

WHAT IS ADULT FOSTER CARE?

Adult foster care providers offer a family-centered living situation in their home in which 24 hour supervision, personal care, assistance and protection are given as well as room, board, and laundry services. Adult foster care provides people with a community living alternative which includes the normal supports of every day life - family, friends, job or training activities, recreational opportunities, and the privacy and comfort of a home setting.

Adult foster care helps people to help themselves. It is a program created out of the belief that people are happiest living active and purposeful lives in their own community.

WHO IS IT FOR?

People living in adult foster care homes are men and women, 18 years of age and older, who, because of mental or physical disability, cannot manage on their own anymore. This living arrangement is intended for single persons or husband and wife, with no more than four such persons in a single-family home. The care may be provided by single or married people over the age of 21 who meet the qualifications and criteria established for providers of adult foster care.

People living in adult foster care homes need support remaining within or to return to the community from an institutional setting. As individuals, their needs and abilities may vary, but, remaining in the community is a common goal.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Prior to placement in an adult foster home, the Rice County Social Services agency is responsible for ensuring an assessment is completed to determine if adult foster care is appropriate for the individual. The assessment may be completed in many different forms.

If foster care is deemed inappropriate for an individual, she/he may discuss alternative living arrangements with his/her social worker.

If foster care is appropriate, the county foster care licensor is notified. The licensor will then check into the availability and willingness of foster care homes to accept a new resident.

At this time, a pre-placement visit to the prospective foster care home is arranged. The purpose of the visit is two-fold: 1) for the prospective resident to see the house and surrounding community; and 2) for the resident and provider to meet and get to know each other, as well as any roommates to see if this living arrangement would work out.

If everyone agrees the arrangement is acceptable, plans for placement are initiated. If either party declines, other plans are made. No arrangement is necessarily permanent and either party may terminate the agreement should the need develop.

COST

The basic rate for adult foster care, as established by the Rice County Board of Commissioners, is \$670 per month. This rate covers the basic needs to be provided in the adult foster home.

In addition to this base rate, an additional payment of up to \$426.37 monthly, may be paid based on a resident's physical, emotional, or behavioral needs. The Difficulty of Care (DOC) payment will be determined through the use of a Difficulty of Care rating form for adult foster care.

* The basic rate is subject to change.

LICENSING CRITERIA

All adult foster care homes in Rice County must be licensed by Rice County Social Services.

The foster care homes must meet and enforce the Minnesota Uniform Fire Code. A state fire marshal will complete initial and subsequent inspections to ensure fire safety.

Caregivers and household members must have a medical exam and be free from communicable diseases (this also holds true to residents upon entering the home). Each caregiver or family members, over the age of 13, must also submit to a criminal background check for the disclosure of arrest, conviction, and criminal history records.

Adult foster care homes are expected to comply with sanitation and health standards. This assures that the residence will be clean, and free

from accumulations of dirt and other dirt-producing substances.

Caregivers of adult foster care must complete an orientation provided by Rice County Social Services. In addition to the orientation, the caregiver must also receive additional training as required by the Adult Foster Care Rule.

Every home shall have a living room to which the residents have free access. The resident will also have their own bedroom unless they have mutually consented, in writing, to share a bedroom with another resident. No more than two residents may share one bedroom that will be provided with:

- A separate, adult-size single bed or larger with a clean mattress in good repair.
- Clean bedding appropriate for the season for each resident.
- An individual dresser and closet for storage of personal possessions and clothing.
- A mirror for grooming.

When possible, a resident shall be allowed to have items of furniture that she/he personally owns in the home as pre-arranged with the caregiver.

All foster care residents are protected by the Minnesota Statute 626.557 - the Vulnerable Adults Act. The Vulnerable Adults act states that anyone over the age of 18 years who cannot report abuse or neglect without help from someone is considered to be a Vulnerable Adult. Anyone living in an Adult Foster Home is considered to be a Vulnerable Adult. The adult

foster care provider is required to protect each resident from abuse and neglect.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

There are various methods of payment for adult foster care services. These include:

- Private funds
- Earnings
- Income from a pension
- Minnesota Supplemental Aid (must meet eligibility criteria. Apply at Rice County Social Services).
- General Assistance (must meet eligibility criteria. Apply at Rice County Social Services).

There is a growing need for a sensitive and creative alternative in the community for adults who cannot live alone. The adult foster care program provides this alternative and gives the individual a sense of dignity and self-worth.

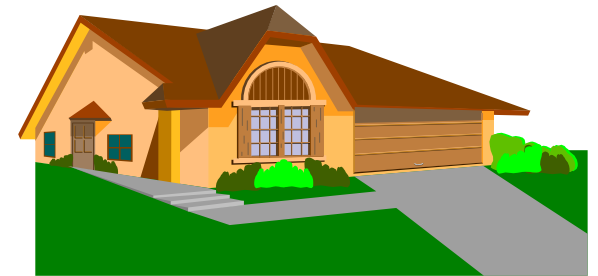
For more information about the Adult Foster Care program call or write:

Kate Hanson - Adult Foster Care Licenser
Rice County Social Services
PO Box 718 Faribault, MN 55021
507-332-6255 khanson@co.rice.mn.us

Faribault: 507-332-6115
Northfield: 507-645-4723
Lonsdale: 507-744-5185

ADULT FOSTER CARE HOMES PLUS

SUPPORTING ADULTS IN FAMILY ENVIRONMENTS



A COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE