

# WELCOME

Nearly 1,000 children in Erie County alone are in Foster Care. You can help! Children of all ages need loving families and supportive homes during this critical time in their young lives

## ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

At Gateway Longview we offer comprehensive Foster Care & Adoption Services to support families in the Buffalo, NY area and throughout Erie County. We work to match children in care with safe, nurturing foster home environments where they are set up to thrive.

## KINSHIP

Gateway-Longview's Foster Care and Adoption team provides resources, education, and support to kinship caregivers who are interested in becoming certified foster parents for the children in their care.



## MISSION

Committed to working together to protect, to give hope, and to enrich the lives of every child and family we serve.

## ABOUT GATEWAY LONGVIEW

Gateway Longview is a non-profit human services organization established in 1890 that provides comprehensive programs focused on behavioral health, community-based services, foster care and adoption services, residential treatment, and special education programs to more than 5,000 children and families annually throughout Western New York. Driven by core values of Integrity, Safety, Empowerment, Diversity and Collaboration through a trauma-informed lens to care, Gateway Longview is committed to build upon individual strengths, creating partnerships that foster hope for the future.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

716.783.3100

[gateway-longview.org](http://gateway-longview.org)



**Gateway Longview**

*protect • enrich • give hope*

In partnership with:



## Foster Care, Kinship Care & Adoption

10 Symphony Circle | Buffalo, NY 14201

716.783.2909





## COULD YOU BE A FOSTER FAMILY?

- Do you love children and have a good sense of humor?
- Do you enjoy celebrating small victories?
- Do you have a desire to learn – are you able to attend trainings and do you welcome feedback?
- Do you consider yourself flexible and open-minded?
- Are you organized and open to completing and submitting paperwork?
- Do you like being part of a team?
- Do you keep commitments and see things through?
- Do you have the ability to empathize?
- Do you recognize your stress and have healthy ways to manage it?
- Do you have a strong support system that encourages your interest in foster care/adoption?

## THE ROAD TO FOSTER PARENT CERTIFICATION

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### 1. Ask Us!

When you contact our office a member of our team will answer your questions about foster parenting and the process involved.

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### 2. Attend an Orientation

During orientation, we will give you an overview of foster care, our program, and answer questions you may have. Group orientation meetings are monthly. Individual meetings can be arranged as needed.

### 4. Attend Trainings

Classes are designed to help you prepare for foster/adoptive parenting. You'll learn about your rights and responsibilities, as well as the challenges and rewards.

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### 5. Home Study

You & your Home finder will identify and explore your personal history, background, lifestyle, child caring experiences, the types of children you feel would best fit into your home, as well as identifying your strengths and skills in meeting the children's needs.

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### 6. Review Panel

Your Homefinder will present your family to the panel and the panel will make a decision regarding the appropriateness of certification.

Sometimes, a family is asked to come in and join the panel to clarify any questions. This also gives the team an opportunity to meet you!

### 7. Become a Certified Resource Parent!

This means that you are now eligible to receive referrals and to care for foster children in your home!

**NOTE:**  
Re-certification must be completed yearly.

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### 8. Child Placement!

Once certified, you are eligible to receive referral calls! If the match is right, the child(ren) will come to stay with you (either short-term or long-term).

Before a placement, the Intake Coordinator will give you information that will help you provide the best care for the child.

3

### 3. Paperwork

We will need: an application, copies of your financial information and medical reports completed by your physician.

All adults (18+) in your home must be fingerprinted, provide local police clearances, and be cleared through the State Central Registrar for Abuse & Neglect.