

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2024

**STARK JFS TO HOST FOSTER PARENT INFO MEETINGS ON
MARCH 13TH & APRIL 2ND**

Canton, Ohio - Stark County Job & Family Services invites residents to take the first step to becoming a foster parent by attending an upcoming information meeting. An in-person meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13th from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Division of Children Services, 402 2nd St. SE, Canton, Ohio 44702. For those unable to attend in person, a virtual meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Attendees will have the opportunity to talk with a licensing specialist, ask questions about the foster care and adoption process, and meet other families. Meetings are free and open to the public. To register, please contact Jennifer Loomis at 330-451-8789 or Jennifer.Loomis@jfs.ohio.gov.

In Stark County, we have approximately 500 children living in the foster care system, with nearly a quarter in permanent custody and eligible for adoption. One in five children waiting to be adopted are in their teens and risk aging out of the system without finding a permanent family.

The process to become a foster and adoptive parent requires training and licensing through Stark County Job & Family Services and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Potential parents must be at least 18 years of age, provide proof of income to meet the needs of the household, and successfully pass required background checks.

To learn more about foster care and adoption in Stark County, please visit StarkJFS.org.

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