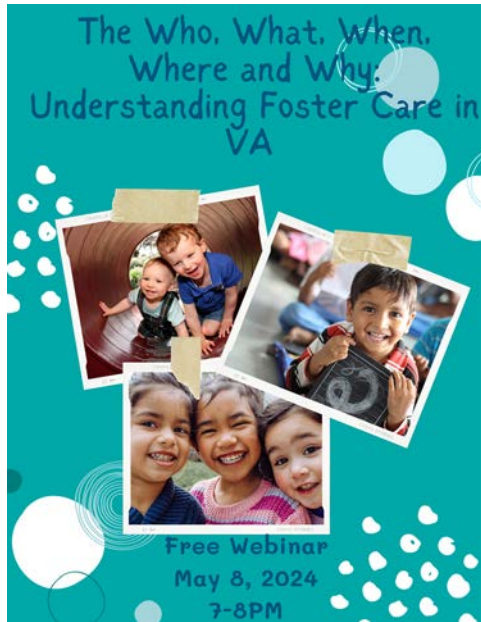


The Who, What, When, Where and Why: *Understanding Foster Care in Virginia*



Webinar
Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Melissa Lebling,
Family Support & Outreach Specialist
&
Shawn Nashwinter, Former DSS Case Worker

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FAMILIES **FORWARD**

Formed Families Forward - who we are...

- A family-led nonprofit organization in Northern Virginia supporting foster, adoptive and kinship families who are raising children, youth & young adults with special needs, and professionals who work with our families.
- We offer free training, consultations to families, events, resources, and systems navigation. Also - peer support groups; webinars; virtual trainings; videos and other resources.
- Family partner to Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS; a VDOE project)

Certificates of
Attendance

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Formed Families Together

Parent and Caregiver Support Groups

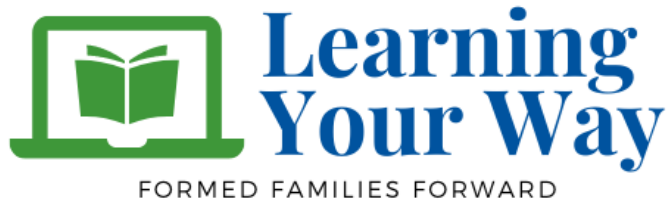
TWO Formed Families Together peer-led support groups for **adoptive and foster parents and kinship caregivers** meeting monthly

- Virtual group- First SUNDAY each month, 7:30 – 9 PM
- In-person group- Third WEDNESDAY of each month on site in Fairfax city, 7- 8:30 PM
- Led by trained FFF staff
- <https://fftogether.eventbrite.com>



Upcoming Opportunities

- June 18 in Leesburg, ***Bridge to the Future*** Youth and Young Adult Summer workshop, <https://bit.ly/bridgefuture>
- *Learning Your Way* online course modules, available through June, <http://bit.ly/LYWSpring24>



FORMED FAMILIES **FORWARD**
SUMMER 2024
**Bridge to the Future
Youth & Young Adult
Workshop**

Youth ages 14-24 who have disabilities are invited to a day of interactive learning & connections to prepare for transitions to life after high school. Register.

FREE!
Participating youth earn a gift card.

Tuesday, June 18
9:30 am - 3 pm

At The Arc of Loudoun in Leesburg

bit.ly/bridgefuture 703-539-2904

The Arc Loudoun

FAMILY DATA LEADERSHIP TRAINING

THE POWER OF DATA

JOIN US FOR A 4-SESSION LEARNING SERIES TO HELP FAMILY MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF DATA AND HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN IMPORTANT DATA DISCUSSIONS THAT IMPACT CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Parents and caregivers of children Birth - 5 years who receive or who are eligible to receive early intervention or special education.

Virtual sessions will be held Tuesdays June 4, 11, 18, 25 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Training is FREE; participants can earn gift cards!

SIGN UP HERE



Family Data Leader Training in June

Knowledge is power, especially
when there is data behind it!

Register here:

<https://bit.ly/famdatatraining>

Formed Families Forward's

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Find providers, agencies
and organizations -
searchable by topic!



