

Frequently Asked Questions for

Epic Life Family Care Homes (ELFCH) AFL Providers

Understanding the AFL Role:

1. **What is an Alternative Family Living (AFL) home?**
 - *It's a licensed/approved family setting where an individual with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) lives with a provider, receiving support and integration into the family and community.*
2. **Who are AFL providers?**
 - *An individual or family who opens their home to provide care, support, and a nurturing environment to an individual with IDD.*
3. **What kind of support do AFL providers give?**
 - *Assistance with daily living activities (ADLs like bathing, dressing, eating), instrumental ADLs (IADLs like meal prep, medication management, budgeting), community integration, social skills, and emotional support.*
4. **What are the benefits of becoming an AFL provider?**
 - *Impact on an individual's life, the financial stipend, ongoing support from ELFCH, and the opportunity to expand your family.*
5. **What is the difference between an AFL home and a traditional group home?**
 - *AFLs are typically smaller (1-4 individuals), more family-integrated, and the provider lives in the home, unlike staffed group homes.*

Eligibility & Requirements:

1. **Who is eligible to become an AFL provider?**
 - *General requirements: age (18+), background checks, stable living environment, commitment to providing care.*
2. **Do I need prior experience in caregiving or with IDD?**
 - *No prior experience is required, training is provided for those without it.*
3. **What are the physical requirements for an AFL home?**
 - *bedroom requirements (private/shared options), accessibility needs, safety features, and meeting state/local codes.*
4. **Are background checks required for all household members?**
 - *Confirm that all adults (and potentially teens) living in the home will undergo background checks.*
5. **Can I be an AFL provider if I work outside the home?**
 - *Yes, you can be an AFL provider even if you work outside the home, as long as appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure consistent supervision and care for the client. Many successful AFL providers manage outside employment.*
6. **Are pets allowed in the home?**
 - *Existing Pets: Must be suitable for IDD clients.*
 - *Client Needs: Allergies and preferences are prioritized for matching.*
 - *Regulations: All pets must have current North Carolina licensing and rabies vaccinations (required for dogs, cats, ferrets four months or older).*
 - *Health & Safety: Pets must be healthy, well-cared for, and non-aggressive.*
 - *Assistance Animals: Service/emotional support animals are generally **accommodated per fair housing laws.***
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The Application & Approval Process:

1. **What is the application process to become an AFL provider?**
 - *The steps: inquiry, application form, interviews, background checks, home study, training, and home inspection.*
2. **How long does the application and licensing process typically take?**
 - *Give an estimated timeline 2-4 months, depending on state requirements and applicant responsiveness.*
3. **What kind of training is required?**
 - *On the job training, and any certifications (e.g. CPR/First Aid, medication administration).*
4. **Will my home be inspected? What are they looking for?**
 - *Yes home will be inspected, A home safety inspection, covering fire safety, accessibility, cleanliness, and overall suitability.*
5. **How does Epic Life Family Care Homes match individuals with providers?**
 - *emphasizing compatibility, individual needs, provider skills, and preferences.*

Financial & Administrative:

1. **How are AFL providers compensated?**
 - *stipend structure, noting it's typically a per diem rate for services provided.*
2. **Are there separate payments for room and board?**
 - *Often reimbursed through a separate funding source (e.g., Medicaid Waivers).*
3. **What expenses are AFL providers responsible for?**
 - **Mortgage/Rent**
 - **Utilities (general household)**
 - **Home Maintenance**
 - **Property Taxes/Insurance**
 - **Room and Board (reimbursed via client funding)**
 - **Food/Meals (reimbursed via client funding)**
4. **Is the income from being an AFL provider taxable?**
 - *Advise providers to consult with a tax professional, but generally note that certain stipends may be non-taxable (though this is state-specific).*
5. **What documentation is required from AFL providers?**
 - *Mention daily logs, progress notes, incident reports, and financial documentation.*

Ongoing Support & Management:

1. **What kind of support does Epic Life Family Care Homes provide to AFL providers?**
 - *Ongoing supervision, training, crisis support, qualified professional oversight, and access to resources.*
2. **How often will Epic Life staff visit my home?**
 - *Monthly monitoring visits by qualified professionals.*
3. **What happens in an emergency or crisis situation?**
 - *Emergency protocols and 24/7 support availability.*
4. **How are conflicts or concerns addressed between the provider and the individual?**

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- AFL Hero Providers will have a Qualified Professionals (QP) to assist you with any issue that may occur.
- 5. **What if the individual's needs change over time?**
 - *Care plans are adjusted and additional support or services are provided as needs evolve.*
- 6. **Can AFL providers take vacations or time off?**
 - *Respite care temporary care options can be arrange*

