

# Buckner Foster Care and Adoption Information Meeting



# Who We are:

Buckner Foster Care and Adoption is motivated by our faith to provide safe and loving homes for vulnerable children who need them in Texas.

Our goal and ministry is to help every child find hope and healing through family foster care or permanency through reunification with kin or through the blessing of adoption.

We are licensed by the State of Texas to serve families currently living in the following cities and surrounding counties of Texas:

- Amarillo
- Beaumont
- Dallas
- Lubbock
- Lufkin
- Longview
- Midland
- Mission (Rio Grande Valley area)



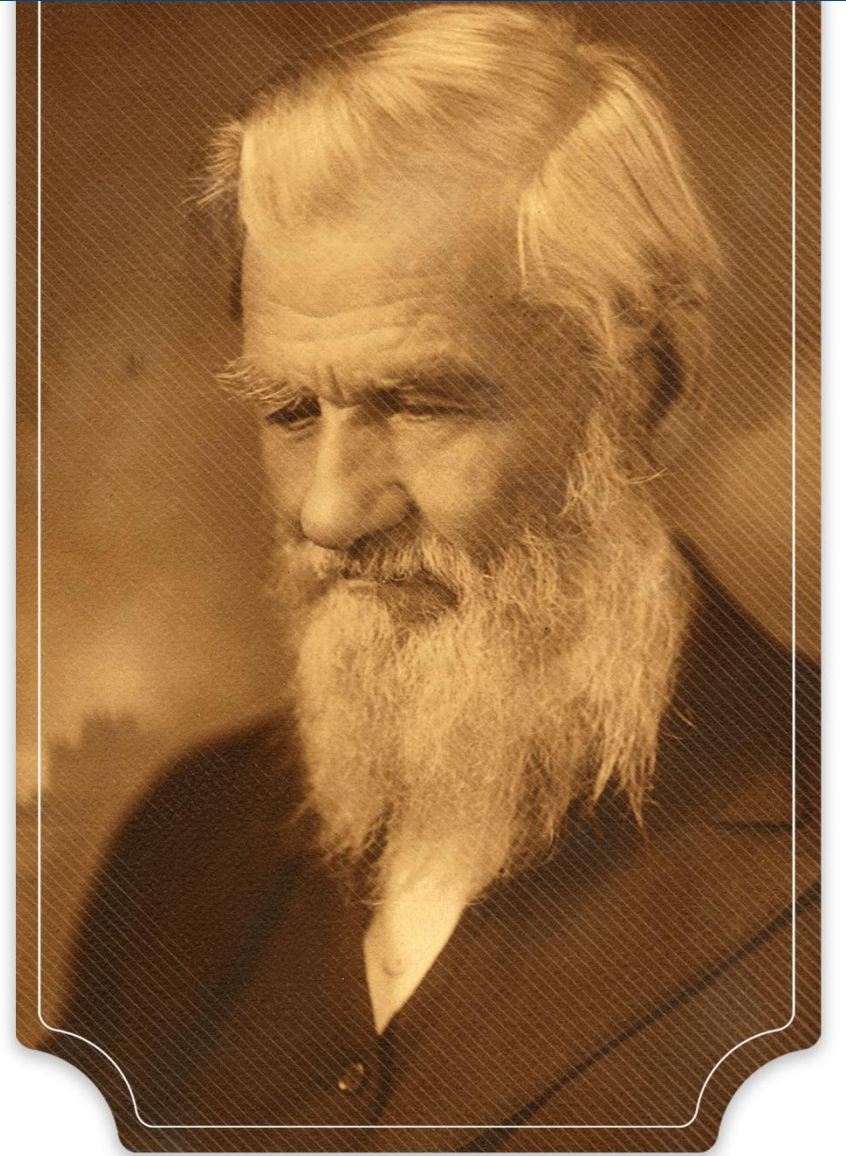
# Buckner: A Legacy of Hope

Dr. Robert Cooke Buckner, a Baptist pastor from Tennessee came to Texas in the post-Civil War era. He saw how many orphans and widows there were following the war and felt called to do something to help. He founded Buckner Orphans Home in 1879.

