

## Steps Foster Coalition takes to create a foster ministry

I have been asked “what are the steps to starting a foster ministry in a church or campus”?

- First it requires leadership(advocates) - anywhere from 2 lay leaders (members) in a very small church to 8 in a large church or campus. They need to commit to a 2-year time commitment and 2-3 hours per week.
- They will then need to be trained and equipped about how and what needs to be done to build out and manage the ministry – 8 hours of training
- They will need to complete the Ready or Not devotional so they can lead foster volunteers through it to help them determine if they are “Called” to foster, adopt or work with youth as a long-term mentor.
- A church staff oversight pastor needs to agree to guide, support and assist the ministry leaders with what they need. All should work under authority.
- After all of the above is completed, an awareness program is developed in the church or campus to recruit workers to be care group helpers (not necessarily members) and identify existing foster, adoptive parents, struggling families at risk of losing or keeping their children, and pregnant women that need help parenting a child they are keeping. (Congregation served first and then outside groups)
- Care groups for the families in need are created to provide prayer support, encouragement, physical help like babysitting for a parent’s night out, meals once a week, chore help like doing the laundry or whatever the family needs and can be provided. A care group (WRAP) consists of 4-8 members, depending on the size and needs of the family being served. They need to commit to a 1-year term, at least.
- A team leader is identified and trained by the leaders to communicate with the family being served and manage the group. These groups provide care for the family groups listed above, prayer teams, and other workers, mentors, social workers, trauma and family counselors, And CASA volunteers (Court Appointed Special Advocates)
- Each worker going out into the foster field needs training and equipping so they will be aware and prepared for situations they will face. They can then be confident, successful, and prepared for a long-term tenure of making a difference in the lives of the foster children and family restoration.
- Small support and fellowship groups are needed for each type of worker is needed to provide encouragement and education.
- Foster Coalition guides each ministry advocate groups through this process, helps setup the advocate training, provides training material for every volunteer position, awareness options, care group launching process, and training for each worker group.
- Foster Coalition provides the guidance, structure, tools, and support only. We do not run the ministry – you do.
- The only cost for this is \$75-\$85 per advocate to go through the training program offered by [www.promise686.org](http://www.promise686.org) . This structure is operating in over 1,000 churches now. The software program provided makes the operation process simple. A large ministry can’t function without it effectively.