

Our Philosophy

The Missouri Alliance for Children and Families provides family-oriented and creative strength-based services that encourage families to no longer rely on the system, but rather to develop and use their personal abilities and gifts so they can do what is necessary for their family to be safe and secure.

We give families, community members and providers the power to work together to create a better future for all of us.



Here are some other things we believe:

- ✓ All families have individual and unique strengths.
- ✓ Parents want what is best for their children.
- ✓ Families know what their needs are better than anyone else.
- ✓ Families have the power to make changes that make their family healthy.
- ✓ Children and their families reach their goals sooner when help is close to home.
- ✓ Families and their communities support children best.



Because Every Child Deserves a Chance

Jefferson City toll-free 888-974-7035

Jefferson City main 573-556-8090

St. Louis 314-991-1737

Springfield 417-865-1777

Kansas City/Sedalia 573-338-3795



You have the compassion
You have the patience
You have the dedication
You have the strength
to help a child heal.

Sounds like you have what it
takes to be a foster parent.



All children deserve a safe, happy life—including the 513,000 American children and youth in foster care.

Source: Casey Family Programs

Children usually enter the foster care system due to abuse or neglect from a parent or caregiver.

Missouri Alliance for Children and Families is contracted with the state of Missouri to provide care for over 900 of the more than 9,000 children in foster care in our state. Our Specialized Program serves children and adolescents with severe emotional and behavioral needs. Our Permanency Program (MAPP) serves a broad range of children ages birth to 21 years old.

Since the Specialized Program began serving youth in 1999, Missouri Alliance has successfully disenrolled over 1,000 children to permanent or less restrictive settings. Since MAPP began serving children in 2005, we have found safe, permanent homes for nearly 500 children, usually through reunification, adoption or guardianship.



Why foster parents are so important

When children are separated from their parents or caregivers due to abuse or neglect, they need caring foster parents to help them heal.

Foster parents open their homes and their hearts to children when they need it most. Their love and encouragement helps children grow into healthy, stable and loving adults.

Foster and Adoptive Parents...

Protect and nurture children

Meet children's developmental needs and address developmental delays

Support relationships between children and their families

Connect children with safe, nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime

And work as members of a professional team

Qualifications to be a foster parent

- Must be at least 21 years of age
- May be single or married. If married, both must attend training
- Residence must be a safe environment for the child.
- Family must have sufficient funds to meet their own needs.
- Foster Parent(s) must be in good health.
- Foster Parent(s) must have satisfactory background checks.
- Must complete all sessions of STARS/PRIDE training (27 hours), be able to meet the 5 STARS/PRIDE competencies, and become CPR and First Aid certified.
- Must be willing to commit to meet the child's physical and emotional needs.

There are additional trainings available for foster parents who wish to adopt, and for foster parents who wish to work with children with severe emotional or behavioral needs.



Hakeem is looking for a “forever family” to adopt him. Could you be that family?