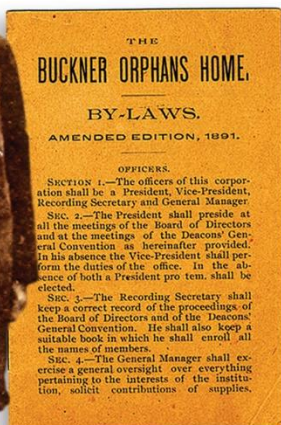
[Click here to watch a short video about our history](#)

His core drive for ministry came from the call in James 1:27: **“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress.”** It is still what informs Buckner’s core values today.

Buckner has placed children in loving adoptive homes since 1884.







Buckner Orphans Home Campus  
in Dallas. Circa 1911



# Did you know there are no longer orphanages in the United States?

Research shows that children thrive when they're in loving homes, not in institutions. **This is why the foster care system was developed.**

Learn more about the history of foster care and adoption by clicking [here](#).





# Buckner Foster Care and Adoption Options at a Glance:

- **Foster Care:** Providing temporary homes for children who have been removed from their families due to neglect and/or abuse by the parent with the goal of reunification with their family.

- **Respite Care:** Providing relief care for 72 hours to 14 days for children in placement with other foster families, usually on weekends or vacation periods.

- **Kinship Care:** Providing support and resources for families caring for the child of a relative or close family friends (often referred to as fictive kin).

- **Waiting Texas Children:** Providing permanent homes for children living in foster care, and whose parents' rights have been terminated.

- **Foster-to-Adopt:** Providing permanent homes for children who, after residing in your foster home, become available for adoption. In the state of Texas, parents are required by law to determine a permanency plan for their children within one year of the children being placed in foster care.

- **Domestic Infant and Child Adoption Program:** Providing permanent homes for infants and children whose birth parents have made the loving decision to create an open adoption plan.

# Basic Requirements per Program at a Glance

Please [click here](#) to download our requirements document per program.

## Basic Requirements

Applicants must have an interest in working with the type of children Buckner serves – children of all ages and ethnicities, with trauma histories involving abuse and neglect, as well as separation from their family of origin. Applicants must be heterosexual couples or single adults who meet the following requirements:

Program	Age*	Marriage	Single	Citizenship	Other Requirements	Cost	Wait Time
Foster Care	*	4 Years	Yes**	U.S. Citizen, Legal Permanent Resident, or Other Qualified Alien	—	Minimal: FBI Finger Prints, Etc.	4-6 Months for Licensing; Short Wait for Placement
Foster-to-Adopt	*45 Years Maximum Age Difference	4 Years	Yes**	U.S. Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident	—	Minimal: FBI Finger Prints, Attorney Costs to Finalize	4-6 Months for Licensing; Short Wait for Placement
Waiting Texas Children	*45 Years Maximum Age Difference	4 Years	Yes**	U.S. Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident	Will, Life and Health Insurance	Minimal: FBI Finger Prints, Attorney Costs to Finalize	6 Months to a year for Licensing
Domestic Infant and Child Adoption Program	*45 Years Maximum Age Difference	4 Years***	Considered Per Policy	U.S. Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident	Active in Christian Church;**** Will, Life and Health Insurance;	25% of Adjusted Gross Income; Min: \$14,000 Max: \$25,000 FBI Finger Prints, Attorney Costs to Finalize	4-6 months for approval; Expected minimum wait of 2-3 years
Kinship/Fostering Connections	*	2 Years	Yes**	U.S. Citizen, or Legal Permanent Resident, or other Qualified Alien	Eligible for Client Support through the Fostering Connections Act*	Minimal: FBI Finger Print, etc.	4-6 Months for Licensing
Respite Care	*	4 Years	Yes**	U.S. Citizen, Legal Permanent Resident, or Other Qualified Alien	—	Minimal: FBI Finger Prints, Etc.	4-6 Months for Licensing; Short Wait for Placement

**Additional requirements for all:** Reliable transportation • Annual income sufficient to care for additional children • Ability to meet Residential Child Care Licensing standards. • High school diploma, General Education Development (GED) or demonstration of basic skills.

