

What does the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program Do?

The Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program at Family Programs Hawai'i works to find adoptive families for foster children who are in need of permanent homes and are legally free for adoption.

How do children become involved with the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program?

Children are referred to the program by their Department of Human Services (DHS) caseworker. Referrals come to Wendy's Wonderful Kids when DHS has been unable to attain an adoptive placement for the child.

What are the typical characteristics of the children in the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program?

Children that are referred to Wendy's Wonderful Kids program in Hawaii are usually over the age of 10 and in need of a forever family. Sometimes the children are in need of additional physical, medical, emotional or behavioral support.

How does a family get matched with a child in the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program?

Once you contact the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, she will gather information from you about your family. If determined there could be a potential match between your family and a waiting child, the Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiter will tell you about the child's strengths, challenges, and needs. If you are interested in this child, the recruiter will discuss the potential match with everyone in the child's treatment team. Once the Department of Human Services caseworker approves, you will be referred to a contracted agency for a home study and training.

If there is no potential match identified, the Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiter will hold on to your information and contact you when a child that could be a potential match is referred to the program.

How does a child get placed in our home?

Once you have completed all necessary training and your home study has been approved, the identified child will be transitioned into your home under "foster care" status. The Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiter and the rest of the team involved with the child will support you on your journey to becoming the child's adoptive family. The Department of Human Services remains the legal guardian of the child until the adoption occurs.

How much does foster care adoption cost?

The cost of foster care adoption is covered by the State of Hawaii.

What kind of families is the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program looking for?

The Wendy's Wonderful Kids program is looking for families with patience, perseverance, a love of children, and an understanding that adoption is a journey requiring unconditional commitment and love. If interested, contact **Katie Joose** from Family Programs Hawai'i at **808-540-2552**.