

## RFA SUPPORTS COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN, YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS AND FAMILIES

RFA reaffirms the commitment to serving children, youth, young adults and families because it:

### Focuses on Lifelong Relationships

- RFA supports connecting children, youth, and young adults to safe, caring relationships that can last a lifetime by focusing on families.
- RFA's purpose is to place children, youth, and young adults with families that can provide a lifelong connection by determining permanency approval upfront.

### Achieves Results for Children, Youth, Young Adults and Families

- Upfront training and ongoing services prepare caregivers to meet the needs of children and youth and assisting families with forming lifelong relationships.
- Supportive and loving long-term relationships lead to stable permanent placements and improved outcomes for children, youth, and young adults.

### Improves Efficiency

- The new coordinated process will eliminate duplication, reduce paperwork, and maximize the efficient use of staff and system resources.



**Do you want to change the life of a child?  
Become a Resource Family.**

Consider Becoming a  
Resource Family Today  
**ASK US HOW**

For more information, visit us at  
Kern County Department Human Services  
3711 Columbus Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93306  
**661.631.6204**

Kern County Probation Department  
Placement Unit-RFA  
5121 Stockdale Highway Suite #100  
Bakersfield, CA 93309  
**661.396.4560**

**Relatives** call 661.873.2800 and ask to  
speak with the Family Finding  
Social Worker of the day  
resource.families@kerndhs.com  
www.KCDHS.org



KCDHS 979-RFA (3/17)



# Families Formed With Love



**You can make a difference  
in the Life of a Child**

**Becoming a Resource Family  
Through a Streamlined  
Foster Care and Adoption Process for  
Children, Youth, and Young Adults**

Opportunity. Options. Empowerment.



## Resource Family Approval (RFA)

All children need and deserve a safe, loving, nurturing, accepting, and consistent place to live where they can thrive and mature. Becoming a resource family caregiver provides a home for a child to do just that.

Resource Family Approval (RFA) is a new caregiver approval process that a foster parent, relative, non-relative extended family member, or adoptive family completes to be considered for potential placement of a child, youth, or young adult (non-minor dependents from 18-21 years old).

RFA combines elements of the current licensing, relative approval, adoption, and guardianship processes.

### RFA Streamlines the Approval Process

RFA is a unified, family-friendly and child-centered resource family approval streamlined process that includes one application, one background check, combined home environment and permanency assessments, pre-approval and post-approval training for all families.

## RFA Requirements

There may be minimal costs associated with RFA. For more information, please contact our office. The following is a partial list of requirements to be met prior to approval:

- Live Scan fingerprints
- Pre-approval and post-approval training
- Home environment assessment
- CPR/First Aid
- Health Screening
- DMV Report

### The approval process also includes:

- In-home visits with all adults and children, youth, and young adults
- Reference checks
- Collection of verification documents and completed application forms





## RFA Facts

Once approved, Resource Families may be considered for placement of related or unrelated child(ren) for foster care, adoption or legal guardianship, depending on the Resource Family's goals and the child's case plan. Resource Family Approval does not guarantee placement of a child. These decisions are determined by the child's social worker and the courts.

During an emergency situation, a child, youth or young adult can be placed in a relative home prior to approval if certain requirements are met.

- A home and grounds inspection
- Criminal record and Child Abuse Central Index check
- Initiation of RFA process within 5 business days if continued placement is desired including:

-  Completion of Live Scan background check within 10 days
-  Completion of RFA process within 90 days of placement