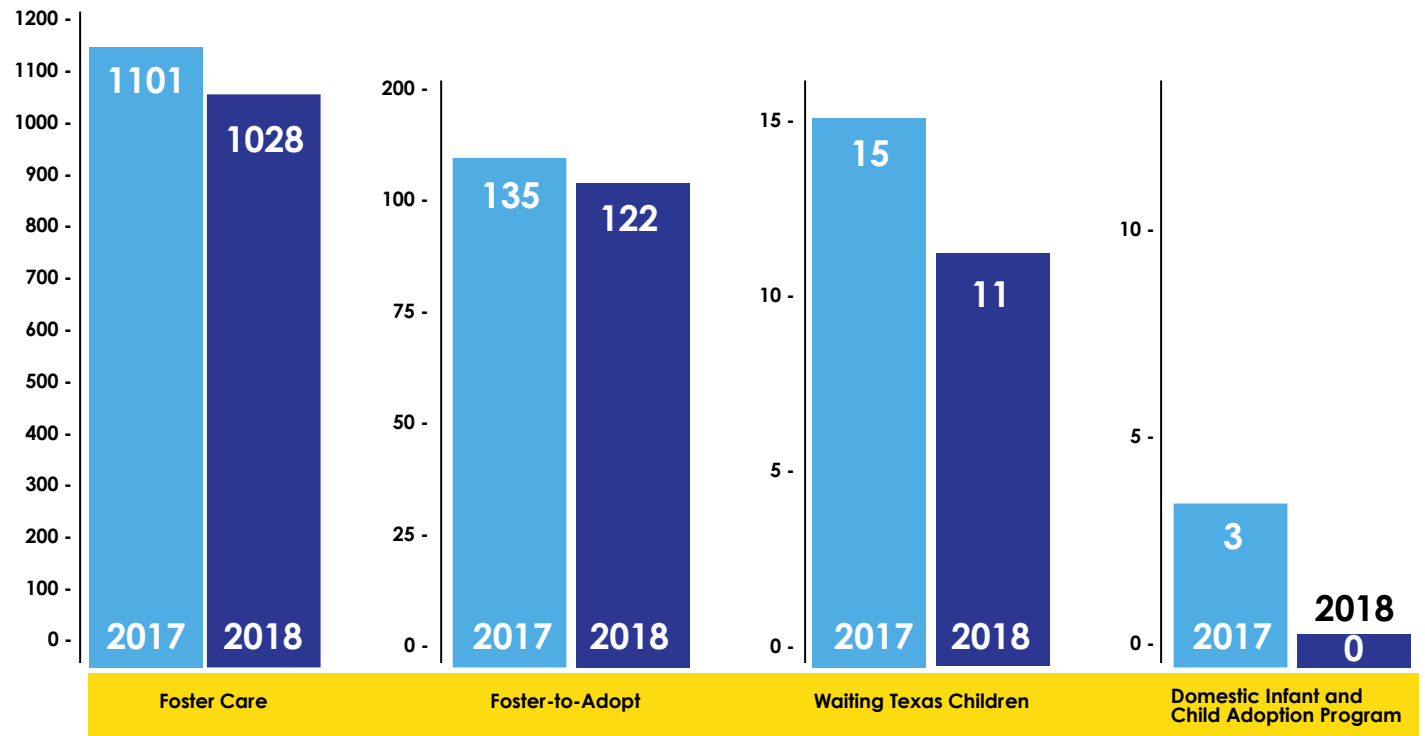
\*Must be 21 years old to provide foster care, 25 years old to adopt. \*\*Single applicants cannot cohabit with another adult unless other such adult is a biological relative. \*\*\*Married individuals with more than two marriages will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. \*\*\*\*Required for approval for a voluntary adoptive placement only.



