



WHAT IS IT?

Bridges to Health is a collection of community health care services and supports for certain families with children in foster care.

Would you like to have:

- ✓ Fewer crisis disruptions in your home life?
- ✓ The ability for a break when you need it?
- ✓ In-home services & supports?
- ✓ Peace of mind knowing your foster child's services will continue even if they leave your care?

Would you like your foster child to:

- ✓ Be as healthy as possible?
- ✓ Become more prepared to be an independent adult?

HOW WILL IT AFFECT US?

The services that Bridges to Health provides are to care for children within the family's support network. Children in foster care can have many people in their lives - birth families, foster and adoptive families, caregivers, providers, clinicians, courts, & advocates. Bridges to Health helps them all work together to make family life less stressful.

Bridges to Health services go along with Medicaid.

- All service providers bill Medicaid directly.
- All services may follow enrolled children anywhere in New York State if they wish to continue and remain eligible- *even if they are adopted, return to birth parent, or have another permanency plan, until they turn 21 years of age.*

Presenting...

Bridges To Health

For your child...

For your entire
family...

Bridges to Health
can make that
happen!

*Eric County Department of Social Services,
Services Division*



WHY SHOULD MY FAMILY ENROLL?

The purpose of the Bridges to Health program is to avoid, delay, or prevent medical institutional care to foster children. A child has to be in foster care at the date of enrollment. Services are available to the enrolled child as well as birth parents, foster parents, adoptive parents, and siblings.



There are built in safeguards. All families have the right to:

- ✓ Be treated with consideration and respect;
- ✓ Be informed of their rights before receiving any services;
- ✓ Retain freedom of choice in enrollment, services, providers, & all other areas
- ✓ Receive services without regard to race, color, creed, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability;
- ✓ Have services provided that support their health and welfare.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Your Erie County Department of Social Services child welfare caseworker or homefinder can advise you if your foster child meets the requirements for Bridges to Health Services.

Bridges to Health requires a documented diagnosis by a medical professional of serious emotional disturbance, developmental disability, or medical fragility. It is not for every foster family. You, your caseworker, and your medical providers can decide if it is right for you.



The long term benefits to your family will make it a worth while choice.

BRIDGES to HEALTH SERVICES:

- ✓ Health Care integration
- ✓ Family & caregiver supports
- ✓ Special needs advocacy
- ✓ Crisis avoidance & management
- ✓ Immediate crisis response
- ✓ Adaptive/assistive equipment
- ✓ Skill building
- ✓ Planned respite care
- ✓ Prevocational training
- ✓ Crisis respite
- ✓ Intensive in-home supports
- ✓ Day habilitation
- ✓ Supported employment
- ✓ Accessibility modifications

Enrollment is voluntary.

Bridges to Health is a New York State program for foster children through the Office of Child & Family Services. Children must be in foster care when beginning enrollment.

Find out more. Contact your caseworker
-OR-
www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/b2h