



Foster Parent Pre-Service Training

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States have a variety of policies regarding pre-service training for foster parents. We have assembled those we were able to locate here. Note that this is not a comprehensive list of all policies.

Mandatory Training Hours

Most states require a minimum number of pre-service training hours, but the range of mandatory hours is quite large. Hours given are only for basic foster care; many states have additional requirements for therapeutic foster parents. When a specific curriculum is used, it is indicated.

| Required Hours | States |
|---------------------------|---|
| 6 hours | Minnesota, Pennsylvania* |
| 8 hours | Nevada |
| 10 hours | Alaska*, Georgia (IMPACT), Idaho*, New Mexico |
| 12 hours | California, Colorado*, Michigan (PRIDE), Mississippi (PATH) |
| 14 hours | South Carolina |
| 16 hours | Wyoming |
| 18 hours | Hawaii, Montana |
| 20 hours | Indiana (Fosterparentscape) |
| 21 hours | Florida (GPS-MAPP)*, New Hampshire, Nebraska |
| 24 hours | Maine, Massachusetts (MAPP), Ohio* |
| 27 hours | Delaware (PRIDE), New Jersey, Illinois (PRIDE), Maryland, Missouri (STARS), North Dakota (PRIDE), Oklahoma (OK PRIDE) |
| 30 hours | Alabama*, Arizona (PS MAPP)*, Arkansas*, District of Columbia (PS MAPP)*, Iowa (PS MAPP), Kentucky (GPS-MAPP), Louisiana (MAPP), North Carolina, Rhode Island*, South Dakota, Tennessee (PATH), Texas (PRIDE)*, Vermont, Washington*, West Virginia (PRIDE) |
| 32 hours | Utah (CCBT) |
| 45 hours | Connecticut (PRIDE)* |
| # of hours not specified | New York* |
| No preservice requirement | Oregon* (orientation, prior to or within 30 days of placement), Virginia, Wisconsin |

* Alabama 30 hours over 10 weeks of group preparation or 7 weeks of individual sessions if family cannot participate in a group.

* Alaska Requires 10 hours for a one-parent household, or 15 hours per household for a two-parent household.

- * Arizona Or 7 consultations using the PS Deciding Together program
- * Arkansas CPR and First Aid training are required
- * Colorado 12 hours plus CPR and First Aid. Additional 15 hours completed within 3 months of placement
- * Connecticut 45 hours of training must be completed within the first 18 months of licensure.
- * District of Columbia All public and private agencies in the District of Columbia must use a federally recognized training modality, i.e., PRIDE or PS-MAPP
- * Florida The Administrative Code standard is 21 hours, but also requires use of GPS-MAPP, which consists of 30 hours.
- * Idaho Not less than 10 hours of training no later than 1 year following the issuance of an initial foster care license.
- * New York Requires certain content areas, but not number of hours. Many counties and agencies use the Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting/ Group Preparation and Selection (MAPP/GPS) Pre-Certification Training Program. Although it is not required by the Office of Children and Family Services, it is the recommended selection and preparation program.
- * Ohio A person seeking certification to operate a pre-adoptive infant foster home shall complete a minimum of 12 hours of preplacement training. A person seeking certification to operate a treatment foster home shall complete a minimum of 36 hours preplacement training.
- * Oregon Applicants and certified families must complete the Foundations of Relative Care, Foster Care, and Pre-Adoptive Care (Foundations) training, or have written documentation of completion of equivalent training content from another licensed child-caring agency within two years of an applicant's dated application for a Certificate of Approval from the Department.
- * Pennsylvania 6 hours minimum pre-service orientation is required. Many counties require additional pre-service training hours.
- * Rhode Island Requires 27 hours of pre-service training for state foster parents. Some contracted child placing agencies require fewer hours of pre-service but have mandatory training requirements after licensing. In order to insure that all of the agencies deliver the same basics in their training, State has developed core competencies, based on the CWLA core competencies, and the agencies have to demonstrate when/how the competency is delivered.
- * Texas DFPS's Residential Child Care Licensing (RCCL) division is responsible for licensing and monitoring child-placing agencies (both DFPS and private). It is the child-placing agencies that are

responsible for verifying families. RCCL requirements are 8 hours of pre-service training. DFPS requires 30 hours of PRIDE training for its homes.

* Washington Also must complete First Aid/CPR and Blood Born Pathogens course.