



Foster Village Peoria

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When Foster Village Peoria lacks grant funding to meet specific needs within families, our desire is to provide information for families to pursue other resources to help meet those needs.

Below are several resources available to families impacted by foster care (licensed foster families, kinship/relative families, biological families who recently reunified or are working intact case plans).

The following are various resources to familiarize yourself with and ask your agency caseworker about to help meet the needs you may have for the child(ren) in your home.

Agency Resources

These are resources to ask your agency and/or caseworker about. Agencies often have access to funding through other avenues and have programs designated to meet specific needs. Check with your caseworker about these resources and if they apply to you and your need.

- **DCFS State Flex Fund Program** – This program allows agency caseworkers to request items totaling up to \$800 for foster families, kinship families, reunited and intact biological families. Caseworker must complete the required form and email it to the Flex Fund Intake Coordinator for approval (typically given within 1-2 days). This program serves Peoria, Fulton, McDonough, Tazewell, and Woodford counties. Reach out to your caseworker or have them email flexfundsintact@chail.org for more information.
- **Agency-specific funds** – ask your agency caseworker if they have any internal funds that assist with the purchase of needed items. This varies by agency and availability.
- **DCFS \$500 prepaid VISA card or DCFS Start Up Fund** – this became available on May 1, 2024. First-time placements of licensed or relative/kinship caregivers are eligible to receive this VISA card at the time of placement, when available. More information can be found [here](#), or you can inquire with your caseworker, licensing worker, or the worker who placed the children into your home.
- **DCFS Home of Relative Compliance Assistance (DCFS Procedures 359.71)** – This is a DCFS procedure that can be utilized to purchase beds for children in homes of relatives. Reach out to your agency caseworker and share this with them to see if this is available or applicable for your family.

Other Resources for Caregivers

These are resources available to caregivers caring for children affected by foster care and those outside of the foster care system. These are resources that you do not need to obtain permission or assistance from your caseworker to pursue; you can look into these resources on your own and see what's available to your child and the need.

- **YouthCare of Illinois** – this is the insurance that all children in foster care qualify for/receive. YouthCare can provide help with **after-school programs**. They also offer three new **school uniforms** per school year when qualifications are met. Call 844-289-2264 or read more about this [here](#).
- **OSF Children's Hospital** has a low-cost car seat program to help provide families in need with low-cost **car seats**. Call 877-277-6543 to see if you qualify for a car seat or visit OSF Children's Hospital [website](#) for more child safety offerings.
- The Peoria County Coroner's office provides **Pack-N-Plays** for free for infants 12 months old and younger. You do not need to live in Peoria County to participate in this program; however, you are asked to complete a training on safe sleep before picking up a free Pack-N-Play. You can read more about this [here](#) or call 309-669-2903 for more information.