

9-617 SPECIALIZED FAMILY FOSTER HOMES

Specialized Family Foster Homes must meet or exceed minimum foster home standards and develop specific skills to care for children with unique needs. Those homes are often recruited from the pool of existing certified family foster homes but may also include individuals with unique skills recruited independently.

Home Development (HD) case workers must coordinate with parish offices to identify needs for specialized homes. Regional slots for these homes are assigned based on Department budget constraints. Specialized homes receive a monthly \$200 stipend per qualifying child, capped at \$800 per month. Subsidies are contingent upon active care settings aligning with the home's specialization; subsidies are discontinued after sixty (60) days without a matching care setting unless otherwise approved. Stipends are non-taxable if a child resides in the home during month but become taxable otherwise. Specialized foster caregivers must provide backup childcare plans and meet recertification requirements annually.

Preference for certification is given to two-parent homes, although single-parent homes may qualify based on resources and needs of the child. Foster caregivers must maintain financial independence from stipends and demonstrate the ability to manage children's specialized needs alongside employment responsibilities. Foster caregivers may be reimbursed for transportation and other allowable expenses at standard rates. Homes have a maximum capacity of four children, except for large sibling groups.

Types of Specialized Family Foster Homes are as follows:

1. **Large Sibling Groups** – Focus on accompanying the diverse needs of siblings while managing group dynamics. Capacity ranges from two to five (2-5) children, extendable to six (6) for intact sibling care settings.
2. **Children with Emotional/Behavioral Problems** – Foster caregivers must provide therapeutic care and collaborate with treatment services.
3. **Children with Medical Problems or Disabilities** – Caregivers require specialized skills for medical or developmental conditions. Homes must accommodate required medical equipment.

PROCEDURES, FORMS, AND RESOURCES

References:

Residential Licensing Chapter 73. Child Placing Agencies

Organizational:

Child Welfare – 9. Home Development – 6. Post Certification Services for Certified Homes – 9-617 Specialized Family Foster Homes

Effective Date: June 1, 2025

Replacing: June 1, 2017