



Foster Family and Adoption

Who are the children placed in Aviva foster families?

Aviva places children ages birth through 21 years old with foster families. Their backgrounds are diverse and include all ethnicities and socioeconomic status. Many of the children have been mentally, physically and/or sexually abused and neglected.

Role of the foster parent and adoptive family

The role of a certified foster and adoptive parent is to provide a loving, nurturing home to a child. It is important that the child feels and is treated like one of the “family” and continues what is natural- to be a child. This includes going to school, having friends, engaging in activities, and participating in the foster family’s home life. Our foster parents not only provide care and actively participate with the children, but serve as role models. It is Aviva’s goal for each foster child to be reunited with their birth families when the family is ready to provide a more secure environment through the development of parenting skills. Aviva actively assists with this process through the birth family’s visitation with the foster family so that the so that the parent child relationship continues. In instances where a child is unable to return to the birth family, Aviva is a licensed Adoption Agency in which our Adoption Coordinator is able to take the family and child through the adoption process from the start to finalization.



Aviva’s support systems for foster and adoptive parents



Parenting is a full-time job and Aviva recognizes that taking in a foster or an adoptive child may present unknown challenges to well-intentioned families. It is Aviva’s commitment to provide support systems that provide answers to any questions that a family may have. Services include weekly visits to the foster/adoptive home setting where a social worker will assess and identify the needs of the foster family and the child. The role of an Aviva social worker will be to facilitate resources that may include medical, educational, therapeutic, psychiatric, summer activity programs and financial support through a monthly stipend. In addition, Aviva provides free training to our foster/adoptive families so that there is a better understanding of the child’s emotional and behavioral difficulties. Once a child is placed, there are continued monthly support groups for the foster and adoptive

families. Aviva’s social workers have Master’s Degree in Social Work and/or Psychology. The Social Worker staff is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist our certified foster and adoptive families.



Foster Family and Adoption

Becoming a foster or adoptive parent with Aviva

We are licensed by the state of California as a Foster Family and Adoption Agency. Aviva has contracts with the County of Los Angeles to accept referrals of children and place them on our certified foster and adoptive homes.

Who is eligible to become a foster or adoptive parent(s)?

A diverse range of applicants are needed to accommodate the cultural diversity of the Los Angeles area. Whether as a single person or a couple, those with a desire to help and provide a home to a child or children with a home or apartment with enough space to accommodate the child(ren).

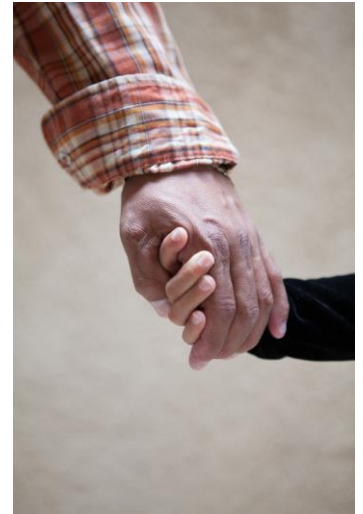
Initial process

First steps include attendance at an Orientation meeting, followed by completion of an application. A home interview by Aviva's staff will be arranged.

Screening

Aviva is committed to providing a safe, healthy and stable home. Listed below are some of the screening tools that are used prior to certifying an individual or family.

- Fingerprint clearances
- Driver's license and photo ID
- Auto insurance
- Medical exam and TB test



Home study

As part of the certification process, all potential foster parents have a home study completed. This is a series of interviews conducted so we can learn about the foster family. We want to appropriately match foster children to the right foster family.

If adoption is part of a child's case plan, then the home study can be used for eventual adoption proceedings as well.

Training

Aviva proudly offers its potential families the PRIDE (Parent Resource for Information, Development Education training). The training is free.

Reimbursement

Financial assistance is provided to the families of Aviva when a child is placed in the foster home. The rate of reimbursement is dependent upon the age of the child. An additional allowance is usually provided to help defer clothing expenses. Most children's medical costs are covered by Medi-cal.

Contact

To start the process or to talk with one of our staff, please call our Foster Family and Adoption agency at 323-876-0550 x 1115. Professionally trained staff can answer all your questions or you can email us at FosterAdoption@avivacenter.org