

# GETTING STARTED



- 1 -

Potential foster parents fill out an application and undergo a background check.



- 2 -

Once approved, parents attend pre-service training, a 30-hour, 10-week class to prepare you for the joys and challenges of being a foster parent. This training helps parents better understand children who have experienced trauma.



- 3 -

Foster parents must complete a home study. This involves evaluating the safety of the home and assessing a family's ability to care for a child.



- 4 -

Once the home study process is complete, the Iowa Department of Human Services must approve a match between a foster parent and a child. The journey begins!



## About LSI

LSI is one of Iowa's largest human services agencies and impacts tens of thousands of Iowans annually through child abuse prevention, services for families and youth in crisis, services for people with disabilities, and refugee services. We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations.

## Where We Work

LSI Foster Care and Adoption proudly serves **30 counties** in western Iowa.

**844.574.7787**

Lyon, Osceola, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Sioux, O'Brien, Clay, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Woodbury, Ida, Sac, Monona, Crawford, Carroll, Greene, Harrison, Shelby, Audubon, Guthrie, Pottawattamie, Cass, Mills, Montgomery, Fremont, Page, and Taylor



[www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org)  
[www.facebook.com/LSI.Iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.Iowa)

# LSI FOSTER

# CARE AND

# ADOPTION



*make a BIG DIFFERENCE.*  
*be there for the LITTLE THINGS.*



[www.LSIowa.org/foster](http://www.LSIowa.org/foster)



## RIDING A BIKE. GOING FISHING. LEARNING TO COOK SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS.

These are moments many families take for granted. But for children in Iowa’s foster care system, having a parent to care about the little things makes a big difference.

### FOSTER CARE IS THE DIFFERENCE

Become a foster parent through LSI Foster Care and Adoption and for Iowa children.

Foster care in Iowa is meant to be temporary, and as short-term as possible. Foster parents must balance the emotional journey of caring for a child, while knowing they will likely return to their birth family. It can be joyful, exhausting, and extraordinarily rewarding.

### WHO CAN BECOME A FOSTER PARENT?

**There is no “typical” foster parent. You could be one!** Foster parents must be at least 21 years old. They can be single, cohabitating, married, living in multi-generational family homes, and homes with or without biological children.

They can be employed or stay-at-home parents. Foster parents are homeowners, renters, and pet owners. They can own a car or use public transportation. Foster parents are individuals of all ethnicities, all walks of life, and all sexual orientations.

### THE NEED IN IOWA

Iowa has an urgent need for more foster parents, especially those who open their hearts and homes to teenagers, sibling groups, and children with special needs.

LSI Foster Care and Adoption connects children coming into care with individuals and families who reflect their culture and language needs. Iowa has a significant need for more African American, Latino, and Native American foster parents. We also seek families who provide safe, loving homes to LGBTQ youth.

Hundreds of children in western Iowa have entered the foster care system this year, and **we do not have enough families to fill the need.** If you’ve ever considered becoming a foster parent, now is the time to step up. Iowa children need you.

*“It takes a village to raise a child, and I wanted to help someone with their village.”*  
– Katie, an Iowa foster mom

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