



## FOSTERING IS ABOUT FAMILIES You can make a difference

### OUR PROGRAM



The percentage of tribal children in foster care in Southeast Alaska is disproportionately high. Currently, there are not enough culturally appropriate homes, which has resulted in our tribal children being placed in homes that do not share their cultural heritage or traditions.

There is a need for emergency, short term, and long term foster care placements. Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska's Tribal Foster Care Licensing program is recruiting Alaska Natives and American Indians to become foster parents. The program pays for the care of tribal children placed in tribally-licensed homes.

All children deserve a safe and stable home. Our children need nurturing adults in their lives especially during times when their families experience a time of crisis or hardship. If you are interested in making a difference in a child's life and would like to ensure our children are engaged and connected with their culture and traditional values, please consider becoming a foster parent.

### OUR CHILDREN are our FUTURE

#### YOU DON'T...

- Have to be married.
- Have to be a homeowner or live in a big house.
- Need a lot of money.
- Need extensive parenting experience.

#### YOU CAN...

- Work full-time.
- Get licensed to care for a specific age or child.

#### GOOD FOSTER PARENTS...

- Are willing to open their home to a child in need and deal with the uncertainty and temporary nature of fostering a child.
- Provide patience and understanding.
- Provide a safe & supportive home.
- Offer effective praise to children.
- Nurture positive attitudes with biological parents.
- Promote cultural awareness.

### HOW TO APPLY

- Contact Tribal Family & Youth Services to schedule an appointment.
- Complete the Foster Care License application, background release and Health History form.
- Schedule a home study to determine if modifications need to be made to your home to make it safe for children.
- Complete core training through Alaska Center for Resource Families.

### APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

**Age:** Must be at least 21 years old.

**Health:** Must be physically and emotionally capable of caring for children, and have no alcohol or drug abuse problems.

**Character References:** Must provide the names of three persons who may be contacted for references.

**Criminal History Record Check:** Must pass a criminal background check and have no substantiated record of abusing or neglecting children.

**Ability & Motivation:** Must have the ability and motivation to be a foster parent.

**Safety Standards:** Must have a home that can meet basic fire, safety and sanitary standards.

**Space:** Must have enough room (and beds) for a foster child to sleep, have privacy, and space to keep his/her belongings.

**Training:** Must attend core training through Alaska Center for Resource Families.

## PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN Preserving our families is our priority