

The Rural Deaf Student Support Program, through Hope Community Resources, is currently seeking host parents. We are in need of families who are willing to open their homes and be supportive of Deaf and Hard of Hearing students who are interested in attending the Alaska State School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the school year. For more information about our program and what you can do to become a host family please see below.

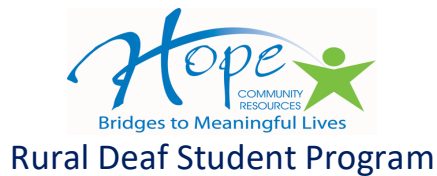
### **Rural Deaf Student Support Program:**

The Rural Deaf Student Support Program (RDSS) program provides housing, transportation, and outreach to Deaf and Hard of Hearing students, ages 18-21. This program is designed to give students, who live in rural areas of Alaska, the opportunity to attend the Alaska State School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AKSD) in Anchorage.

RDSS works in partnership with parents, host families, and AKSD to create an environment of open communication. Funded by the RDSS grant the student will travel with an escort to Anchorage from their home community, stay with the host family during the school year, and return home for winter break and at the end of the school year. A daily stipend is paid to the host parents to provide for expenses that are part of the student's support including food, clothing, activities, etc. Travel arrangements and expenses are paid through the agency. This program is designed to be a positive experience for all participants.

### **Host Family Requirements:**

- Fluent in American Sign Language (ASL)
- Knowledgeable of Deaf culture and Native culture
- Committed to the partnership with the students and their parents/families
- Meet all State of Alaska foster care requirements
- Able to provide supports for the AKSD student's health, safety, recreation, and other needs



### **Host Family Expectations:**

- Assist the student in increasing their knowledge of ASL and Deaf culture by encouraging an active involvement in the community, as well as Native culture when applicable
- Provide a caring family environment while the student is away from their home community
- Assist with homework and teach daily living skills
- Ensure the student has activities outside of school which reflect their interests
- Maintain regular communication between the student and their parents/family
- Become a licensed foster care home through Hope Community Resources licensing department.
- Attend CPR training and obtain a TB/PPD screening through Hope Community Resources. Attend Pressley Ridge Therapeutic Foster Parent Training Certification Program as determined necessary.
- Maintain a foster care license, including annual training requirements

If you have any questions or would like to become a host parent, please contact:

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