

Intensive Foster Care (IFC) Program Description Template

The following is intended to be used as a working template that agencies may use when creating their own program description for an Intensive Foster Care (IFC) Program. This template can be modified by agencies to fit their own program needs and requirements. See IFC Program Considerations document for further considerations on the requirements of being a Foster Parent under the IFC Program.

As any new program is developed, it is important to create a clear purpose and philosophy that provides the foundation for practice. Below are examples and starting points, inspiration, considerations, definitions, etc. that may be helpful as you develop a program philosophy for Intensive Foster Care.

Examples of Program Philosophies & Other Additional Starting Points/Inspirations:

- ❖ At _____'s (Agency Name) Intensive Foster Care Program (IFC), we strive to ensure that all children and youth grow up in a loving and nurturing family environment. Children and Youth within our program have experienced significant and complex trauma but are on their path to healing. Research has shown that children and youth who have experienced significant trauma can experience healing in a relationship. That one relationship can help them heal from their past trauma, grow and thrive when they are provided with unconditional love, support and understanding by a committed caregiver.
- ❖ IFC gives children the opportunity to heal and grow by equipping them with skills and tools necessary to manage the impact of their histories and circumstances while equipping you to meet their emotional and behavioral needs. What children in the IFC program need are parents who will consistently meet those needs no matter how challenging the behaviors they encounter.
- ❖ The Intensive Foster Care program connects youth who have complex needs with strong, devoted and engaged foster parents.
- ❖ The IFC parent provides a caring, nurturing relationship with youth, helps prepare them with the skills necessary to live at home and in the community, and helps re-connect the youth with their parent(s) when safe and appropriate. They also take on the role of care coordinator, helping the youth obtain other needed services, advocating for them, providing role models and even providing respite, if needed, after the youth return home.

foster parenting

(verb)

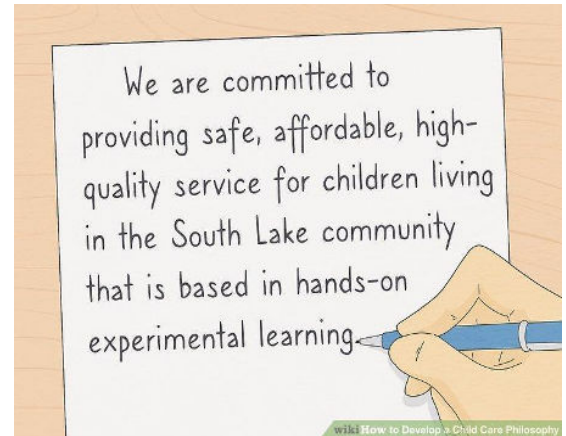
1. loving whomever is entrusted for however long they are entrusted; standing in the gap.
2. risking the protection of one's heart for the protection of a child.

"Every kid is one caring adult away from being a success story."

- Josh Shipp -

FOSTERING
forever

“We live in a world in [which] we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.”
-Fred Rogers



Program Description:

As a foster parent in the IFC Program, you will be part of a dedicated team that offers specialized care and services to these children and youth by:

- Providing 24/7 care
- Participating in regular treatment team meetings
- Providing transportation for visits, appointments, court hearing, etc.
- Working closely with social workers, therapists, parents/guardians, schools and attorneys
- Dispensing medications
- Managing behaviors and de-escalating emotional situations
- Assisting parents/guardians in understanding the child/youth’s triggers and how to manage behavior
- Providing Trauma-Informed Care and nurturance to children/youth and parents/guardians
- Following all rules and regulations to ensure compliance with licensing rules while adhering to a wraparound philosophy
- Attending ongoing training in trauma informed care, mental and behavioral health and utilize therapeutic techniques
- Advocating and ensuring that the needs of the child/youth and his/her parents/guardians are being addressed
- Partnering with schools to ensure educational stability.

Our Intensive Foster Care Program is committed to recruiting a pool of diverse foster parents to meet the unique needs of our children and youth. IFC Parents will be provided with professional foster parent training and support including:

- Access to 24/7 on call support / Crisis Support
- Access to support from a case manager, mental health professionals/therapists and other service providers on the child/youth’s treatment team
- Monthly support meetings
- Mentoring

- Respite Services
- Referrals for additional services & support
- Trauma-Informed Care training
- Crisis Response & De-escalation
- QPR / Suicide prevention training
- Medication Management Training
- Shared Parenting Training

Requirements to be a foster parent in the IFC Program:

- Be at least 21-years of age or older
- 1-full time parent in the home or one parent needs to have a flexible in-home/out of home work schedule
- Be on call for accepting placements when there is an opening in their home
- Demonstrate financial stability and ability to manage finances
- Pass criminal background checks
- Provide verification that your physical and mental health conditions do not interfere with your ability to provide care for a child
- You must complete the home study process
- Comply with standards established by the State of Wisconsin
- Provide proof of insurance including homeowners/renters and auto insurance
- Complete proper training requirements within the specified timeframes and continue your education with ongoing training specific to the children/youth you care for
- Families may only have 1-2 foster children in the home at a time
- The number of children in the home is limited to 4, with combination of foster and other children
- Willingness to learn and collaborate with a professional team
- Have experience in working with children with challenging behaviors or willingness to learn how to effectively manage a child/youth's challenging behaviors and emotional needs

IFC Parents are provided with a \$_____ per month stipend, which is above and beyond the maintenance uniform foster care rate set for a child/youth placed in the home.