



Permit & Development Center

809 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, WI 53202 | (414) 286-8211 | milwaukee.gov/permits | DevelopmentCenterInfo@milwaukee.gov

Adult Family Homes (AFHs) refer to the following facilities licensed, operated, or permitted by the State of Wisconsin:

- A facility where three or four adults not related to the operator reside and are provided with care, treatment, or services above the level of room and board but less than nursing care.

Anyone proposing to operate an Adult Family Home (AFH) in the City of Milwaukee must be licensed by the State of Wisconsin and obtain an occupancy certificate from the Milwaukee Development Center to use the premises as an AFH.

A service provider interested in opening an Adult Family Home must first make application to the State of Wisconsin for licensing. A copy of that license specifying the address, number of clients, and client type must be provided to the Development Center staff when applying for an occupancy certificate. In lieu of a copy of the license, written notification from the Department of Health Services, Division of Quality Assurance, Bureau of Assisted Living that a license is pending may be acceptable, provided that all necessary information is contained in that notification.

For information regarding the licensing process for Adult Family Homes or to access a directory of licensed facilities, please visit the State of Wisconsin [website](#). Or call the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Quality Assurance, Bureau of Assisted Living at (414) 227-2005; their office is located at 819 N. 6th Street, Room 609B, Milwaukee, WI 53203-1606.

An occupancy certificate for an Adult Family Home can be granted only if the facility meets City and State locational requirements or is granted an exception from these requirements. State Statutes specific that AFHs may not be located within 2,500 feet of each other or a Community Living Arrangement (CLA), small foster home, group home, or group foster home unless granted special zoning permission (special use) from the City of Milwaukee, Board of Zoning Appeals. However, if it is determined by the City of Milwaukee that the facility serves clients that are disabled as defined by s. 295-201-144 of the Milwaukee Zoning Code, the 2,500 foot distance requirement does not apply and no Board of Zoning Appeals approval is required.

The Department of Neighborhood Services maintains a map of Adult Family Home locations within the City of Milwaukee. If you have a question about the location of existing AFHs in the City of Milwaukee, please visit the State of Wisconsin [website](#) or call the Development Center at (414) 286-8210.