your home with a few background requirements.

11. Does Pathway pay for Childcare when foster parents work?

No, Foster parents are required to pay for any out of home care for the children placed in their home. A daily per diem is all meant to cover the costs of basic care needs for children in foster care.

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

Yes. However, if foster parents are both licensed and are co-parents, one can adopt the child. More information can be shared at Licensing meetings.

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

A stipend is a one-time payment for attending training hours after being licensed. A per diem is the daily amount you are paid to take care of foster children. Both will be directly deposited to your bank account.

CONTACT Caroline Grimmertt for any Licensing questions! 330-818-0419 or email: cgrimmertt@pathwaycfc.org



TREATMENT & FAMILY FOSTER CARE



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The Two types of Licensure are as follows:

- 1. Family Foster Home-** the level everyone who does not have child experience would come in as. These homes care for our lower-level needs children.
- 2. Treatment Foster Home-** this level of care has to meet a certain criteria under Rule 5101:2-7-16 to determine if you qualify to care for our higher level needs children.

Ways to Qualify for Treatment level:

- A minimum of 5 years cumulative experience caring for a child in your home on a daily basis
- A minimum of one year cumulative experience caring for a child who has special or exceptional needs as defined in Rule 5101:2-47-18 of the Administrative Code in your home on a daily basis.
- Having a minimum of 365 days caring for a foster child in placement as a certified foster caregiver. *(For families that do not automatically qualify this means they can upgrade after their first full year of a placement)*
- A minimum of 60 hours of classroom training that complies with: training related to children with special or exceptional needs as defined in Rule 5101:2-47-18 of the Administrative code and being within 24 months prior to the date of Licensure as a specialized caregiver. (This means that you would need to complete an additional 45 hours of training on top of your 28 hour pre-service training before being Licensed.) If you decide to upgrade this way, before licensure, you will only be
- reimbursed for the pre-service training hours alone.

Why would you want to be Licensed as Treatment level:

- Pathway staff provide you with all the training and 24/7 support!
- Most of the children placed in our care come in at levels needing treatment level homes (it is very easy for a child to be determined as a higher level need child based on incorrect information and assumptions given by birth parents or prior foster parents)- sometimes we do not know their actual level of care until they are in our foster family homes and have been properly assessed by a Doctor.
- The per diem is at a higher rate to care for the special and exceptional needs of these children.
- You are qualified to accept multiple children into your home at one time if bed space is available (most of our children come along with siblings and we try our very best not to separate them)



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PATHWAY FOSTER CARE



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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:

- Onsite pre-service classroom training
- 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 Support Specialists (YSSs) offer one-on-one mentoring
- Transitional age programs and skills training for teens
- A week-long Summer Camp opportunity for foster teens

CONTACT SHAWN HENRY FOR MORE INFORMATION!



Shawn Henry

Recruitment Manager

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