



## Foster parents receive support through:

- Training provided by the Minnesota Child Welfare Training System
- Foster parents who are members of a team, working together with county case managers and children's biological families to care for children's needs. Foster parents may also receive support and guidance from professionals in mental health, educational and medical services based on individual children's needs.
- Monthly financial reimbursement for care they provide to foster children.

Step 1: Make a call to Wilkin County Family Service Agency. Foster care is provided on a local level through county social service agencies. In most cases, county agencies first seek foster parents in the child's community, therefore the county agency is your first point of contact. For Wilkin County call Becky or Christy at: (218) 643 - 7161

Step 2: You will be referred to a Licensor who will answer any additional question you have and ask you to complete an application. Minnesota offers one application for child foster care licensing and adoption.

Step 3: A background study is required for everyone in the home 13 years of age and older. The Licensor will provide applicants with finger print cards and instructions about how to initiate a study in your community.

Step 4: The county Licensor will visit you and your family to interview you and complete a home study assessment as well as a safety check on your home.

Step 5: When you have successfully completed the process, the agency will notify the state of Minnesota and a license will be issued. This license is good for either one or two years. Prior to the expiration date, the assessment will need to be updated to renew the license.

Step 6: Participate in training: The Minnesota Child Welfare Training System offers trainings for foster, adoptive, and kinship parents around the state. These trainings give potential and current foster parents the tools to have a successful foster care experience.

*In ND licensing is different so please contact:*

*Richland County Human Service's at (701) 642- 7751 if you are a Richland County resident.*



**WILKIN  
COUNTY  
NEEDS FOSTER  
AND RESPITE  
CARE HOMES**

*Creating an opportunity for change*



## What is our biggest need?

**Foster Homes:** Foster families care for children in short-term emergency placements, lasting no longer than 30 days, or longer foster placements lasting months/years.

**Respite Care Homes:** Foster families commit to caring for children for a short time, such as a weekend, to provide children and parents/caregivers a brief break.

Basic Requirements:

- over 21 years of age
- can be single, married, co-habituating
- rent or own home
- Parents can work outside the home

## Foster parents provide critical care and nurturing

Foster parents come from all walks of life. They may be single or married, with or without children, renters or homeowners. What they share is a concern for children and a commitment to help them through tough times. They provide critical temporary care and nurturing to children in crisis.

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*"It is so rewarding to see the children blossom and grow under your care. I feel I am helping my community when I help these kids and their families." –Bobbi Paper, Foster mother*

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What makes a good Foster Family?

- Flexibility in daily schedules
  - An interest in and responsiveness to children and their needs
  - Ability to adapt to changing needs
  - Ability to work along with the county
  - Capacity to give love, affection and care to a child without expecting anything in return
  - Capacity to help child prepare for their return home
- You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent*



## Children need foster care for a variety of reasons

Children may enter care due to abuse or neglect, inadequate housing, termination of parents' rights, parental death, illness, disability, abandonment, incarceration, substance abuse, temporary absence of parent, parent inability to cope, parent and/or child's mental health.

## Foster care: Temporary out-of-home care for children

Foster Care is meant to be temporary. The County and Court will be working with the birth family to return child(ren) home or to a family member. In the event a child(ren) cannot be with family, the county will work with the Courts to find a permanent home.