



Our Mission

Hope For Youth's Therapeutic, Regular and Emergency Foster Care Programs meet the permanency needs of 3 different levels of foster care placement:

- 1) children with mental health problems;
- 2) those who need immediate placement;
- 3) those who only need short term placement.

We are committed to working with children and their families who have severe odds against them.

Our goal is to provide a stable, supportive and caring home setting until a permanent plan is in place for the child's future, and avoid multiple placements, group homes, hospitalization, and/or institutionalization.

We work closely with our foster families, the Nassau and Suffolk Departments of Social Services (DSS), and the Probation and Juvenile Court System to help these children recover from the damaging effects of crime, separation, domestic violence, substance abuse, psychological trauma, parental abuse, and/or neglect.

Hope for Youth, Inc.
Administrative Office
201 Dixon Avenue
Amityville, New York 11701



**Therapeutic Regular and
Emergency Foster Care**

Expert Staff

Our professional staff consists of a Program Director, Program Supervisor, and Intake coordinator, all who have their Masters in Social Work. In addition, there are 4 Bachelor Level caseworkers who are directly responsible for working with children and families.

Superior Management and Training

We coordinate the entire foster care process, and make all final determinations as to foster family qualifications.

We are solely responsible for the screening and training of all our foster parents including the initial interviews, orientations, required background checks, and fingerprinting.

The required certification training which consists of Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP) and Parenting Skills Training (ABC) is conducted by Hope for Youth staff.

Additional family support is provided through our Home Based Respite Program. Foster parents are given up to four hours of respite a week. Adults have free time to themselves without worrying about supervising their children, and their children have the opportunity to develop a caring trusting relationship with a positive role model mentor.

Therapeutic Foster Care Program

All children placed in Therapeutic Foster Care have mental health or emotional problems and may take psychotropic medications to manage their behavior.

They also may have been hospitalized for psychiatric problems and/or have experienced multiple placements.

Many of the children serviced through Hope for Youth's foster care program have been abused and/or neglected. There is a small percentage of them that are placed through the Probation department as Juvenile Delinquents (JD) and Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS).

Usually, these children would be forced to live in group homes, hospitals or institutions. However, our goal is to keep the child in the least restrictive environment, namely with a family.

We are committed to placing these children in the most appropriate and nurturing home settings

The Intake Coordinator personally conducts comprehensive interviews of all children referred. these initial interviews assist in identifying the most appropriate setting to meet the child's needs, which is referred to as matching. The Intake Coordinator and Program Director jointly determine the right match.

Our Intake Coordinator supervises the initial "ice breaking" meeting between the child and the new foster family, which usually is followed by a full day and/or overnight visit. If the match proves positive, the placement of the child takes place.

Weekly visits to the foster home by the caseworker, as well as frequent team meetings and strong

supervision, allow the program to provide a supportive atmosphere for the child and family. Cases are reviewed at the 30 day, 60 day, and then every 90 days thereafter.

All children in Therapeutic Foster Care receive therapy once a week, and those on medications are monitored by HFY psychiatrists monthly.

Regular Foster Care Program

Children placed in Regular Foster Care are also referred by the Suffolk and Nassau Departments of Social Services.

The children placed in the regular foster care program often are being placed following a disruption of another foster care situation, or at times following the removal from their biological families. Placement is based on availability and general characteristics.

Children in the regular foster care program also receive supportive services. Children receive therapy once a week, and those on medications are monitored by HFY psychiatrists monthly. The frequency of team meetings, clinical intervention and supervision are the same, however, casework visits to the home occur monthly. Cases are reviewed at HFY's interdisciplinary meeting at the 30 day mark and again at the 60 day mark.

Emergency Foster Care Program

Most of the Emergency Foster Care referrals are for children in crisis who will not be returning home. This is a short term program servicing cases for 30 to 90 days. This program is a temporary solution until future permanent planning is in place.

HFY has other programs that are available for children in crisis including Diagnostic, Emergency and Residential Term Programs.