# Number of children served through Buckner programs

While we make an impact each year, the number of kids entering the foster care system continues to grow. We need more and more loving families like yours to step into the journey of foster care and adoption because there are thousands of kids in the system.

Buckner served **1,161 children** in 2018





442,005  
Number of kids in foster care in USA  
442,005

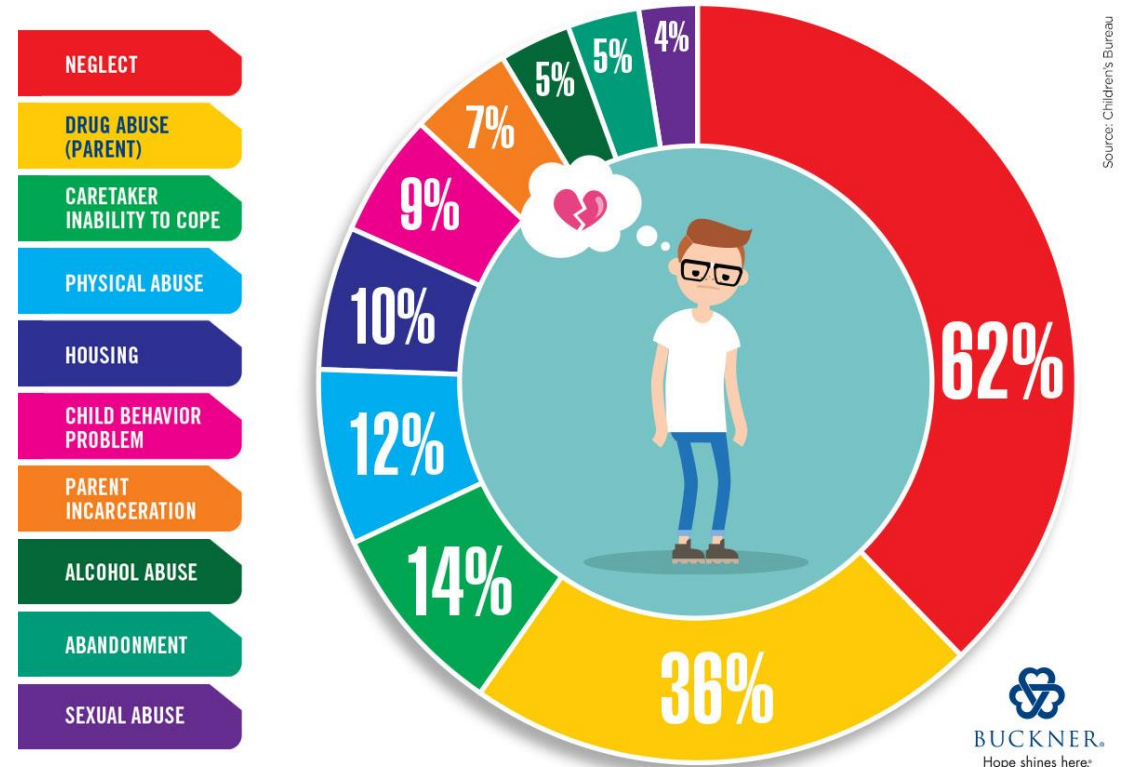
34,161  
IN TEXAS.

A red silhouette icon of a family consisting of two adults and two children. The adult on the right is holding a white heart shape.

