

# Groden Center Treatment Foster Care (GCTFC)

Established in 1993, Groden Center Treatment Foster Care (GCTFC) is a treatment foster care program that provides a broad range of individualized services to meet the needs of children and adolescents with varying needs. Our goal is to develop family relationships, independent living skills, and community connections. GCTFC also works towards permanency planning; preparing children/adolescents for adoption or reunification with their family.

## Range of Services

GCTFC provides individualized services through a team of professionals including psychologists, clinicians, educators, behavior analysts, and social workers. Services include:

- Clinical case management and positive behavior supports
- Coordination with schools and daycare
- On-going foster parent training
- Permanency planning
- Clinical support 24 hours a day, seven days a week



## Referral Process

Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) makes referrals to GCTFC to place a child or adolescent in a foster home. A screening process helps to determine a careful match for children and youth to ensure a successful placement. An individualized plan helps to support a smooth transition.

**To learn more about treatment foster care and how to become a licensed foster parent, call Andrea Neri at 401-274-6310 x1259 or visit [fostercare.grodencenter.org](http://fostercare.grodencenter.org)**



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What makes treatment foster care different from traditional foster care?

- GCTFC provides intensive treatment through individualized interventions and supports
- GCTFC foster parents receive ongoing training
- GCTFC foster parents are valued as members of a collaborative team

### Does GCTFC deal with a specific age group or diagnosis?

The GCTFC program provides licensed foster care to children and youth up to 21 years of age with varying needs. These children are either unable to continue living at home or not ready to return home following a more restrictive placement, for example, residential facilities or hospitals. Diagnoses may include Intellectual Disabilities, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Reactive Attachment Disorder, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

### What is the licensing process for potential foster families?

The licensing process usually takes 5-6 months. Licensing includes fingerprint and DCYF clearances, driving records, health histories, personal/professional references, and financial information. Additional requirements include completion of a home study and 30 hours of pre-placement trauma-based training.

### Would we get a child of a preferred gender? Age?

Yes, you have the final decision on whether or not a specific child is placed in your home. The GCTFC program tries to place a child of a preferred gender and age whenever possible.

### How long could we expect to wait for a child after the license is obtained?

The waiting period varies from several weeks to a few months. The child referral and foster parent matching process is conducted on a case by case basis. After a potential match is identified, a transition process starts with visits and eventual placement in the GCTFC foster home.

### What happens if the match does not seem to be successful?

If for any reason the placement seems unsuccessful, a meeting would be held with the GCTFC team, representatives from DCYF, and the foster parent to determine whether or not the placement continues to be appropriate.

### Can a foster child be taken out of the state for an overnight stay?

DCYF provides guidance through reasonable and prudent parent standards. A child can be taken out of state overnight; if the stay is longer than 2 days, consent is usually required.

### How is medical coverage handled for a foster child?

All of the foster child's medical needs are covered through Neighborhood Health Plan, Medicaid, the birth parent's medical insurance, or a combination of these.

### Does GCTFC pay for additional tutoring, music lessons, etc. for foster children?

With prior approval, limited funds are available for activities such as tutoring, music lessons, memberships, special equipment.

### Do we have to make detailed reports/records of child behavior?

Yes, foster parents keep track of their child's progress toward treatment plan goals. Additional forms are used to document medical appointments, medication administration, and other incidents.

### What role does the Department of Children, Youth and Families play in the GCTFC program?

DCYF refers children to the GCTFC program and is the funding agent for the placement. Each child is assigned a DCYF case worker who works closely with the GCTFC team, including additional support if the child's birth family is still involved. If parental rights have been terminated, DCYF is the legal guardian, responsible for signing releases and consent forms.

### What if the birth parents show up unannounced or see the child in the community?

If a birth parent wants to have contact with a child, the DCYF caseworker must be contacted to set up an approved visitation schedule.