

RFA Benefits

The benefits of RFA include:

- A streamlined approval process which eliminates the duplication of previous processes,
- Unified approval standards for all caregivers, regardless of the child's case plan,
- Preparation of families to better meet the needs of vulnerable children in the foster care system,
- Family-focused and child-centered training,
- A unified transition to permanency, and
- Allowing approved relatives/Non-Related Extended Family Members (NREFMs) to care for children they are not related to.



Consider Becoming a Resource Family Today!

For additional information,
contact Children and
Family Services by phone
at 1-800-722-4477
or visit

<https://www.sanbernardinoforkids.com>



CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

1495 S. E St.
San Bernardino

www.SBCounty.gov/cfs



SBCountyCFS

CFS RFA 2 (10/19)



Becoming a Resource Family



Resource Family Approval (RFA)

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

RFA Overview

Children need and deserve a safe, nurturing and stable place to live where they can thrive and mature. Becoming a Resource Family (RF) provides a child with a home that makes this possible.

RFA is a caregiver approval process that a foster parent, relative, non-relative extended family member, or adoptive family completes to be considered for potential placement of a child, youth, or young adult (non-minor dependents from 18-21 years old).

The RFA process includes:

- Submitting a completed application,
- Completing a background check,
- Completing a combined home environment and family evaluation, and
- Completing pre-approval and post-approval training.

RFA Facts

Existing licensed foster family homes, certified family homes and approved relative/ Non-Relative Extended Family Members (NREFMs) must become an approved RF by Dec. 31, 2020.

If an existing foster family would like to continue to be foster parents they can convert their home through the RFA process.

During an emergency situation, a child, youth or young adult can be placed in a relative home prior to approval if the following requirements are met:

- Home and grounds inspection approved.

RFA Facts, Continued

- Criminal record and Child Abuse Index check clearances are completed.
- Initiation of RFA process occurs within five business days and completion of:
 - Live Scan within 10 days.
 - RFA process within 90 days of placement.

Once approved, RFs may be considered for placement of a related or unrelated child(ren) for foster care, adoption or legal guardianship, depending on the RFs goals.

RFA does not guarantee placement of a child. The decision to place a child with a RF is determined by the child's social worker and the courts.

RFA Requirements

The following requirements must be completed/submitted prior to approval:

- Live Scan,
- Pre-approval training,
- Home environment assessment,
- Permanency assessment,
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) First Aid certification,
- Health Screening,
- Family Evaluation, and
- Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) Report.

The RFA approval process also includes:

- In-home visits with all adults, children, youth and young adults,
- Reference checks, and
- Collecting completed forms and applications.