In Texas, Child Protective Services completed **174,740 investigations in 2018**. Of those, they confirmed **63,657 children were victims of abuse or neglect**, according to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

**There are so many reasons why kids are placed into foster care. The one thing they all have in common is that it's not their fault.**

## Why kids are removed from their homes.



NOTE: These categories are not mutually exclusive, so percentages will total more than 100% and counts will be more than the total number of entries.

# What are the biggest needs?

- Care of older children and teens
- Care of sibling groups
- Therapeutic foster care and adoption





# In Texas, more than 1,000 kids age out of the foster care system each year.

**“**Studies show that between 60 and 85 percent plus of child victims of trafficking in the U.S. come from the foster system.**”**



Source: Christian Alliance for Orphans

- The average age of kids in foster care is eight years old, according to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- There are 9,398 kids age 12 and older in foster care in the state of Texas, according to Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

**Kids who age out of the foster care system are vulnerable to homelessness, abuse, sex trafficking and more.**

**Learn about how** Buckner is empowering young adult women who've aged out of the foster care system through the Buckner NextStep program here:

[NextStep video](#)

# Sibling Group Foster Care & Adoption

- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services reports that 7,253 sibling groups in the state of Texas are currently in foster care. Of those, **34.9% of them are not placed together**. The multiple losses a child experiences when entering foster care is compounded by the unexpected loss of sibling separation.

- Learn more about the impact of sibling separation from Buckner Senior Director of Domestic Foster Care and Adoption [here](#).

*“Being separated from my entire life was bad enough but being separated from my siblings is still painful” – foster care alumni*

Hear from two Buckner families who adopted sibling groups via the YouTube links below. They share about the positive impact keeping siblings together.

[West video](#)

[Palmer video](#)





**Number of foster kids with  
therapeutic needs in Texas:**

**5,010**

Source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services



**Foster children with  
therapeutic needs** are  
some of the communities' most  
vulnerable.

**You could be the hope  
these children need to thrive.**

**Hear from one of our incredible  
therapeutic families via the YouTube  
link below:**

[Nayron video](#)





**Buckner Foster Care and Adoption is licensed for two levels of therapeutic foster care: Moderate and Specialized.**

**Moderate and Specialized Therapeutic Care involves caring for children who may have one or more of the following needs:**

- Nondebilitating medical conditions
- Behaviors or conditions requiring regular therapy appointments
- Increased level of supervision
- Behavior intervention solutions

*Due to the specialized care these children need, Buckner is looking for the following in these families:*

- *Individuals with a passion for bringing healing to children with high structure and high nurture needs.*
- *At least one parent in the home with a flexible work schedule.*
- *Aware that families will not receive multiple therapeutic children in the home at a time.*
- *Able to provide for their own financial needs without relying on foster care reimbursement.*

# Additional Support & Resources Provided to Therapeutic Foster Families:

- Foster parents receive specialized training to enable them to provide care for a wide variety of children and adolescents, usually those with significant emotional or behavioral problems. Parents in therapeutic foster homes are more closely supported and assisted than parents in basic care foster homes.

- Therapeutic families receive support through mentors, school liaisons, respite providers, a Multidimensional Treatment Team, etc.

