



Each year, Brightpoint provides services to more than 1,000 Illinois youth who need to be placed in foster care. Three hundred of those children are reunited with their families or placed into loving adoptive homes.

## Facts about Foster Care

- Each year more than 4,000 children enter the Illinois foster care system.
- There are more than 20,000 children in foster care in Illinois in 2022.
- Over 30% of foster children do not live with their brothers and sisters.
- There are more than 6,000 teenagers who live in foster care. Many of these teenagers will “age-out” of the foster care system without a connection to a permanent family.
- Children who grow up in foster care are far less likely to graduate from high school, more likely to experience a teen pregnancy and, as adults, they are more likely to experience homelessness and depression.
- In Illinois, more than 80% of children come into foster care due to neglect, circumstances that can be remedied through early intervention and prevention.

Brightpoint recognizes, respects, promotes and celebrates the value of cultural diversity and will ensure that each client’s ethnic or cultural customs, practices, and beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, disability, and/or community differences will be respected by agency staff. [brightpoint.org](https://www.brightpoint.org)

## Facts about Brightpoint

Brightpoint serves more than 1,000 children in foster care throughout Illinois

- At Brightpoint, our most urgent priority is to help families heal and access the resources that will allow children to be returned home as quickly as possible.
- If children are unable to return home, we focus first on finding relatives, or family friends who can provide a home for the child. We also put a high priority on keeping children connected to siblings and extended family.
- Brightpoint advocates on behalf of children in foster care:
  - Infants, children, adolescents and teens with diverse ethnic backgrounds
  - Children with special medical and emotional needs
  - Brothers and sisters who need to stay together
  - Teenage moms and their babies
- Brightpoint provides comprehensive case management services to children, their families and their foster caregivers.
  - Foster caregivers receive financial support for board, food and clothes for each foster child, and regular foster parent training and support groups
  - Children receive access to mental health counseling, support for family and sibling visits and medical and dental care provided by the State of Illinois (Medical Card)
  - Parents receive counseling and coaching on how to strengthen their family