

## RFA SUPPORTS COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN, YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS AND FAMILIES

RFA reaffirms the commitment to serving children, youth, young adults and families because it:

### *Focuses on Lifelong Relationships*

- ✔ RFA supports connecting children, youth, and young adults to safe, caring relationships that can last a lifetime by focusing on families.
- ✔ RFA's purpose is to place children, youth, and young adults with families that can provide a lifelong connection by providing permanency approval upfront.

### *Achieves Results for Children, Youth, Young Adults and Families*

- ✔ Upfront training and ongoing services prepare caregivers to meet the needs of children and youth and assists families with forming lifelong relationships.
- ✔ Supportive and loving long-term relationships lead to stable permanent placements and improved permanency outcomes for children, youth, and young adults.

### *Improves Efficiency*

- ✔ The new coordinated process will eliminate duplication, reduce paperwork, and maximize the efficient use of staff and system resources.



## CONSIDER BECOMING A RESOURCE FAMILY

### ASK US HOW



For more information, contact:

1-877-I-Adopt-U (423-6788)

[www.iadoptu.org](http://www.iadoptu.org)

1-877-792-KIDS (5437)

[www.sandiegofosterkids.com](http://www.sandiegofosterkids.com)



## COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

### CHILD WELFARE SERVICES



A new streamlined process to become a Resource Family for children, youth, and young adults.

# Resource Family Approval (RFA)

## What is a Resource Family?

Any individual, couple, or family who wants to provide care to a related or unrelated child(ren) who is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, or otherwise in the care of a county child welfare agency or probation department.

Once approved, Resource Families may be considered for placement for foster care, adoption or legal guardianship, depending on the Resource Family's goal. Resource Family Approval does not guarantee placement of a child.

## RFA Streamlines the Approval Process

RFA is a unified, family-friendly and child-centered approval process that includes one application, one background check, combined home environment and permanency assessment, pre-approval and post-approval training for all families.



## RFA REQUIREMENTS

The following is a **partial list** of requirements prior to approval.

- ✔ Background Assessment
- ✔ 1 hour Orientation
- ✔ 12 hours of Pre-Approval Training
- ✔ Home environment assessment
- ✔ Permanency Assessment
- ✔ CPR/First Aid
- ✔ Health Screening and TB test

The approval process also includes:

- ✔ In-home visits with all adults and children, youth, and young adults
- ✔ Reference checks
- ✔ Verification and completed application forms

All children need and deserve a safe, loving, nurturing, accepting, and consistent place to live where they can thrive and mature. Becoming a resource family caregiver provides a home for a child to do just that. Resource Family Approval (RFA) is a new caregiver approval process that a foster parent, relative, non-relative extended family member, (NREFM) or adoptive family completes to be considered for potential placement of a child, youth, or young adult (non-minor dependents from 18-21 years old).



## For Relative/Non-Related Extended Family Member Placements

During an emergency situation, a child, youth or young adult can be placed temporarily in a relative or NREFM home until full approval requirements are met. An emergency placement requires the following:

- ✔ Completion of application and supporting documents within 5 business days
- ✔ Face to face interviews with each relative or NREFM
- ✔ Home Environment Assessment
- ✔ Background Assessment within 10 business days
- ✔ Full completion of the RFA Approval process, including 12 hours of training and Permanency Assessment is to be completed within 90 days of placement.