

Talking to people about foster parenting

What is foster care for children?

- Foster care is providing substitute parental care to a child who has been temporarily separated from his/her biological or legal parents, guardian or custodian.
- Reasons for the separation may include the inability of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to provide appropriate care such as food, shelter, security and safety and guidance
- The length of time a child is in foster care varies depending on the reasons for being placed out of his/her home. The Child and Family Team will meet within 30 days of the placement develop a plan for achieving a permanency goal identified for each child.
- The Child and Family Team process, guided by the custodian (county social services or tribal social services) and the regional supervisor, will meet at least every 90 days after the initial meeting to review the goal as well as all tasks established at the previous meeting. Foster parents are asked to give a brief update of the child's day-to-day activities since the previous meeting.

What are the basic qualifications for a foster parent?

- A foster parent must be at least 18 years of age. There is no maximum age for a foster parent, as long as he/she is able to meet the needs of children in his/her care.
- All applicants and adults 18 and older must submit to a fingerprint criminal history background check and be cleared prior to a license being approved. A child protective services background check is completed on all applicants and adults in the home as well.
- Positive references from a minimum of three unrelated individuals of the applicants choosing such as work associates, personal acquaintances, social or religious acquaintances
- Training Requirements for initial licensure are:
 - UNITY Pre-Service 27-hour course and
 - Fire Safety and Prevention 2-hour training course
 - 1st Aide & CPR Training
- A series of home study visits - at least 3 - will be completed in your home by a Foster Care Developer. The visits include:
 - Physical inspection of the home
 - Completion of necessary paperwork
 - Interpersonal interviews
 - Mutual Assessment of UNITY training competencies
- Fire Inspection by a local fire marshal may be requested

FACTS:

- Currently there is 361 children in placement, this number consist of: 150 ICWA children, 47 Foster/Tribal Social Services, and 164 BIA Children. Currently Spirit Lake Nation has 10 licensed Foster Homes on the Reservation which are known as Affidavit homes. Spirit Lake Tribe/Tribal Social Services/BIA and surrounding counties are working together to promote, recruit and license more Native American homes that are close to or located on Spirit Lake Nation. The need for more licensed Affidavit homes is a priority to Spirit Lake Nation. There is different ways to **BE INVOLVED** which are listed in the attached flyer. Spirit Lake Tribal Social Services also is working with Tribal Leaders to become engaged with each individual district. If you have questions or are interested in more information on how to **BE INVOLVED** feel free to call Ashley Roulette at Spirit Lake Tribal Social Services.

