

Therapeutic Resource Parent

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PURPOSE

A TFC Resource Parent(s) is required to complete more training and have more experience than other foster parents; there is intentional alignment of services and service planning with Iowa Medicaid and its managed care partners, HHS Behavioral Health and Disability Services, education, and others; the number of children in the home is lower; the payment rates are higher; and the payment methodologies are different than standard foster care. Placement of children is staggered, meaning a child should be in the home for three months before another child enters.

Primary Role

The TFC Resource Parent(s):

- The child, the child's family, and the TFC family are integral members of the youth's mental/behavioral health treatment team.
- Receives referrals from Social Work Case Manager (SWCM) and accepts the eligible child (up to 2 children placed per household).
- Participates in pre-placement services to invite the child and family to services and to coordinate roles and responsibilities of team members.
- Attends training and consults with clinical and subject matter experts in preparation for a placement.
- Engages the parent and child prior to placement as indicated by service planning discussions with the Therapeutic Case Manager and other team members.
- Develop and maintain a supportive relationship with the parent(s) of the child, to support reunification.
- Provide co-parenting/parenting support approach with the child's parent(s).
- Coordinates and facilitates frequent interactions throughout each week between the child and child's parent(s) and family. The team decides the frequency and type of contact, the SWCM approves/writes the interaction plan, and the FCS provider, parent and TFC Resource Parent coordinate and facilitate the interactions, keeping the team updated as to any barriers.
- Includes child's parent(s) in child's appointments (e.g., health appts, school conferences, etc.).
- Provides basic needs for the child; parents and supports the child.
- Provides transportation to school (if school does not transport), to afterschool activities, to social and other typical child activities (going to see friends, etc.), to appts, and to see the child's family frequently.
- Supports and prepares the parent(s) for their child's return and helps prepare the parent(s) to meet the ongoing needs of their child upon return to the family home.
- Participates in meetings regarding the child and family's needs as requested.
- Assists in transition to subsequent placement, depending on the service needs of the child. Core support services need to be able to follow the child as they transition back to the family home.
- Participates in post TFC to support the family for at least 30 days, to help transition the child to home or other setting. This may include educating the family on effective behavior management strategies as well as behavioral modeling and other care needs of the child.

Strategies and approaches

The TFC Resource Parent(s) should:

- Reach out to the Social Work Case Manager with questions about the foster care system, the relationship with the parent or child, or other matters related to the safety, permanency and well-being of the child.
- Reach out to the Therapeutic Case Manager with questions about the treatment needs of the child, including the role of other clinical service providers.
- Receive additional training in:
 - Mental health
 - Special education
 - Diagnostic manual of mental health
 - Child specific training and support based on the needs of the child

Resources

The following supports are available:

- Respite care may be accessed by contacting RRTS or the Therapeutic Case Manager
- TFC support groups as coordinated by RRTS
- Clinical Support is available to the TFC parent as requested through the Therapeutic Case Manager assigned to a particular child's case or through RRTS.
- Clinical team calls are routinely held at least once every month for each child. These calls will be set up by the Therapeutic Case Manager