



Lutheran Family and Children's Services: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is your mission?

Through Christ's love, we empower children and families to overcome challenges today to build a better tomorrow.

What's the story behind LFCS' rich history?

Lutheran Family and Children's Services (LFCS) has been helping Missouri families from all walks of life in their greatest times of need for over 155 years. Our journey began in 1868, shortly after the Civil War, when Reverend Johann Buenger made a vow to care for a wounded soldier's son. He witnessed the devastating impact that the conflict had on the families in his community, and found that many more kids were in need of support. Driven by compassion, he established an orphanage in St. Louis to provide care for children who had lost their parents during the war.

That one promise marked the beginning of a remarkable legacy. Over the years, LFCS has continuously adapted to meet the community's evolving needs, providing support to thousands of children and families each year. In 1968, we adopted the name Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri, signifying a pivotal shift towards serving families across the entire state. Today, LFCS is a testament to the power of compassion and the enduring need for support services.

What services does LFCS offer?

We provide a comprehensive range of support across Missouri, including adoption, foster care, parenting support, pregnancy support, and behavioral health services.

Does LFCS offer childcare or early learning programs in St. Louis?

Our Hilltop Child and Family Development Center in St. Louis provides high-quality childcare and early learning programs for children from 6 weeks to 5 years old. We offer a comprehensive and nurturing environment that supports their development and prepares them for success in school. We also offer various family support services, including parenting education, counseling, onsite healthcare, and other resources.

Who can access LFCS services?

Our services are open to everyone in Missouri, regardless of background, faith, or ability to pay. We offer financial assistance to those who qualify.

Do you need to meet specific income requirements to qualify for LFCS services?

Everyone deserves access to the support they need, regardless of their financial situation. Thanks to grant funding, many of our services are offered free of charge, and we also offer a variety of financial assistance options to help make our services affordable for families of all income levels. Please get in touch with us to discuss your specific needs and explore your options for financial assistance.

How many people does LFCS help?

In 2023, over 30,000 children and families benefited from the critical services that we provide.

Does LFCS offer services outside major cities?

While we have offices in several locations across Missouri, LFCS is a statewide organization dedicated to serving individuals and families throughout the state. No matter where you live, we're here to help. We have seven conveniently located offices, and some services may also be available via in-home visits or telehealth. We're committed to eliminating barriers for families, and ensuring everyone in Missouri has access to the support they need.

What makes LFCS unique?

We offer a holistic approach to care, addressing families' physical, emotional, and social needs. This comprehensive philosophy ensures we support the entire family, not just individual challenges. Our experienced and compassionate staff is dedicated to helping others reach their full potential. We don't just provide services; we track the positive changes we create, ensuring our programs make a measurable difference in the lives of those we serve.

How can I support LFCS?

There are several ways to support LFCS in creating brighter futures for Missouri's children and families. Your financial contributions allow us to continue to provide critical services through donations. Consider volunteering your time and talents, from mentoring to event support, and your dedication will make a real impact. You can also be a voice for change by advocating for supportive policies and raising awareness about the challenges faced by families in our state. You can also help us reach more people in need by spreading the word about LFCS's mission and services. Every contribution, big or small, helps fulfill our mission.

Does LFCS have any religious requirements for its services?

LFCS welcomes and serves everyone in Missouri, regardless of their religious beliefs or background. We focus on providing care and support based on need, not faith.

How can I volunteer with LFCS?

We appreciate our dedicated volunteers. From event support to helping with general office duties, there are many ways to contribute your time and talents. Please visit our volunteer website to learn more about specific volunteer opportunities. We would be happy to connect you with a program that allows you to make a meaningful contribution.