

Treatment & Respite Foster Care Licensing Requirements

TREATMENT & RESPITE FOSTER CARE:

- You must be at least 21 years of age.
- A series of background checks will be conducted on all adults residing in the home. These checks will include the local police department; Wisconsin Department of Justice; Wisconsin Department of Transportation; Child Protective Services). See the barred crimes list for guidance.
- Possess sound judgment and positive parenting skills.
- Single, partnered, or married (if it is a two parent household, both individuals must be on the foster home license – meeting all licensing and training requirements.)
- Stable and sufficient income to meet family/ household expenses without relying on the foster care stipend (must be above the federal poverty guideline for size of household).
- High school diploma or GED (If not, you must take a literacy test to verify that you are at or above an 8th grade reading level).
- Provide verification of homeowner's or renter's insurance.
- Provide verification of vehicle liability insurance (if you own an automobile).
- Health examination/ physical completed on all members of the household (by your doctor).
- Four favorable references- 3 nonrelatives and 1 adult relative.
- Employment / income verification.
- Physical environment of the home must meet licensing requirements.
- Completion of "Wisconsin Foundation Training for Foster Parents" prior to licensure.
- If you operate a day care in your home, you **cannot** be licensed as a respite or treatment foster parent.

TREATMENT FOSTER CARE ONLY:

At least one applicant in the household must meet a minimum of three of the following for Level 3 license (moderate treatment foster care). At least one applicant in the household must meet a minimum of four of the following for Level 4 license (specialized treatment foster care).

- a) A minimum of one year of experience as a foster parent or kinship care provider with a child placed in his or her home for at least one year.
- b) A minimum 5 years of experience working with or parenting children.
- c) A minimum of 500 hours of experience as a respite care provider for children under the supervision of a human services agency.
- d) A high school diploma or the equivalent.
- e) A college, vocational, technical, or advanced degree in the area of a child's treatment needs, such as nursing, medicine, social work, or psychology.
- f) A substantial relationship with the child to be placed through previous professional or personal experience.
- g) Work or personal experience for which the applicant has demonstrated the knowledge, skill, ability, and motivation to meet the needs of a child with a level of need of 3.

***Note:** If an applicant for certification to operate a Level 3 or 4 foster home relies on experience that meets the requirements of b. or f. as one of the required criteria above, the applicant shall also meet one of the criteria in a., c., e., or g.