HISTORY & OVERVIEW

Child & Family Services has been servicing the community since 1843. We are a comprehensive agency offering a wide range of counseling and community support services. These include specialty clinics, individual, group and family therapy, psychological testing, psychiatric consultation, adoption services and community youth support.

Child & Family Services’ commitment is to serve the community with the highest respect and professionalism.

ADOPTION PROGRAM

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES
439 SOUTH UNION STREET
LAWRENCE, MA 01843

TEL: (978) 687-5852
FAX: (978) 687-5857
WWW.CHILD-FAMILYSERVICES.ORG

Child & Family Services’ mission is “...to heal and strengthen the lives of children and families.”
SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTION

This program provides services for children who are in the custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and who have the goal of adoption. These children are often older, members of a sibling group or of a particular ethnic group. They may have special needs to include physical, emotional, intellectual and/or medical challenges. The children are in the process of having parental rights terminated by a court.

The adoption staff members also recruit, train and provide ongoing support to pre-adoptive families. A Home study and MAPP (Massachusetts Approach to Partnerships in Parenting) trainings are provided free of charge.

WHO CAN ADOPT?

- Parents can be single, married, partnered, divorced or widowed.
- Must be at least 21 years of age.
- Home ownership is not necessary, but home must meet basic safety and space requirements.
- Can be at home or work outside the home with a stable source of income adequate to support a family.
- Able to support the physical & emotional needs of a child.
- Most important qualifications are an open heart, patience and commitment.

FAQ’S

- There are no fees to adopt a waiting child from DCF.
- The average age of special needs adopted children is around six.
- Most waiting children are living in foster families. Some are in residential group placements.
- All children placed within the DCF system have experienced loss and abuse and/or neglect in varying degrees.
- Prior to placement, adoptive parents are given complete information about the children, which includes medical, developmental and educational information so that an informed decision can be made.
- For most special needs adoptions, an adoption subsidy* may be available that provides both financial assistance and health care coverage until a child reaches adulthood.

*Subsidy is subject to annual review/change.

The Adoption Program is funded by DCF.