Iowa City VA Health Care System
601 Highway 6 West, Iowa City, IA 52246

Veterans Medical Foster Home Program

Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm Mon-Fri
Toll Free: 1-877-358-5994
Local Call: (319) 358-5974
Program Coordinator: Angie Gerot, LISW

Medical Foster Home Program

Overview

VA Medical Foster Homes provide a safe, supportive, long-term care option for Veterans. Medical Foster Home’s (MFH) are known as The Place Where Heroes Meet Angels. MFH’s are an alternative to nursing home care. Foster Homes may be an option for Veterans who are unable to live alone, or do not have a caregiver who is able to maintain a home and provide care.

MFH’s provide a unique partnership between foster caregivers, Veterans, and their VA Home Based Primary Care Team by providing long-term care within a comfortable home environment. The Iowa City VA Health Care System is proud to provide this option to the Veterans it serves.

Veterans living in a MFH enjoy the independence, freedom, and privacy of living in a family home. For instance, homes may have pets for the Veteran to enjoy or may allow Veterans to bring their pet into the home.
Caregivers Provide
- Personalized, comfortable room
- Home cooked, nutritious meals
- Laundry
- Transportation
- Medication management
- 24-hour care and support

Home Based Primary Care Team provide:
- Medical Care
- Nursing Care
- Nutrition Education and Guidance
- Social Work Services and Psychology Services
- Rehabilitation
- Recreation Services

Cost
The cost is less than institutional long-term care placement. There is a monthly rate for MFH, depending on the level of care needed. The cost is paid by the Veteran to the caregiver using private income, Social Security, or VA benefits. The rates average between $1500 and $3000 per month.

Program Quality and Safety
Quality and safety are of major concern and consideration within the MFH program. VA supports and expects the following of MFH Program Coordinators: intensive training, continuous mentoring, standardized policies, guidance on caregiver selection, and frequent home visits for oversight and care.

Locations
MFH’s are located within a 50 mile radius of the Iowa City VA Medical Center. This allows for routine health care to be provided by the Home Health Care Team and for specialty care visits to the Medical Center.
Veterans

If you answer yes to these questions, you may want to consider a Medical Foster Home:

- Are you enrolled in VA healthcare?
- Do you live alone?
- Do you need assistance with daily activities?
- Is caring for yourself too difficult living alone?
- Would you prefer to live in a family setting with a private or semi-private room instead of a nursing facility?

Eligibility

Veterans who are enrolled at the Iowa City VA Health Care System and meet the following criteria:

- Unable to live independently due to physical or mental impairment
- Has sufficient financial resources to pay for services provided by MFH
- Agrees to receive care from Home Based Primary Care Team while living in the Medical Foster Home

Want to be a Medical Foster Home Caregiver?

If you answer yes to these questions, you may be a good candidate to become a Medical Foster Caregiver:

- Do you have caregiving experience?
- Do you live within 50 miles of Iowa City VA?
- Are you willing to provide appropriate care, supervision, and living space to one (or more) Veterans in your home?
Caregiver Requirements

- Complete an application and interview with MFH Program Coordinator
- Prove financial stability
- Be at least 21 years old
- Experience providing care (formal/informal)
- Meet annual training requirements
- Agree to a criminal background check
- Provide at least three personal and work related references
- Physical ability to provide care
- A written backup plan and list of relief caregivers who can provide assistance (if Caregiver is unable to provide care for a short time)
- Ability to communicate with the Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) Team should significant changes occur (appearance, behavior, state of health)
- Willingness to accept and follow the Veteran’s treatment plan
- A congenial and homelike atmosphere

Home Requirements

- No more than 3 residents receiving care per MFH
- Must be owned or rented by caregiver
- Must be caregiver’s daily place of residence
- Provide a home-like, safe care environment (via location, furnishings, and upkeep)
- Pass inspection by a VA team (including a VA Safety Officer)
- Comply with State/Local licensure and regulations (construction, fire, maintenance, sanitation)