

Iowa County Youth Need:

- ◆ A positive role model
- ◆ Consistency
- ◆ Positive self esteem
- ◆ Supportive environment

IOWA COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL SERVICES

303 W. Chapel St., Suite 2300
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IOWA COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Foster Parents are People Just Like You!

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Foster Parent



303 W. Chapel St.
Suite 2300
Dodgeville, WI 53533
(608) 930-9801



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Frequently Asked Questions...

What is foster care?

Foster care is temporary family care when a child is unable to stay at home or with his or her parents. The ultimate goal of the Agency and the foster parents is to reunify a child with their birth parents or relatives.

Why do children go into foster care?

Children go into foster care for many reasons:

- Abuse (physical or sexual), neglect, abandonment
- Illness, incapacity, alcohol or drug abuse by parents
- Inability of parents to provide care due to emotional problems
- Special needs of the child (behavioral, physical, or emotional) that cannot be met by the birth parent
- Involved in crisis needing emergency, short-term placement

How long do children stay in foster care?

It varies, depending on the individual case plan. Placements may be short-term (weeks or months) or long-term (one year or longer).

What are the current foster care needs?

- Emergency foster care placements for all ages
- Homes for children with emotional or behavioral challenges
- Homes that give foster or birth parents a break for 1-2 weekends per month
- Homes for teenagers moving towards independence
- Homes for sibling groups

Who can be a foster parent?



- Foster parents must be at least 21 years of age
- Foster parents can be single or married
- Foster parents may or may not have children of their own
- Foster parents can be employed or unemployed
- Foster parents can be renters or homeowners
- Foster parents should have excellent child caring skills or should be willing to learn these techniques through training
- Foster parents should be nurturing, committed and excited about providing a healthy, positive environment for children
- Foster parents should be willing to work as a team with social workers, birth parents and birth families, and other professionals to provide the best possible care
- Foster parents should understand the importance of reuniting children with their birth families

Does my home qualify to be a foster home?

- Each child must have a separate bed, adequate dresser and closet space, and at least 40 square feet of bedroom floor space
- Children over 6 years of age cannot share a bedroom with a child of the opposite sex
- Must have adequate living space, house-keeping, and safety standards

Are you interested in learning more about foster care and becoming licensed by Iowa County? What happens next?

- Contact the Foster Care Coordinator to request licensing information and an application packet.
- Submit a completed application form and necessary background check forms
- Meet with a licensing worker in your home to see if your home meets licensing requirements
- Complete online pre-placement training modules that provide an overview of the foster care system in the state of Wisconsin



How are foster parents supported in Iowa County?

- Foster parents are provided a set monetary reimbursement to assist in providing for the needs of the child(ren)
- Respite
- Ongoing training
- Support and advocacy of a Foster Care Coordinator
- Regular Agency contact and involvement in case planning for the child(ren) in care.