



Foster Family Alliance *of North Carolina*

who are we and what do we do in NC?

Our Mission



Foster Family Alliance of NC will educate, advocate, support and promote partnerships that lead to positive outcomes for children, youth and resource families of North Carolina.

What do we do?



Foster Family Alliance of North Carolina is a FAMILY-LED, non-profit organization supporting **children and youth served through the foster care system** and the dedicated **families and professionals** that care for them.

How can FFA-NC help?



Recruitment/Retention– Interested in making a difference to the life of a child? Become a foster or adoptive parent in North Carolina. Once you become a foster parent, let us support you in the entire walk to be able to keep you as a foster parent. Reach out to FFA in a time of need for additional supports. Join us on an advisory committee and give your feedback. Peer to peer supports and small group trainings to give you the skills to be successful in your foster care/kinship journey.

Advocacy – Learn more about policy changes on the state level. FFA also does direct advocacy around educational services for foster children, concerns/grievances involving DSS and private agencies, and general advocacy needs. FFA is the only family run organization with direct connections with the child welfare administration on a regular basis.

How can FFA-NC help?



Support – Concerned about a placement? Want another viewpoint or referral for help? Do you have a unique challenge that needs to be addressed? We can help connect you to resources and one on one coaching.

Training – Gain knowledge, make friends, and get the most out of being a foster parent at one of our online support groups. Join us for our quarterly summits surrounding special needs of fostering/adopting teenagers. Find support in your hometown or topical trainings.

Upcoming Trainings

[Training Events](#)



Teaming with Teens- February 4th 10am-1pm

Watch Me Rise Webinar with Trent Taylor- February 28th 6-7pm

Webinar Series in Partnership with NC Stop Human Trafficking- TBA

What other trainings does FFA-NC offer?



- Resource Parent Curriculum
 - 6 trainers all of whom are current foster parents
- Community Resiliency Model (CRM)
- FASD, in-utero exposure training
- Research-based curriculum online support groups in every region across NC

What other supports do we offer?



What is #1 reason foster parents stay in the system?

Support Groups - 67% stated that the support group was the actual help they needed to make it through. It's peer to peer support.

Medically fragile foster children, kinship providers, Grandparents Raising Grandkids, regional traditional support group, FASD, and more being planned

Current Projects



1. Working with the State of NC & UNC School of Social Work and all walks of the foster care system to complete a **Needs Assessment**
2. Needs Assessment will drive the trainings, advocacy, support needed for resource parents in next 2 years.
3. Working on retention and recruitment with partners across the State of NC
4. Connecting with other resource parent organizations to see how they are doing recruitment - national level
5. Training to help with retention; very much resource parent focused
6. Facebook group for resource parents in NC including statewide and regional
7. Community events across the state

Current Projects continued.....



8. IEP support to help with training of resource parents and appropriate education for foster children
9. Foster closets in all regions; focusing on places where there are not yet supports available.
10. Streamline communication with ALL licensed resource parents in NC
11. Statewide Resource Directory
12. Projecting a regional Foster Family Alliance of NC employee in each of 7 regions by August 2023
13. Working with UNC Design Team to find resources for recruitment

What are resource parents sharing with us?



1. Resource parents are seeing the stress in the county-level social workers.
2. Kinship parents are getting differing information regarding kinship licensure.
3. Guardianship continues to be a very hard arena for everyone to know what resources are available to families—both as professionals and parents.
4. Timelines are being missed as far as court; adjudication etc.
5. Permanency taking just as long as it did during Covid if not longer due to staffing.
6. Foster Parent Bill of Rights is not being implemented in all counties.
7. Foster Parent Bill of Rights has no weight if counties don't follow.
8. New birth certificates taking over a year to receive after adoption.

Thoughts continued.....



9. Private agencies are offering many different amounts of monies on stipends.
10. Cost of having a foster child in your home has risen due to economy.
11. Professional parenting scenarios are confusing for foster parents.
12. Cannot be single and a professional parent because the need to hold a job outside of the home can't be managed.
13. Licensure “nos” when a family wants to take on more children.
 - 5 being max / TFC no more than two.
 - What if a family has 1 TFC and 1 FF?
 - What if having 6 but 2-3 children are 17, 18?

Foster Family Alliance of NC wants to.....



1. Partner with your agency to share your training and events.
2. Collaborate with trainings.
3. Help get the word out about yours and ours models offered.
4. Walk alongside your resource parents to help support.
5. Offer support in terms of gift cards and swag to love on your families.
6. Support your families when a child has an IEP if things aren't going well.
7. Invite your families to regional events; ball games, thrift sales, restaurant nights, large events, etc.
8. Collaborate in anyway that will help with retention.
9. **Get to know you and your agency!**

What do you want to know?

Questions

Comments

Editorials



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