

A circular wreath of various botanical illustrations surrounds a central white circle. The plants include green ferns, red maple leaves, yellow marigolds, purple cornflowers, and large green leaves. A small branch with pink blossoms is on the left, and a single green leaf lies horizontally across the bottom of the central circle.

Becoming a Resource Family for Foster Youth

Overview



Today we will be talking about Resource Homes and answering the following questions.

- What is a resource home?
- Why are more resource homes needed in Lake County?
- How does someone apply to become a resource home?
- What if I become a resource home but my personal life gets in the way?
- What can I do if I cannot be a full-time resource home?

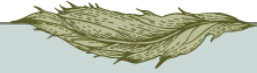


What is a Resource Home?

- Resource Homes were once known as Foster Family Homes. These homes provide safe and stable homes for foster youth to reside when a youth must be placed out of their home. Resource families can be anyone who applies and meets eligibility requirements.

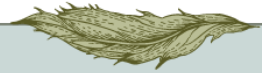


We Need the Communities Help



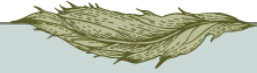
- Although the number of resource homes have increased substantially in Lake County since 2017; we need your help to recruit more resource homes!
- From June 2023 through June 2024, we had an average of 71 youth placed in out-of-home care. On average, 49 of the youth were placed in Lake County. This number could increase if we were able to secure more resource homes.
- It is important for youth to stay in Lake County when possible, because it lessens the disruption in their lives. It allows them to remain in their schools and communities. It gives them more time to rebuild trust with the adults in their lives, which makes healing easier.

Why Should Anyone Become a Resource Home?



- You can provide a home to someone who is in need of a safe place to live.
- You can make a difference in a youth's life by being a positive role model.
- Youth who come into care have already suffered trauma. Youth without a placement can feel hopeless, alone to blame for their situation. You can help prevent a youth from feeling this way.

Application Process to become a Resource Home



- First you would submit the application paperwork
- Next the agency will work with you to set up a home evaluation, your fingerprinting and family assessment.
- You will also need to take a variety of training including CPR and First Aide. This training will be provided free of charge.
- Once you become a resource home, you will be compensated when a youth is placed with you so that you can help the youth meet their needs.

What if I Need a Short Break?





- Sometimes, lives can get complicated and you as a Resource Home may need a short break. This is called respite care and it can be used by a resource home for different reasons; like attending a funeral, a surgery, self-care, extracurricular activities for other children, business trip or an adult gathering etc.
- You may ask your RFA social worker who an appropriate caregiver would be should you need to use respite care.


What if I want to Support Resource Homes?



- If you feel that you can't become a resource parent but would like to help our families and our foster children, please consider becoming a foster neighbor. Foster Neighbor's connect with a resource home and can do things such as bring the family a meal once a month.
- For more information you can contact the RFA unit at Child Welfare Services and they can connect you to this program.



If you or someone you know would like more information on the RFA process or would like to start the RFA process, please contact the Resource Family Approval Unit.



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