

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
Dodgeville, WI 53533-1450

(608)930-9801

icdss@iowacounty.org



Find us on Facebook! Like the page,
Become an Iowa County Foster Parent

Live DEEPER, Love WIDER, Leave BIGGER.

IOWA COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Foster Parents are People Just Like You!

Become an Iowa County
Foster Parent



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



Become an Iowa County Foster Parent icdss@iowacounty.org  (608)930-9801

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?



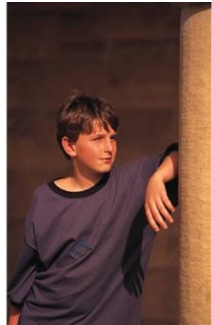
- Foster parents must be at least 21 years of age
- Foster parents can be single or married
- Foster parents may or may not have children of their own
- Foster parents can be employed or unemployed
- Foster parents can be renters or homeowners
- Foster parents should have excellent child caring skills 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.