2011 FOSTER PARENT RECRUITEMENT
AND RETENTION SURVEY

Agency Name: The Center for Support of Families (CSF)

Title of Program: Diligent Recruitment Grant

Ask to speak to the foster parent listed.

Hello. My name is _________ and I am calling on behalf of the Department of Human Services. I’m with an organization called the Center for Support of Families and we are working with the DHS to collect some information about fostering children with special needs. You were recommended by the agency as an experienced foster parent, and I am wondering if you would be willing answer some survey questions with me? The purpose of our questions is to get some information that will help use develop services and tools that will help support foster parents like you to care for children with special needs. The survey should take about 30-40 minutes. Would that be ok?

If this is not a good time for you, could we make an appointment for a better time when I could call you back? Open GRITS Calendar and make an appointment, no later than May 12 (save under the Staff Survey Calendar).

Thank you. We really appreciate your time and help. Let’s get started!

General foster parent history and experience

1. How long have you been a foster parent? _____________________

2. I’m interested in hearing the story of how you came to be a foster parent.
   a. How did you first hear about it?
   b. Did you make the decision right away or did it take a while? (Tell me about that).
   c. What were some of the fears or challenges you faced when thinking about making this decision?
   d. What finally motivated you to make contact with the agency?

3. What is your zip code? ______________
Special needs history and experience

In this next part of the survey, I want to ask you about your experience working with children with specific types of special needs. There is a list of seven that we will cover. For each, I’ll ask you if you have experience fostering children with that specific need. If you say “yes”, I’ll ask you a short series of questions about your experience and then move on to the next category of special need.

The first category, for example, addresses caring for large sibling groups.

4. **Have you ever fostered sibling groups of three or more children?**
   - Yes
   - No **(IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION #5)**

   a. In your opinion, how is caring for sibling groups of three or more children different than caring for foster children who are not siblings?

   b. What are some of the perceptions, attitudes and skills that you have had to develop in order to provide quality care to sibling groups?

   c. What kinds of supports or resources have you depended upon to help you care for sibling groups?

   d. What additional information, supports or resources could the agency provide you to better help you care for sibling groups of three or more children?

   e. What do you most enjoy about caring for sibling groups?

   f. What are your greatest challenges when caring for sibling groups of three or more children?

   g. *Note voluntary comments that do not fall into these questions, but pertain to caring for sibling groups.*
5. Have you ever fostered children who were victims of sexual abuse?
   o Yes
   o No (IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION #6)

   a. In your opinion, how is caring for child who was sexually abused different than caring for any other foster child?

   b. What are some of the perceptions, attitudes and skills that you have had to develop in order to provide quality care to children who were sexually abused?

   c. What kinds of supports or resources have you depended upon to help you care for children who were sexually abused?

   d. What additional information, supports or resources could the agency provide you to better help you care for children who were sexually abused?

   e. What do you most enjoy about your experiences in caring for children who were sexually abused?

   f. What are your greatest challenges when caring for children who were sexually abused?

   g. Note voluntary comments that do not fall into these questions, but pertain to caring for children who were sexually abused.
6. Have you ever fostered children who act out sexually or are sexually active?
   o Yes
   o No (IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION #7)

a. In your opinion, how is caring for child who acts out sexually or is sexually active different than caring for any other foster child?

b. What are some of the perceptions, attitudes and skills that you have had to develop in order to provide quality care to children who act out sexually or are sexually active?

c. What kinds of supports or resources have you depended upon to help you care for children who act out sexually or are sexually active?

d. What additional information, supports or resources could the agency provide you to better help you care for children who act out sexually or are sexually active?

e. What do you most enjoy about your experiences in caring for children who act out sexually or are sexually active?

f. What are your greatest challenges when caring for children who act out sexually or are sexually active?

   g. Note voluntary comments that do not fall into these questions, but pertain to caring children who act out sexually or are sexually active.
7. Have you ever fostered teenage boys or girls who are 15 years and older?
   o Yes
   o No (IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION #8)

   a. In your opinion, how is caring for teenagers different than caring for any other foster child?

