



MEDICAL FOSTER HOME

*Explore VA's Medical Foster Home Program
Resource Guide for Potential Caregivers*

When living at home becomes difficult, most people would rather remain in a home-like setting than move to a nursing home. VA's Medical Foster Home (MFH) Program offers Veterans more options to support independence in a home-like environment.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

What is a **MEDICAL FOSTER HOME?**



Medical Foster Homes (MFH) are private residences where the caregiver lives and provides continuous care and supervision to the Veterans, with the assistance of relief caregivers. This caregiver can help the Veteran carry out activities of daily living, such as bathing and getting dressed. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ensures that the caregiver is well trained to provide VA planned care.

While living in a Medical Foster Home, Veterans receive Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC). HBPC is health care services provided to Veterans in their home. A VA physician supervises the health care team who provides the services in the home based on the unique needs of each individual Veteran. HBPC is for Veterans who have complex health care needs for whom routine clinic-based care is not effective.

We need caregivers like you to help support Veterans.

As a MFH caregiver, VA's MFH and HBPC teams will be available to provide guidance, training, and assistance to the caregiver, and oversight and medical care to the Veterans.

MFH caregivers are vetted and their homes inspected.

During the review and selection process, caregivers' abilities and levels of compassion are rigorously assessed. All caregivers require a criminal history check and a professional home inspection team performs extensive fire and safety checks. To ensure the highest levels of safety and quality, a VA MFH coordinator makes monthly unannounced visits while the HBPC team provides routine in-home care for Veterans. VA MFHs must meet all state and local requirements and regulations.

Next Steps: I'm ready to become a MFH caregiver.

If you meet the criteria noted above and you are interested in becoming a MFH caregiver, contact the Fargo VA MFH Coordinator, Kristin Swenson, at 701-239-3700 extension 3940 or email at Kristin.Swenson@va.gov.

Criteria for MFH **CAREGIVERS**

Use this checklist to see if being a MFH caregiver may be right for you:

- Complete an application and participate in an interview with the Medical Foster Home Program Coordinator and other staff as needed.
- Must be at least 21 years of age and demonstrate financial stability.
- Ensure a pleasant and homelike atmosphere within the residence.
- Willingness to provide hands-on care to Veterans with high-level care needs through the support and education of HBPC.
- Able to ensure you or an approved relief caregiver are present and available to provide 24/7 care and supervision.
- Agree to unannounced visits to the home by the MFH Coordinator to ensure the health and safety of Veterans living in the home, consistent with VA standards.

Criteria for Medical Foster **HOMES**

Use this checklist to see if your home may be appropriate:

- The home must be owned or rented by the caregiver.
- Caregiver must live in the MFH, and it must be their primary residence.
- The home must be located, designed, equipped, and maintained to ensure a home-like environment and provide safe care and supervision for all residents.
- There must be space to care for 1 – 3 Veterans in the home with separate bedrooms.
- The home must be inspected by a VA multidisciplinary team, including a Safety Officer, Nurse, MFH Coordinator, Dietician, and Rehabilitation Therapist.
- The home and caregiver must comply with all state and local licensure requirements and regulations, including construction, fire, maintenance, and sanitation.
- The home must be located within the service radius of a VA HBPC team.

You can help **Veterans.**

Become a Medical Foster Home **caregiver.**



"I don't know where I'd be without my Medical Foster Home caregiver. They gave me a home, they gave me a family."

Apply Today

Talk to the Fargo VA Medical Foster Home Program Coordinator, Kristin Swenson today to learn how you can **become a Medical Foster Home Program caregiver and give back to those who served.**

Call **701-239-3700 Extension 3940** to learn more.



Learn more about VA's Medical Foster Home program. Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone.

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