



## Eligibility and Expectations for Volunteer Hosts

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### All hosts must:

1. Be able to provide an accommodating space for the youth.
2. Be at least 21 years old.
3. Have lived in La Crosse County for at least 1 year.
4. Have renter's/homeowner's insurance and provide a copy of the policy.
5. Complete the application form, providing any relevant information.
6. Provide 3 references.
  - a. Program social worker will contact those with reference questions.
7. Authorize and pass 5 background checks.
8. Complete 2 interviews in the home with program social worker.
9. Allow program social worker to complete an assessment of the home.
10. Create emergency disaster procedure and fire escape plans.
11. Memorandum of Understanding (rules) must be agreed upon, signed, and abided by at all times by both hosts and youth.
12. Maintain a minimum of bi-weekly contact with program social worker.
13. Complete assigned training.

The above criteria need to be successfully completed in order for an applicant to be qualified as a host. Applicants need to demonstrate a strong commitment to work with a youth to build a healthy and trusting relationship, an ability to provide a safe, sanitary, stable and supportive environment and consistently demonstrate skills necessary to meet program objectives.

All applicants must be willing to adhere to all program rules and emergency procedures. They must report any changes in family composition and changes in legal status of any household members to the program social worker. If selected, applicants and others in the household must be willing to ask for assistance for difficult situations. Applicants and members of the household must not have sexual contact or any other sexual activity with or around the youth placed in their home.

Participation of applicants may be terminated at any point in the process if the program social worker, coordinator and/or Advisory Committee representative feels the applicant is unable/not ready to be a host volunteer.

### Host Home Support:

After approval and once hosting, volunteers are provided regular support groups. These meetings will provide the hosts with an opportunity to share their experiences and learn from each other, as well as to learn from ongoing trainings up to four times a year. **All involved in the program, youth and hosts, will receive ongoing support from the program social worker. The program social worker will work closely with the program coordinator to ensure that the host home receives the appropriate level of support throughout participation. Participation includes scheduled and unscheduled (if warranted) home visits which will also be a part of the support system provided.**