

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are the licensing requirements?

Bridging Families[®] homes and parents are licensed by the NC Division of Social Services.

2. How is the program accredited?

Accreditation requirements are unique to agencies' chosen accrediting bodies. As an example, the Council of Accreditation (COA) Family Foster Care and Kinship Care standards are a good fit with the Bridging Families[®] Program.

3. How is the program funded?

The program currently utilizes braided funding from two primary sources, the NC Division of Social Services and Medicaid. Access to Medicaid funding requires a contract with and authorization from the children's Managed Care Organization.

4. Are Bridge Parents required to participate in state-mandated foster care training such as TIPS-MAPP?

Yes, Bridge Parents are required to participate in all state-mandated training to become foster parents. Additional training for Bridge Parents is also part of the program.

5. How are children referred to the Bridging Families[®] program?

Sibling sets of children are referred to the program by their local Departments of Social Services.

6. What is the average length of stay for kids?

The average length of stay from admission to the Bridging Families[®] Program to reunification or permanency is 6 to 9 months.

7. How long does it take to become trained to provide Bridging Families[®]?

There are approximately 50 hours of specialized training required in order to provide Bridging Families[®] services. The Bridging Families Institute will work with agencies to develop a training and consultation plan that best fits agencies' unique needs.

8. What is the cost to the agency to become trained to provide Bridging Families[®]?

The Bridging Families Institute has secured funds from the State and other grantors to provide training and consultation to agencies at a significantly reduced or no cost.

9. What is the salary range for Bridge Parents?

Bridge Parents are considered Professional Foster Parents and are full-time employees of their respective agencies. The recommended salary for each Bridge Parent is between \$45,000 and \$50,000 per year, plus benefits.

To learn more contact Dr. Dawn O'Malley, Managing Director of Bridging Families Institute, at domalley@crossnore.org or (336) 865-2220.



Scan to visit our webpage for more information.