   b. What are some of the perceptions, attitudes and skills that you have had to develop in order to provide quality care to teenagers?

   c. What kinds of supports or resources have you depended upon to help you care for teenagers?

   d. What additional information, supports or resources could the agency provide you to better help you care for teenagers?

   e. What do you most enjoy about your experiences in caring older teenagers?

   f. What are your greatest challenges when caring for older teenagers?

   g. Note voluntary comments that do not fall into these questions, but pertain to caring for older teenagers.
8. Have you ever fostered a pregnant girl who planned on keeping her baby?
   - Yes
   - No (IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION #9)

   a. In your opinion, how is caring for a pregnant girl different than caring for any other foster child?

   b. What are some of the perceptions, attitudes and skills that you have had to develop in order to provide quality care to pregnant girls?

   c. What kinds of supports or resources have you depended upon to help you care for pregnant girls?

   d. What additional information, supports or resources could the agency provide you to better help you care for pregnant girls?

   e. What do you most enjoy about your experiences in caring for pregnant girls?

   f. What are your greatest challenges when caring for pregnant girls?

   g. Note voluntary comments that do not fall into these questions, but pertain to caring for pregnant girls.
9. Have you ever fostered children who have physical disabilities?
   o Yes
   o No (IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION #10)

a. What kind of physical disabilities did these children have?

b. In your opinion, how is caring for a child with a physical disability different than caring for any other foster child?

c. What are some of the perceptions, attitudes and skills that you have had to develop in order to provide quality care to children with physical disabilities?

d. What kinds of supports or resources have you depended upon to help you care for children with physical disabilities?

e. What additional information, supports or resources could the agency provide you to better help you care for children with physical disabilities?

f. What do you most enjoy about your experiences in caring for children with physical disabilities?

g. What are your greatest challenges when caring for children with physical disabilities?

h. Note voluntary comments that do not fall into these questions, but pertain to caring for children with physical disabilities
10. Have you ever fostered children who are developmentally disabled or have been diagnosed with a mental/psychological disorder?
   o Yes
   o No (IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION #11)

   a. What kind of disabilities or diagnoses did these children have?

   b. In your opinion, how is caring for a child who is developmentally disabled or has a mental disorder different than caring for any other foster child?

   c. What are some of the perceptions, attitudes and skills that you have had to develop in order to provide quality care to these children?

   d. What kinds of supports or resources have you depended upon to help you care for these children?

   e. What additional information, supports or resources could the agency provide you to better help you care for children who are developmentally disabled or have a mental psychological disorder?

   f. What do you most enjoy about your experiences in caring for children these children?

   g. What are your greatest challenges when caring for children with developmentally disabilities or mental disorders?

   h. Note voluntary comments that do not fall into these questions, but pertain to caring for children with developmentally disabilities or mental disorders.
11. Have you ever fostered children who exhibit behavioral or emotional challenges, such as aggression or defiance (but do not have a psychological disorder or diagnosis)?
   - Yes
   - No (IF NO, SKIP TO THE CLOSING PARAGRAPH)

a. In your opinion, how is caring for a child who is behaviorally or emotionally challenging different than caring for any other foster child?

b. What are some of the perceptions, attitudes and skills that you have had to develop in order to provide quality care to children who are behaviorally or emotionally challenging?

c. What kinds of supports or resources have you depended upon to help you care for these children?

d. What additional information, supports or resources could the agency provide you to better help you care for children who are behaviorally or emotionally challenging?

e. What do you most enjoy about your experiences in caring for children who are behaviorally or emotionally challenging?

f. What are your greatest challenges when caring for these children?

g. Note voluntary comments that do not fall into these questions, but pertain to caring for children with emotional/behavioral challenges.

Closing

Well, that’s it! Thank you for taking the time out to share your experiences with me. The information you shared is extremely valuable, and DHS is going to use this information to design a series of tools and strategies that will improve the support and training given to foster parents caring for children with special needs. You’ll be hearing much more about these as we continue with this project. Thank you again for your time and information and for the important work that you do.

Have a great day!