



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF NEW YORK

Safe Haven for Unaccompanied Minors: Foster Parent Requirements

Thank you for your interest in caring for the children in LSSNY's Safe Haven Program! Our program serves unaccompanied minors, most of whom are from Central America and speak Spanish. Some of the children speak other languages. Because many of our children have endured traumatic experiences, caring for them is a big responsibility that requires patience, commitment, and a willingness to learn. We've outlined the minimum requirements that those who are interested in becoming a foster parent must meet. If you think you meet these requirements and would still like to become a foster parent, we can begin the rest of the screening and training process.

To be a foster parent you must:

- Be verbally proficient in Spanish and literate in either Spanish or English
- From Monday through Friday at 9:30am, bring the children to our education site in the South Bronx
- From Monday through Friday at 4:30pm, pick up the children at our education site in the South Bronx
- Be willing to take the child to religious services of the child's choosing, regardless of your own religious beliefs
- Be willing to work with program staff and the child on any behavioral plans that may be needed
- Provide care for the children regardless of their language, sexual orientation, religion, race, or ethnicity
- Be willing to complete all screening requirements, including medical clearances and TB tests, fingerprinting, and background checks
- Comply with all home visits, announced and unannounced
- Have experience and like caring for children

Home Requirements

- Have a room for the children to sleep that is separate from adults.
- Have sufficient space for the children to store their personal belongings.
- Have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors as well as a fire evacuation plan.
- Window guards on all windows if not on the first floor.

If you believe you meet these requirements and you are still interested in becoming a foster parent, please contact Christina Rock, the Foster Parent Coordinator, at 917-684-8861 or crock@lssny.org.

Called by God, we enable people to reach their full potential.

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