

SCDSS – Foster Care Services

Web address: <https://dss.sc.gov/foster-care/>

Street Address: 1535 Confederate Ave. Ext., PO Box 1520 Columbia, SC 29202-1520

Contact information: Phone: General Information: 803.898.7601

Mission: The Department's mission is to serve South Carolina by promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and vulnerable adults, helping individuals achieve stability and strengthening families.

Services Provided

Geographic area covered: Statewide/County Based: <https://dss.sc.gov/foster-care/prospective-foster-parent/contact/>

Services Provided:

Prospective Foster Parents

- FAQ: <https://dss.sc.gov/foster-care/current-foster-parent/faq/>
- You can complete the initial application online (<https://dss.sc.gov/foster-care/prospective-foster-parent/start-the-application-process/>), and Heartfelt Calling will follow up with you to explain some of the additional requirements of the licensing process.
- Or, you can call Heartfelt Calling at 1-888-828-3555. Heartfelt Calling staff will complete a 3 page initial application over the phone and review some of the additional requirements of the licensing process with you.

Current Foster Parents

- Resources available online for the following topics (<https://dss.sc.gov/foster-care/current-foster-parent/resources/>)
 - General Parenting
 - Resources Developed by Youth in Foster Care
 - Support
 - Training and Resources
 - Forms and Tools
 - Regulations, Guidelines and Court
 - Behavioral Issues
 - Internet Safety
 - Bullying
 - LGBTQ
 - Resources for Youth Transitioning from Care

Independent Living

- Most young adults need support and guidance to be successful as they begin to establish themselves in the community. The DSS Independent Living Program works to provide these youth with the assistance they need to thrive. The program implements the services outlined in the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP). Click here (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/chafee-foster-care-program>) to learn more. Or contact IndependentLiving@dss.sc.gov.

Kinship Care

- Kinship care refers to a temporary or permanent informal arrangement in which a relative or non-related adult (also known as fictive kin) has assumed the full time care of a child whose parents are unable to do so. These kin caregivers may already have a close relationship or bond with the child or family.
- Contact: www.kinshipcare.sc.edu

Regional Contacts:

Region I

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Region II

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