



Out of State Group Care

Approximately 25 Iowa youth are currently placed in out of state foster group care facilities. 18 of the 25 youth reside in two facilities, one in Nebraska and one in Missouri.

Foster group care is used for youth who are considered unable to live in a family home setting due to aggressive behaviors, social/emotional/physical disabilities, or complex needs, and are in need of a structured living environment with intense staff supervision.

Out of state foster group care is utilized when all Iowa foster group care facilities have turned down a youth's referral for service.

Common Behaviors that Lead to an Out of State Placement

- Aggression (verbal and physical) that is too intense, too frequent, and of long duration during incidents.
- Sexualized behaviors due to past history of sexual abuse and/or perpetrator behaviors.
- Social/Emotional/Physical Disabilities
- Elopement/Suicide risk.
- Delinquencies due to assault, theft, etc.
- Youth needs specialized programming to address things such as RAD/Trauma, Sex Offender/Sexualized Behaviors, Autism/Asperger's Syndrome/PDD, Brain Injury, Intellectual Disability, Eating Disorders, and Self-Injurious Behaviors.

Foster Group Care Outliers

At times, an out of state placement is warranted to keep a youth closer to their family vs. admitting the youth to an Iowa foster group care provider on the opposite side of the state of Iowa. For instance, admitting a youth to Gerard Academy in Austin, MN, when the family lives in northeast Iowa rather than admitting the youth to Clarinda Academy in southwest Iowa, or placing a Council Bluffs youth at Boys Town of Nebraska rather than Hillcrest in Dubuque, Iowa.