

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### 1. What are the licensing requirements?

Bridging Families<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> Program to reunification or permanency is 6 to 9 months.

### 7. How long does it take to become trained to provide Bridging Families<sup>®</sup>?

There are approximately 50 hours of specialized training required in order to provide Bridging Families<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup>?

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 \$42,000 and \$48,000 per year, plus benefits.

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



Scan to visit our webpage for more information.