

# YOU CAN be the difference

"I know people might think I'm grown but I need a family too."

- Foster Youth, age 17

"I just want to be a regular kid and do what kids my age do and live in a family."

- Foster Youth, age 13

"Why don't foster parents want teens? We are actually very cool!"

- Foster Youth, age 15



Who believed in **YOU** as a teen when no one else did?

Who never let **YOU** down as a teen?

Who saw **YOUR** potential as a teen?

**There are teens in your area who need that SPECIAL PERSON just like you did.**

## CONTACT US

Email - [LouisianaFosters@la.gov](mailto:LouisianaFosters@la.gov)

Visit - [www.louisianafosters.la.gov](http://www.louisianafosters.la.gov)

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# BE A FOSTER CAREGIVER FOR TEENS



## Do I have to be married?

No. You can be married, single, widowed or divorced.

## Can I have children of my own?

Yes! Our teens will benefit from having a relationship with all members of your family.

## Can the teens be involved in community activities?

Absolutely! We want our teens to be involved in the typical activities of other youth their age: sports, music, volunteering, after-school jobs, friends, faith-based activities, etc.

## What needs do the teens have?

Like any teen, they need acceptance, encouragement and guidance. In addition, teens in foster care have experienced trauma in their lives and need help trusting again, building relationships, and gaining positive self-esteem and confidence.

## How do I get started?

1. Contact us! Visit [www.louisianafosters.la.gov](http://www.louisianafosters.la.gov).
2. Attend an orientation.
3. Complete an application.
4. Attend a free preparation training.
5. Work with DCFS to complete your home study.
6. Accept a placement of a teen!



## WHO ARE THE TEENS?

The teens, ages 12-17, are youth who cannot remain in their home due to abuse, neglect or conflict. These youth are no different from any other teens. They attend the same schools and have the same extracurricular activities and interests as other youth in your community.

Being a teen doesn't mean you do not need a family. It is even more important to have guidance and stability to navigate into adulthood.

Young adults, ages 18-21, need your help too. These young adults have spent the last few years in foster care and are in need of a "host home" to support them while they continue their education and prepare to live independently.

## YOU ARE NOT ALONE

DCFS wants to ensure you and the youth have support, services and resources when needed.

### Sample of Supports for You

- Ongoing training
- Local support groups
- Dedicated home development worker
- Financial assistance
- Support resources at [www.louisianafosters.la.gov](http://www.louisianafosters.la.gov)

### Sample of Supports for Teens

- A dedicated case manager
- Mental health/health services
- Educational support
- Website resources