

5 AREAS OF NEED IN FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

| FOSTER CARE | ADOPTION | BIOLOGICAL FAMILY SUPPORT | SUPPORTING ROLES | AGED-OUT TEENS |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶▶ 1400 kids in foster care in Travis, Williamson, Hays Counties▶▶ Foster homes are most needed for children age 6 and over▶▶ Children in care can move on average 7 times not due to the system, but because the foster family is not prepared to care for the child▶▶ Moving and inconsistent care can cause more trauma in a child than the original abusive environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶▶ Minority ethnic group children over 2 years old have a greater risk of aging out of the system than being adopted▶▶ An estimated 250 children are available for adoption – many are sibling groups or teens▶▶ Adoption from the foster care system costs little to nothing▶▶ All children, no matter if adopted at infancy, will have trauma, but all children can reach dramatic levels of healing through trauma-informed parenting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶▶ Over 70% of children in care will return to their biological families▶▶ After ensuring safety, the State's top priority is to return children to their families▶▶ Biological families need more support than State requirements to break cycles of abuse, poverty, addiction, etc▶▶ Most children in foster care have parents who were also in foster care | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶▶ There are many opportunities to serve foster and adoptive families including CASA, meals, mentoring, prayer, babysitting certification, financial support for camps or sports, backpack drives, compassion for foster/adoption families, etc▶▶ Isolation is often a family's first and most problematic response when they are in crisis with a child | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶▶ Teens are given the choice at 18 to extend their time in foster care until 21 or they can leave▶▶ 40% of those who age-out are homeless in the first year▶▶ 66% are in incarcerated in the first year▶▶ 70% are pregnant by their 21st birthday▶▶ Long-term relationships are required to change the future of aged-out teens |

