

Core Requirements for Foster Care Candidacy Specialist

Core qualifications for the foster care candidacy specialist are identified below. All foster care candidacy specialists must:

- Be a permanent county employee (cannot be a contracted employee)
- Have the experience, training and knowledge that qualifies them to make professional judgments regarding the placement of children
- Have current or previous experience in placing children in need of protection or services
- Have the authority to manage the Foster Care Candidacy Program to ensure compliance with federal requirements
- Have the authority to conduct ongoing program quality assurance.

All foster care candidacy specialists will have experience in the following areas:

- Experience and knowledge of the reasons children enter foster care including the:
 - Need for protection due to allegations of abuse and/or neglect
 - Need for services due to developmental, medical and/or mental health disabilities
 - Need for out-of-home placement to access residential treatment
 - children in need of out-of-home placement due to parents' disabilities
- Experience and knowledge of how children enter foster care for court ordered or voluntary placements
- Experience in placing children in foster care
- Experience in completing Structured Decision Making (SDM) Risk and Safety Assessment Tools
- Experience and/or knowledge of child protection and child welfare laws and practices.

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