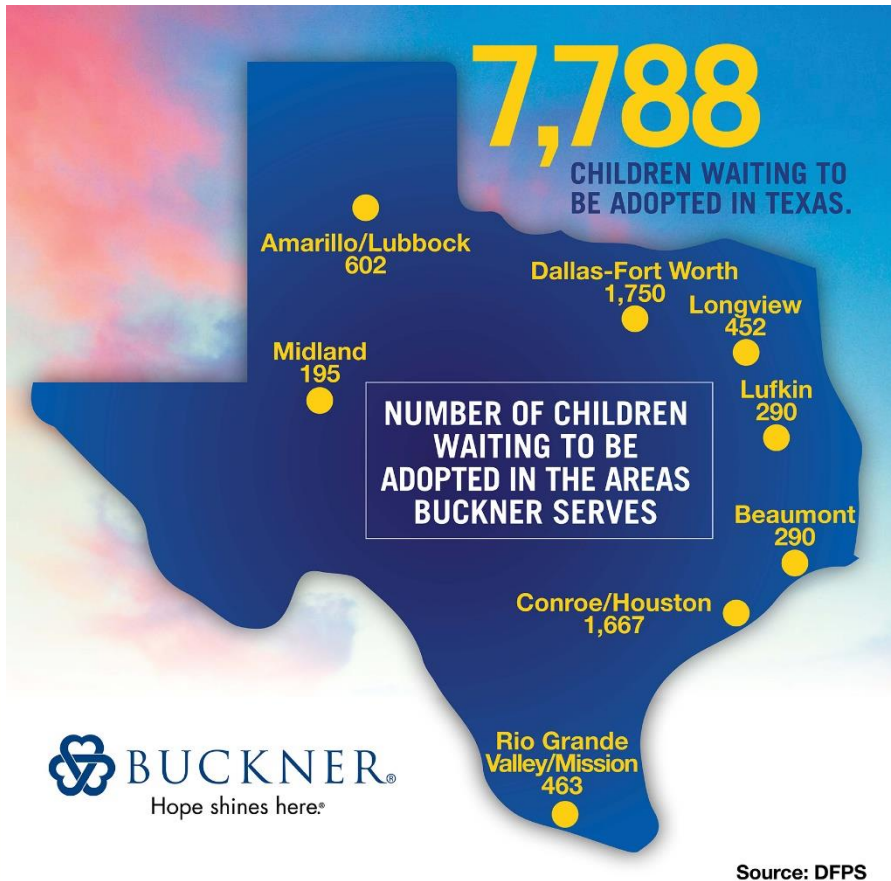
- Buckner has the unique ability to offer extra support to therapeutic families through our extensive volunteer and church networks.

- We offer school liaisons. Our school liaisons have a background in education that they will use to help you navigate through the school system and special education programs to help the child who comes into your home.





# Foster-to-Adopt vs. Waiting Texas Children



- **Foster-to-adopt:** This option involves being a foster parent (providing a temporary home) and then having the option to adopt the child in your home should their parents' rights be terminated during the time the child is in your home.

- **Waiting Texas Children:** Families who go through this program are seeking to adopt a child who is in the foster care system whose parents' rights have already been terminated but they have not been adopted yet.

- In Texas, there are more than 7,000 children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted. Their parents' rights have been terminated so their only permanency plan is adoption. If they are never adopted, children anywhere between age 18 – 21 will age out of the foster care system with no one to support or care for them. Many of these children are in a sibling group or are older children and teenagers. Some of them have significant physical, educational or emotional needs. However, every single one needs and deserves a loving family.

*\*Please note, Buckner is not accepting inquiries or applications for foster care and adoption programs through the Conroe office at this time.*



# What is Respite Care?

- Respite care providers offer relief care for 72 hours to 14 days for children in placement with other foster families, usually during vacation or emergency periods.

- Families providing respite care services will need to be open to serving our children and families throughout the year as needed. They also need to be open to working with children of different ages, cultures and gender. Respite providers will need to complete every step of the foster care licensing process (training, documentation and home study) in order to be approved as respite caregivers.





## The demographics of kids in the Texas foster care system:

13,872



HISPANIC

10,394



ANGLO

7,564



AFRICAN  
AMERICAN

129



ASIAN

38



NATIVE  
AMERICAN

2,164



OTHER

Source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services



# What is Kinship Care?

Buckner provides support and resources to people who are caring for the children of relatives, or in some cases, close family friends (also referred to as fictive kin).

Oftentimes, kinship care helps maintain the child's family, cultural and community ties when the birth parents are unable to care for them.