Topics include:

- Adoptive, Foster, and Kinship Services and Resources
- Condition-Specific Information
- Educational Services and Resources

As well as:

- Family Support
- Legal Advocacy
- Medical and Health Care
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Transition Services for Young Adults (18-21)



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Agenda:

Basics of Foster Care in Virginia

Common Questions

Audience Questions



Acronyms commonly used in Foster Care

DSS - Department of Social Services

LDSS - Local Department of Social Services

VDSS - Virginia Department of Social Services

CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocate

GAL- Guardian ad Litem

CPS - Child Protective Services

ICPC - Interstate Compact Placement of Children

TFC - Therapeutic Foster Care

TPR - Termination of Parental Rights

VEMAT - Virginia Enhancement Maintenance Assessment Tool

IEP - Individual Education Program



Foster Care

Foster care is intended to be a **temporary** rather than a long-term solution for children who have **been removed** from their birth family homes for reasons of neglect, abuse, abandonment, or other issues endangering their health and/or safety.

Kinship Care

When children cannot live safely with their families, the first consideration for placement will be with **kinship connections** capable of providing a safe and nurturing home.

Agencies value the resources within extended family networks and are committed to seeking them out.

The Children in Foster Care



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Foster Parent Training

This is the first step to approval as a foster parent. This provides you with the information you need to make an informed decision.

State-Approved Curriculum

- Five in-person sessions AND
- Four online sessions



Approval Process

MUTUAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A process that includes both a study of the physical **home** as well as the prospective **provider(s)**.

It is mutual in that while the LDSS maintains final authority on the decision to approve or not approve, the assessment is done **with** families rather than to families.

- Background checks
- Physical Examination
- References
- Interviews
- Forms, Forms, Forms



Biological Parents



Adoption

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Support for Foster Parents

- Training
- Monthly Maintenance
- Child care
- Medicaid
- GAL
- CASA
- Respite Care
- Case Worker

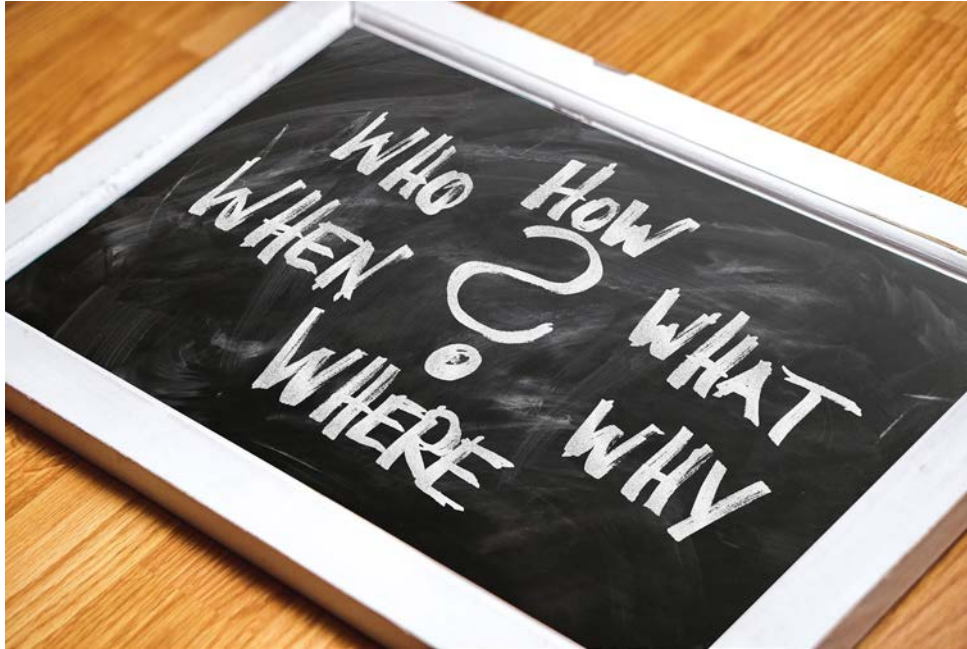


Things to Consider



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Let's Answer Some Questions...



Questions from our Audience



Formed Families Forward – Stay in Touch!

PLEASE COMPLETE EVALUATION right after we end.

****Certificates (only available for those who attended the live session) Email: Stacia.Stribling@FormedFamiliesForward.org****

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Instagram- <https://www.instagram.com/formedfamiliesforward/>