

# YOUTH FOCUS FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

## FOSTER PARENT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

**AGE:** Foster parent applicants must be 21 years old or older.

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single, married, widowed, separated, and divorced persons may be licensed. However, if applicants are married but separated, Youth Focus reserved the right to use discretion.

**EDUCATION:** Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

**INCOME:** Applicants must have steady, dependable income sufficient to meet monthly expenses without foster care monetary reimbursement.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Applicants must have a working vehicle, current drivers license, and current automobile insurance.

**MEDICAL EXAMS:** Full physicals are required on each household resident within the 12 months before license application date and each license renewal application. Each household resident must also have a negative TB test and no indication of alcohol or drug abuse.

**CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK:** Local, state, and federal background checks are required before initial licensure and renewal of licenses to ensure no adults in the household have records of child abuse, adult abuse, or domestic violence.

**REFERENCES:** Applicants must provide three non-relative character references.

**TRAINING:** Prior to initial license application, foster parents must complete a 30 hour certification course on foster care, a 10 hour therapeutic foster care class, North Carolina Interventions certification, CPR and First Aid certification, and Medication Administration certification. Within the first two years of licensure, foster parents must also complete further training specific to foster children that includes understanding their needs and family dynamics, substance abuse, and documentation.

**FAMILY ASSESSMENTS:** Youth Focus will conduct two to three in-home consultations to meet with each family member individually and together in addition to training meetings. Additionally, there will be ongoing licensing visits, including Quarterly Licensing Visits and home inspections by Youth Focus.

**CAPACITY:** A maximum of four children are allowed in the home, two of which can be foster children. Children may share rooms, but not share beds. Ages and gender of the children are considered when making placements.

### **HOUSING REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:**

- ◆ A minimum of 40 square feet of bedroom space per person.
- ◆ Pass a local fire inspection.
- ◆ A mounted, inspected, ABC type fire extinguisher.
- ◆ Telephone access.
- ◆ Smoke detectors at each bedroom
- ◆ Posted evacuation plan and emergency numbers
- ◆ Screens on ventilation windows and doors.
- ◆ No double key dead bolts on any doors.
- ◆ Windows or fans in bathrooms for ventilation.
- ◆ A carbon monoxide detector.

**COSTS:** There are varying initial costs to become a foster parent. Some of these costs may include:

- ◆ The initial fire inspection. Once a home is fully licensed, Youth Focus will reimburse for the cost of fire inspections for each license renewal. However, Youth Focus will not reimburse for any costs related to home repairs or adjustments in relation to passing any fire inspection or meeting state licensure rules.
- ◆ The purchase of a fire extinguisher.
- ◆ The purchase of lock boxes for storing medications.
- ◆ Charges to obtain documentation for physicals.

ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

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