

Mockingbird Family: Hub Home Requirements and Expectations

Overview

The Mockingbird Family Program (MBF) provides critical support to foster and kinship families by creating a “constellation” of connected caregivers, called “Satellite Homes.” These homes work together to support young people experiencing foster care.

As a “Hub Home,” you will help make sure that young people experiencing foster care have stability, remain connected to their culture, heritage, and spirituality. You’ll also help them access the support they need to thrive socially, emotionally, and academically.

Key Responsibilities

As a Hub Home Parent, you will be a mentor and support system for foster and kinship caregivers within the Mockingbird Family Constellation. You will work closely with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), the Mockingbird Society, and other partners.

Your role will include the following:

1. **Organize & Host Monthly Constellation Gatherings**
 - Prepare and host monthly gatherings for Satellite Homes, providing meals and a space for social time.
 - Offer caregiver training and coaching with opportunities for peer support and resource sharing.
2. **Planning Activities**
 - Organize and host regular activities, such as after-school tutoring, and social events to encourage community building among children, youth, and families.
 - Coordinate opportunities for members to attend activities (sports, theater, clubs).



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3. Provide Planned and Urgent Respite Care or Short-Term Placement

- The Hub Home agrees to offer planned respite care to Satellite Homes. This gives foster parents time each month for self-care and young people a chance to spend time with their peers and build relationships with other caregivers in the Constellation. The Hub Home will maintain a calendar to plan for and track respite.
- The Hub Home will be available for crisis support, emergency respite and short-term placement for young people in crisis or at risk of placement disruption.

4. Communication & Support

- Regularly communicate with Satellite Home and DCYF to address the needs of children and youth, including school-related issues, emotional well-being, and social concerns.
- Provide coaching and mentoring to caregivers, offering support for challenging behaviors or family dynamics.

5. Resource Coordination

- Help families access community resources, such as mental health counseling, tutoring services, and social, cultural, and recreational activities.

6. Record Keeping & Reporting

- Complete and submit a Constellation report monthly.
- Connect with each satellite home to track young people entering and exiting placement.

7. Recruitment & Retention Support

- Work with DCYF to invite new caregivers into the Constellation and assist in keeping existing families.

Qualifications

Requirements & Experience

- Foster care licensed for children/youth 0 - 18 years of age.
- Have two open beds for Constellation respite and crisis care.
- Host monthly in-person Constellation gatherings in your home or have access to facilities to host gatherings.
- Have experience caring for children or youth with complex needs (specifically young people that currently or previously qualified for intensive services such as Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) or Wrap Around with Intensive Services (WISe).

In addition to the above requirements, the Hub Home agrees to the following requirements set forth in the DS settlement agreement:

- Hub and Satellite Homes will work with DCYF to prioritize placements of youth that qualify as DS class members. This will help meet the agency's requirement that at least 40% of the young people in the constellation meet DS class member criteria.
- To meet these criteria:
 - The young person is over the age of 13
 - The young person is discharging or being released from an institutional or congregate care setting, has been in placement exceptions or night-to-night foster care placement for five days or more, and/or has a history of disrupting from other group or family placements; and
 - DCYF cannot demonstrate that, with program supports, the young person currently poses a risk of serious harm to self or others in the program.

Training

Complete all required and ongoing training including but not limited to:

- Mockingbird Family Hub Home Training
- Culturally Responsive Care
- LGBTQIA + Affirming, and Accepting Care
- Trauma-Informed Care

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Compensation & Benefits

Monthly Payment: Home receives \$4,500 a month (taxable income) to maintain two open beds for respite and complete responsibilities listed above.

Training & Development: Ongoing professional development opportunities, including foster parent training and community engagement.

To Apply

Application is coming soon.