

Lewis County Department of Social Services is always looking for persons interested in joining our team as foster parents. We would like to take this opportunity to provide an overview of the process involved in becoming a member of our team.

Our primary goal is to provide a safe home for any child placed in our care and custody. The process begins by requiring certain checks on your ability to provide a safe home for any child placed in your home.

Upon your inquiry the following forms would be mailed to you: -

-Application for Certificate to Board Children

-Fingerprint Forms and Instructions

-Criminal Record Clearance

-State Central Register Clearance Form and Instructions -

Medical History of Prospective or Certified Foster Parents

Once these preliminary checks have been completed, multiple visits to your home by a member of our staff are required. Additional requirements include verification of your citizenship or immigration status, verification of marital status, verification of income, references, an inspection of your dwelling by a codes officer to assess physical safety, and participating in training. Training options will be discussed with you during the initial visit to your home by agency staff.

Further information is available by contacting Linda Leonard at 315 376-5403 or emailing Linda.Leonard@dfa.state.ny.us.