

Learn more

If you would like to learn more about becoming a resource family for Mercer County, please feel free to contact us and we will be happy to provide you with additional information and answer any questions you may have!

Contact us

Gina Fertig, Supervisor
gfertig@mercercountypa.gov
(724) 662-2703



**Children are our most
valuable resource and our
greatest responsibility"**

~Unknown

Mission:

We believe that one person can make the difference in a child's life and that children are best served in the most family-like setting, beginning with kinship and traditional resource homes. Because we believe in family preservation and are committed to providing for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in out-of-home care, we will:

- ✓ Provide a safe and nurturing environment to children in out-of-home care that is sensitive to their history, family, and culture; and
- ✓ Identify, recruit, and make every effort to certify kinship families that are related to the child by blood, marriage, or affinity, or has a strong, positive bond with the child or family; and
- ✓ Recruit and maintain diverse families as traditional resource care homes primarily in communities where children live; and
- ✓ Partner with kinship and traditional resource families to engage and work with biological parents on visitation, communication, reunification, and permanency; and
- ✓ Make a commitment to trauma-informed care in all aspects of the kinship and resource care process.

Mercer County Children
& Youth Services
Resource Care

We *foster* Care

8425 Sharon-Mercer Rd
Mercer, PA 16125
(724) 662-2703
Fax: (724) 662-0676

Who Can Be a Resource Family?

Minimum Requirements:

- ✓ At least 21 years of age
- ✓ Pass a medical appraisal by a licensed physician
- ✓ Pass child abuse and criminal history clearances

MCCYS is committed to recruiting & licensing diverse resource families!

Not all children are the same and that is true of resource families as well! Resource families can be single or married households or those in a partnership. The family may already have children, have grown children, or this may be their first time parenting. While there is a requirement to provide proof of income during the certification process, many resource families have a modest income and can rent or own their home.

We also welcome families that are part of the LGBTQ+ community.



What is the Process?

In addition to the minimum requirements, the resource family will participate in a homestudy and evaluation process that will include:

- ✓ A home inspection to ensure the home meets the minimum residency & safety requirements
- ✓ An assessment of the family's ability to provide resource care to children & youth
- ✓ Resource family training
- ✓ Review of policies & procedures of MCCYS
- ✓ Review of state and federal regulations

While the process may seem intimidating, you will work with our trained resource care caseworkers who will guide and support you through the certification process!



What is Resource Care?

Resource Care (traditionally known as foster care) is designed to be **temporary**. Most children and youth who are placed in resource care return home to their parents or family of origin.

Being a resource family is a commitment that may be difficult at times but also rewarding. As a resource family, you are in a unique position to assist not only a child in need, but the families in our community.

There are many resources and services to assist you in your journey, if you decide to become a resource family, including financial reimbursement for any child who is placed in your home in order to meet their needs.

"We need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."

~ Fred Rogers