# Domestic Infant and Child Adoption Program

- We provide permanent homes for infants or children whose birth parents have made a voluntary plan of open adoption and want to maintain a relationship with the adoptive family.
- If adoption is believed to be the best option, the birth parents then choose the adoptive family. With Buckner's assistance, the birth parents and adoptive family determine the openness of their relationship in the life of their child.
- Buckner supports both the birth parents and the adoptive family through education, counseling and support groups.



# Support from Buckner

- **Foster & Kinship Care: Reimbursement, Clothing Assistance, Holiday Assistance, Respite Care**

- You will be trained just like any other licensed professional. You will be part of a treatment team that includes child therapists, psychologists and caseworkers.
  - There is **on-call help 24 hours a day**, as well as an assigned caseworker who will provide in-home support on a regular basis.
- **Therapeutic Foster Care:** Buckner has the unique ability to offer extra support to therapeutic families through our extensive volunteer and church networks. Therapeutic families receive support through mentors, school liaisons, respite providers, a Multidimensional Treatment Team, etc.



- **Adoption: Buckner provides support in completing the adoption subsidy process as well as referrals for Post-Adoption Support**

- **All Buckner Families: Counseling Referrals, Education and Training, Annual Family Retreat at Camp Buckner**



# All children in foster care receive:

- Insurance coverage for doctors, dentists, vision, counseling, and therapy\*
- Education in neighborhood schools
- Permission to go on family vacations, in country
- Support for special activities and clothing needs when available.
- Tuition and fees to a state college, vocational, or technical school\*

*\*These supports are often provided to children adopted through Waiting Texas Children, if deemed eligible by DFPS.*



# If you adopt a child that is one of the following:

- 6 years or older
- Racial/ethnic minority and 2 years or older
- Placed for adoption as a sibling group
- Lifelong handicapping condition

**Your family may negotiate with the state to receive:**

- Medicaid
- Monthly subsidy
- Non-recurring adoption expenses





# Steps in the process:

1. Information Meeting

2. Complete and submit an online inquiry form and preliminary application

3. Initial Interview with your local Buckner foster care and adoption representative

4. Training – after your interview is evaluated, you will be invited to begin with pre-service training

5. Required Documentation - Once you are invited to begin trainings you will be provided with a complete list of required documentation that needs to be submitted to your local Buckner office

6. Home Study – A Buckner staff member will be assigned to complete your home study

7. Licensure – Once your home study is approved and your file is complete, your home will be licensed as a foster or adoptive home

# Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q: Can we be in more than one program?**

**A:** No, Buckner will help you choose the program that best fits your family's needs

**Q: How much space is needed in the home?**

**A:** 40sq feet of floor space for a child who shares a bedroom with another child. If it is a single occupant child in a room, the space must be 80sq feet of floor space. Additional rules apply based on age and gender for children sharing rooms.

**Q: Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to apply?**

**A:** No, but you must have a legal status.

**Q: Can I still apply if I have something on my criminal record?**

**A:** Yes, but we will need details to make a decision.

**Q: Does Buckner ever make an exception to the 4-year marriage requirement?**

**A:** No, we do not make exceptions to the 4-year marriage requirement currently. However, for kinship care families, the marriage requirement is two years.

*View more FAQ's on our website [here](#).*



# Choose an agency you trust



[Click here](#) to watch a quick video from Buckner Senior Director for Domestic Foster Care and Adoption

# Hear some amazing stories told directly from Buckner foster care and adoptive families here:

**Palmer family** (sibling adoption)

**Nayron's Story** (therapeutic foster care and adoption)

**West family** (unexpected twin adoption)

**Ostrander Family** (foster parents)



# Buckner is here to support you throughout your journey.

## Connect with us on social media



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bucknerinternational/>



Twitter: [https://twitter.com/buckner\\_intl](https://twitter.com/buckner_intl)



Instagram: buckner\_intl



YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/BucknerIntl>



Head to [buckner.org/foster-care-adoption](https://buckner.org/foster-care-adoption) to get started.