

30 Days to Family™

30 Days to Family is an intense and short-term intervention that aims to place children with safe and appropriate relatives within 30 days of their entry into foster care. Created by the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition in Missouri (also the developers of Extreme Recruitment®), and launched in 2011, the *30 Days to Family* program operates on the philosophy that all families include members who are willing and able to care for children. The timeline is driven by data that demonstrates that children are much better off when placed with a relative within 30 days.¹ The program's goal is to place 70% of children between the ages of birth and 17 years with relatives or kin within 30 days. Eligible children have entered foster care with no known relatives to provide immediate care for them.

30 Days to Family Specialists are expected to be relentless in their search for relatives of children in care. The initial search is for parents, grandparents, and siblings, but the goal is to identify and explore at least 80 additional relatives, both maternal and paternal. Specialists meet with relatives as many times as necessary to gather information, but also use online tools to locate relatives and kin of the children they serve. The specialists conduct an intense amount of work per case. For this reason, two open cases is considered to be a full caseload and caseloads are limited to *no more* than three open cases at one time.

As of early 2015, *30 Days to Family* was being conducted by two private agencies in St. Louis, MO and Kansas City, MO.

Resources needed for implementation

30 Days to Family Specialists are specifically hired for this role. Funding sources to date have included both public and private entities.

A manual is available for all agencies' use (see below). In order to use the *30 Days to Family* name, agencies must receive training from the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, and meet other fidelity requirements of the model. Training costs \$2,500/day, plus travel costs for two trainers from Missouri. Most trainings can be completed in one day.

Evidence base

A longterm study by PolicyWorks is underway with early data expected by the end of 2015. Program data from 2014 showed that 82.9% of youth were placed with relatives or kin by case closure.

For More Information

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[https://www.foster-adopt.org/
recruitment-programs/#30days](https://www.foster-adopt.org/recruitment-programs/#30days)

¹ Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition. (2015). *30 Days to Family™: A Manual for Replication*. St. Louis, MO: Soter & Adoptive Care Coalition.