

30 Days to Family®

30 Days to Family is an intense and short-term intervention that aims to 1) increase the number of children placed with safe and appropriate relatives within 30 days of their entry into foster care and 2) ensure natural and community supports are in place to promote stability for the child. Created by the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition in St. Louis, Missouri (also the developers of *Extreme Recruitment*®), and launched in 2011, the *30 Days to Family* program operates on the philosophy that all families include members who are willing and able to care for children. The timeline is driven by data that demonstrates that children are much better off when placed with a relative within 30 days. The program's goal is to place 70% of children between the ages of birth and 17 years with relatives or kin within 30 days.

For More Information

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[https://www.foster-adopt.org/
 recruitment-programs/#30days](https://www.foster-adopt.org/recruitment-programs/#30days)

30 Days to Family specialists are expected to be relentless in their search for relatives of children in care. The initial search is for parents, grandparents, and siblings, but the goal is to identify and explore at least 80 additional relatives, both maternal and paternal. Specialists meet with relatives as many times as necessary to gather information, but also use online tools to locate relatives and kin of the children they serve. The specialists conduct an intense amount of work per case. For this reason, two open cases is considered to be a full caseload and caseloads are limited to no more than three open cases at one time.

As of early 2018, *30 Days to Family* was being conducted in 16 sites throughout Missouri, Virginia, Rhode Island, and Ohio. Additional replication sites are planned for 2018, including Northern Rivers Family of Services in Albany, New York.

Resources needed for implementation

30 Days to Family specialists are specifically hired for this role. Funding sources to date have included both public and private entities.

A manual is available for all agencies' use (see below). In order to use the *30 Days to Family* name, agencies must receive training from the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, and meet other fidelity requirements of the model. Replication training costs \$4,000 and take place at the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition in St. Louis, MO.

Evidence base

A longterm study by PolicyWorks LTD was produced in 2017, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/318990679_30_Days_to_FamilyR_Theory_of_Change_Testing_Comprehensive_Report. The

study found, among other positive results, that the program was successful in achieving its primary goal of increasing placements with relatives: at 125 days after entering foster care, 65.2% of children served had experienced a relative placement compared with 44.3% of the not-served population. A summary of results is available at https://www.foster-adopt.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2016_30DaystoFamily_Results_Updated.pdf. Additionally, program data from 2017 showed that 80% of youth were placed with relatives or kin by case closure. PolicyWorks is underway with another replication study of sites in Ohio. *30 Days to Family* is listed in the California Evidence Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC) as a child welfare program with high relevance.

¹ Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition. (2015). *30 Days to Family: A Manual for Replication*. St. Louis, MO: Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition