



VA Medical Foster Home Fact Sheet

Medical Foster Home (MFH) is an alternative to nursing home in a personal home, for selected Veterans who are no longer able to safely live independently. MFH is a type of Community Residential Care (CRC) home chosen by Veterans with serious chronic disabling conditions that meet nursing home level of care need, but prefer a non-institutional setting for their long-term care. This Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) MFH program brings together a person who is willing to open their home and serve in the role of a strong family caregiver, the VA MFH Coordinator who manages the program, and a VA interdisciplinary home care team that provides care in the MFH to the Veteran and training to the MFH caregiver. The MFH is matched with the Veteran's physical, social, and emotional needs, including supervision and protection.

The MFH coordinator finds a caregiver in the community who is willing to take a Veteran into their home and provide 24-hour supervision as well as needed personal assistance. VA provides comprehensive primary care through the interdisciplinary home care team, and the Veteran pays the caregiver. The expectation is that this is a long-term commitment, where the Veteran may live for a few years, often for the remainder of his or her life. **The Veteran pays the caregiver** approximately \$1500 to \$3000 per month (average is \$2,300) depending upon the care needs and situation.

The VA interdisciplinary home care team is an integral component of MFH, usually provided through either Home Based Primary Care (HBPC), Spinal Cord Injury Home Care (SCI-HC), or Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM). Staff from these programs makes home visits to provide home assessment, caregiver support and education, direct patient care, and oversight.

MFH follows CRC requirements for oversight, recruitment and inspection of these homes in which to place Veterans. When applicable/required in each state, any existing regulations and licensure for MFH may apply.

MFHs are generally distinguished from assisted living or other CRC homes in that, 1) the home is owned or rented by the MFH caregiver who lives in the MFH and provides personal care and supervision; 2) all Veterans in MFH meet nursing home level of care need; 3) there are no more than three residents receiving care in the MFH, including both Veterans and non-Veterans; and 4) MFH residents are enrolled in a VA interdisciplinary home care program. These factors facilitate matching suitable MFHs with the greater complexity of this subset of Veterans, achieving safe and therapeutic care in a small personal home.

The economics are advantageous to all. A Veteran choosing MFH pays for the MFH. The Veteran (both non-service connected and service connected) is assisted by maximizing Veterans Benefits and Social Security funds that the Veteran would receive regardless of living arrangement. The administrative costs for VA are about \$10 per day, the cost of HBPC, medications and supplies averages less than \$50 per day, and the Veteran pays about \$80 per day for room, board and personal assistance. One-fourth of these Veterans are eligible for fully VA-paid nursing home care, yet they choose to spend their personal funds for MFH because they greatly prefer this type of care. MFH is a welcome alternative to nursing home placement that is safe, favorable to Veterans, economically advantageous to the VA facility, and contributes to community development. MFH provides an alternative to nursing home, in a personal home, at half the cost.

At this time MFH is operational or developing at 121 VA medical centers in 45 states and territories, with annual expansion expected.

121 VA Facilities Operating or Developing the MFH Program

Albuquerque, NM
Amarillo, TX
Ann Arbor, MI
Arlington/Fort Worth, TX
Asheville, NC
Atlanta, GA
Augusta, GA
Augusta, ME
Baltimore, MD
Battle Creek, MI
Bay Pines, FL
Big Spring, TX
Biloxi, MS
Birmingham, AL
Black Hills, SD
Bonham, TX
Boise, ID
Castle Point, NY
Charleston, SC
Charleston, WV
Cheyenne, WY
Chicago @ Hines, IL
Chillicothe, OH
Cincinnati, OH
Cleveland, OH
Coatesville, PA
Columbia, SC
Columbus, OH
Dallas, TX
Danville, IL
Dayton, OH
Denver, CO
Des Moines, IA
Dublin, GA
Durham, NC
East Orange, NJ
El Paso, TX
 Fargo, ND
Fayetteville, AR
Fayetteville, NC

Fort Harrison, MT
Fort Knox, KY
Gainesville, FL
Grand Junction, CO
Greater Los Angeles, CA
Guam
Hampton, VA
Hays, KS
Honolulu, HI
Hot Springs, AR
Houston, TX
Huntington, WV
Hutchinson, KS
Indianapolis, IN
Iowa City, IA
Jackson, MS
Jacksonville, FL
Kansas City, MO
Kerrville, TX
Kingman, AZ
Lakeland, FL
Lebanon, PA
Lexington, KY
Little Rock, AR
Louisville, KY
Martinsburg, WV
Memphis, TN
Miami, FL
Minneapolis, MN
Mobile, AL
Modesto, CA
Mount Vernon, AK
Murfreesboro, TN
Muskogee, OK
Nashville, TN
New Orleans, LA
New Port Richie, FL
NY Harbor, NY
Oakwood, GA
Oklahoma City, OK

Omaha, NE
Orlando, FL
Palo Alto, CA
Pensacola, FL
Philadelphia, PA
Phoenix, AZ
Ponce Mayaguez, PR
Poplar Bluff,
Port Charlotte, FL
Portland, ME
Portland, OR
Prescott, AZ
Reno, NV
Richmond, VA
Rutherfordton, NC
Sacramento, CA
Salem, VA
Salisbury, NC
Salt Lake City, UT
San Antonio, TX
San Juan, PR
Scottsburg, IN
Sheridan, WY
Shreveport, LA
Sioux Falls, SD
St Louis @ Jefferson Barracks, MO
St Louis @ North Country, MO
St Lucie, FL
Tallahassee, FL
Tampa, FL
Temple/Waco, TX
Tomah, WI
Tucson, AZ
Tuscaloosa, AL
Tuskegee, AL
Walla Walla, WA
Washington, DC
West Palm Beach, FL
White River Junction, VT
Wichita, KS
Wilmington, DE

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