

CHILD FOSTER CARE PROGRAMS

1. EMERGENCY SHELTER CARE

- Utilized in emergency/crisis situations.
- Providers must be able to care for both female/male children ages 0-18 and have some flexibility for sibling groups.
- Placements are typically from 1 to 8 days.
- Providers are on-call for one week (Monday at 8 AM to the following Monday at 8 AM). Because placements are typically from 1 to 8 days, it is likely that the child will remain in care beyond the time that the provider is actually on-call.
- Providers are expected to have two bedrooms available for emergency shelter care (a total of three beds).
- Emergency Shelter Care Families receive \$175/bed/month (maximum of three beds) for being on call.

2. RESPIRE CARE

- Respite care is defined as temporary care of a child to provide relief to his/her caretaker. It may involve care of children outside of their own home for a brief period of time, such as overnight or a weekend.
- Placements can be from 1 to 29 days but are typically 1 or 2 weekends per month.
- This service provides support to the caretakers, so they are able to continue to care for the child in their home. Neither the child nor the caretaker considers the respite care a placement. Rather, they understand respite as an important support that they utilize in times of crisis or for ongoing support of the family.
- The child's case manager provides the foster care worker with information on the child (strengths, interests, relationships with children and adults, behavioral considerations – chemical abuse, aggression, impulsivity, depression, etc., and medical information – any diagnoses, medications, developmental delays, etc.
- The foster care worker makes a match and informs the case manager. Typically, a pre-placement visit is arranged with the case manager, parent, child, and foster parent. In some crisis situations a pre-placement visit may not be possible.
- The case manager will provide the respite foster parent with contact information, instructions for supervision, if necessary, etc.
- The ongoing respite schedule is arranged between the parent/guardian and the foster parent.

3. RELIEF CARE

- Temporary care of children who are currently placed in another Olmsted County Foster Home.
- This service provides support/relief to the ongoing/primary foster home.
- Foster parents are given a maximum of 30 days of relief care per year. Requests for additional days are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- There are two options for relief care.
 1. The foster parent may contact his/her licensor (preferably two weeks prior to the needed relief dates), and the licensor will find another licensed foster home for the child.

2. The foster parent may ask someone to come into their home to provide relief care (i.e., a friend or family member). A criminal background check must be completed by that person prior to the dates of care. Ask your licensor for a consent form.
- Both the primary foster home and the relief foster home are reimbursed for the child's care. Reimbursement is at the child's current DOC rate.

4. CONCURRENT PLANNING/RESOURCE FAMILIES

- Resource families are relatives/kin or foster families who ACTIVELY support birth parents in their efforts to be reunified with their children. This could mean:
 1. participating in visits between the child and his/her parents,
 2. attending therapy sessions with the child,
 3. attending medical and dental visits with the parent and child,
 4. acting as a mentor for the birth parents as they work on their parenting skills,
 5. and much more.
- Resource families are also committed to becoming a permanent family for the children in their care if safe reunification is not possible. This could mean:
 1. adoption of the child if parental rights have been terminated, or
 2. a permanent transfer of custody to the relative/kin.

5. REGULAR FOSTER CARE

- Substitute care for children who cannot be cared for by their natural/adoptive parents.
- Placement can be for a few days or several months.
- Placement may be voluntary, or court ordered.
- The foster home provides a safe place for the child while social services and/or corrections works with the family to resolve the issues that led to the child's placement.
- The primary goal is to reunify the child with his/her family.