



Fostering Teens

Be a part of their journey



Department of Social Services
Foster Homes Licensing Unit
1225 Ramsey St.
Fayetteville, NC 28301
(910) 677-2541

www.ccdssnc.com/child-services



Foster Care Facts

985

Average number of children and youth in Cumberland County custody and care from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Of those 985, **224** were youth (ages 13 to 17) and **50** were young adults (ages 18 to 21)

349

The average number of children and youth placed outside of the county or state.

140

Number of adoptions Cumberland County achieved from September 2017 to September 2019

Only **16 (11%)** of the 140 adoptions were youth, ages 13 to 17.

In 2019 **13%** of the Cumberland County Licensed Foster Homes were willing to take teens

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Our youth need adults that will **celebrate successes** and help them learn to **navigate the challenges** they face as young adults.

- College acceptance
- Dating
- Developing a sense of belonging
- Driver's Education
- Employment
- Family Planning
- Family Relationships
- Finance
- Graduation
- Healthy Self-Image
- Independent Living skills
- Making Good Decisions
- Peer Pressure
- Prom
- Sports



Helpful Resources

For Foster Parents

- Alliance Health / Crisis Services
- Licensing and Youth's Social Workers
- Cumberland County Schools
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Foster Parents Association / Support Group
- Medicaid
- Community Support
- Fostering Teens Guide
- Fostering Perspective Magazine
- Monthly Room and Board

For the Youth

- **Independent Living Services for FosterChildren (NC LINKS)** provides services and resources to Youth aged 13-21 who are or were in foster care.
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/>
- **'SaySo': Strong Able Youth Speaking Out**, is a statewide association of youth aged 14 to 24 who are or have been in the out-of-home care system that is based in North Carolina.
<https://www.saysoinc.org/>
- Youth Explosion / Graduation Event

For the Young Adults

Extended Foster Care voluntary services are available for young adults ages 18 to 21, who aged out of foster care AND meet eligibility criteria.





Successful Teens

Many of our teenagers in foster care have successfully graduated high school, college, enlisted in the Armed Forces, and joined the work force.

One of the greatest rewards of fostering a teenager is watching them slowly evolve and seeing them learn to put their trust in me. I have such an overwhelming feeling of pride when a teenager finally feels close enough to laugh and joke with me and say they love me. It is also amazing when you watch a teenager use some of the skills you have taught them to make responsible decisions. As a parent, we truly have an important role in the lives of these young adults and they really need parents that are willing to love them, guide them, and to just be there for them.”


— *DSS Foster Parent*

Having the opportunity to mentor a child into their adult years is the biggest blessing we've seen. We get to help children break the cycle and set foot on a brighter path.”

— *CCDSS Foster Parent*

“Don't let what you have done in the past define you. You can move forward and be better. Don't give up”

— *Graduate 2019*



You Could Make a Difference!

Giving our youth the opportunity to:



- know they are loved and cared for
- have someone to share their dreams and goals
- complete high school
- stay in their community
- avoid changes in schools
- maintain their connections
- achieve permanency
- be ready to face adulthood
- gain a mentor, a friend
- learn independent living skills
- be supported through their life milestones
- learn something new
- be in a safe family home

Learn about becoming a Foster Parent

Info Sessions: 3rd Thursday of the month
12:00 pm-1:30 pm or 6:30 pm-8:00 pm

Foster Home Licensure Requirements

- At least 21 years of age & Cumberland County Resident
- Background checks on applicants and all adults in the household
- Medical/Mental Health Clearance
- Home Safety
- Discipline Agreement
- Pre-License & ongoing training
- Family History

