What is AFFI?

The Asian Foster Family Initiative (AFFI) is a project launched in 2014 by KFAM, a non-profit organization, in order to increase the number of licensed/certified foster parents of Asian Pacific Islander (API) descent.

**AFFI's main objectives are to:**

**RECRUIT** API resource parents to provide culturally sensitive homes, particularly to API foster children.

**TRAIN** API resource parents in-language and culturally competent curriculum,

**SUPPORT** API resource parents through in-language and culturally competent services and linkages.

“I felt a language barrier, and the cultural differences were difficult to overcome. Because we had different preferences of food, we ate separately. Between the foster parents and I, it was difficult to discuss important matters and simply talk.”

15-year-old Asian Pacific Islander Foster Youth

AFFI was established in 2014 as a program under KFAM. It is the first foster family program in the nation to focus on the needs of Asian Pacific Islander Resource Families.

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We speak English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, and more.

KFAM is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
(Federal Tax ID #95-3899329)
**Life as a Foster Child...**

*DAVID’S STORY - Three-year-old David grew up in a Korean immigrant family. David lost his entire family in a tragic accident and was the only survivor. Child protective services could not find any relatives in the U.S. nor could they find any Asian Pacific Islander (API) foster family to take him in. So, David was placed in a non-API home where the family only spoke English. Not able to communicate with his foster family nor adjust to the cultural differences, he stopped eating and speaking.

David was moved after a few months to another non-API family that spoke only Spanish. He continued to struggle and was moved a third time to a non-API family in another county that had adopted other API children. By this point, David had lost his ability to speak his native, Korean. In order to make David more comfortable, his foster mom learned how to make a Korean dish, Kimbap, which David ate at every meal for an entire month.

Over time, David was able to acclimate to his new environment and he has since been adopted.

*Name changed to protect child’s identity.

In the U.S. there are over 425,000 children at any given time who are removed from their homes and placed in foster care due to abuse or neglect. In LA County alone, there are close to 35,000 children in care. As of 2014, there were very few trained API families to care for the 600-800 API foster children in LA County. AFFI is the first program in the nation to focus on recruiting API families and provide culturally sensitive homes to API foster children.

**Are You Eligible to Become a Resource (Foster) Family?**

- I have enough room in my home for another child.
- I have adequate income to meet my current family’s needs.
- I am able to meet the physical demands of being a parent.
- I have never received supervision for child abuse or neglect.
- I have never been out of compliance for child support payments.
- No one in my home has been convicted of Crimes Against Children or Domestic Violence.
- I currently live in the home where I intend to foster or adopt, and this home is safe for children.
- I am willing to meet the needs of a child that is placed in my care.

**FAQs**

**What is a foster child?**
A child who has been taken into the custody of the government’s child protection agency (ie: LA County Department of Children & Family Services) because the child has experienced abuse or neglect, and it is not safe to remain with his/her birth family.

**What is a Resource (or Foster) Family?**
A Resource Family, formally known as Foster Family, is a family that takes a foster child into his/her home to provide a loving and nurturing environment. This can be a relative, family friend, or someone who receives training like our AFFI to take in foster children.

**How long does a foster child stay with a Resource Family?**
It can range from just a weekend, to a couple of months or longer, depending upon the child’s situation and the Resource Family’s wish. Typically, children stay temporarily until they can return home. Some parents also adopt foster children or become permanent guardians, if the child cannot be reunified with his/her birth family.

**What is the process of becoming a Resource Family?**
In as little as six months you can become an approved Resource Family. You will attend an orientation, Resource Family training, become CPR/First Aid certified, and have home visits, amongst other things. Throughout the process you will be supported by AFFI social workers.

**What about financial support?**
Your foster child will receive medical and dental coverage from the government. Resource families also receive monthly stipends that cover the basic needs of the foster child. It is not considered income for the family.