

Dear Lincoln County Community Member,

On behalf of the Lincoln branch of the Oregon Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Program and Every Child Oregon, I would like to cordially invite representatives of your business, government entity, faith or service organization to a community forum on Resource Parenting in Lincoln County. This event will be held from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at the Child Welfare office located at 119 NE 4th Street in Newport, across from Artic Circle.

There are currently 51 certified resource homes (previously called foster homes) in Lincoln County, caring for nearly 80 youth. This reflects a reduction of people seeking to foster youth in Lincoln County and mirrors statewide trends. With our local needs outpacing the resources, the Lincoln branch, in conjunction with Every Child Oregon, is seeking to build a coalition of community partners to join us in our efforts to recruit resource parents and offer support to those already caring for these youth.

At this meeting we will brainstorm ideas and identify potential opportunities for collaboration with groups Child Welfare has not historically partnered with. Our goals are to identify ways of communicating the need to recruit resource parents and strategies to better support those who are already fostering.

Participation by your organization's representative may help by drawing on their personal or professional knowledge and experience. We would like help to identify ways to communicate with smaller, or harder to reach communities. This may help increase our number of resource parents with special skills, cultural knowledge, and better reflect the diversity of Lincoln County. There may also be opportunities for collaboration around support and retention efforts resource parents.

We hope this is an opportunity to build alliances and continue to work together as a community. While there is no obligation to participate, we hope you will attend.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (541) 220-3105.

Kindest regards,

William Boldt

ODHS Child Welfare Supervisor

Lincoln Branch

(541) 220-3105

Please RXVP to brenda.r.petersen@odhs.oregon.gov