



Department of
Children & Family Services
Building a Stronger Louisiana

Thank you for your interest in providing support for your local foster care community!

What is Foster Care?

Foster Care is a protective service provided to children/youth in the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). It provides temporary care when a child/youth must live apart from their parents due to child abuse, neglect, or special family circumstances.

The Foster Care program offers services to birth parents to support the child/youth's safe return to the family home. If reunification with a birth parent is not possible, the agency works toward identifying a permanent caregiver for the child/youth.



Child Welfare Specialist



When a child/youth enters foster care, their family is assigned to a Foster Care Caseworker. The Foster Care Caseworker's responsibilities include:

- Serving as the point of contact for the birth parents, foster caregivers, and children/youth for each DCFS case;
- Working with the birth family to address issues that led to the child/youth entering foster care;
- Providing services to support the child/youth's reunification with their birth parents;
- Ensuring that the child/youth's needs are met while in foster care.

Foster Caregiver



The responsibilities of foster caregivers include:

- Providing for the daily needs and care of children/youth who have experienced abuse and/or neglect;
- Creating a family-like environment for the child;
- Offering supervision, discipline, guidance and nurturing;
- Providing care for children/youth 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the role of foster caregivers and the steps to becoming certified.



HOW ORGANIZATIONS CAN GET INVOLVED



Create an organizational fund to support:

Sponsorships for extracurricular activities for children and youth in foster care; contributions towards foster family excursions to the movies, aquarium, etc; grocery gift cards for local families.

Establish a program to accept and distribute donations of:

- School supplies
- Sports equipment
- Diapers, wipes, formula, etc.
- Birthday gifts and supplies
- Christmas gifts
- Gently used children's bedroom furniture
- Gently used baby gear, such as strollers and highchairs

Collaborate with your team and DCFS about potential supportive service offerings to the local foster care community:

- Meal train for families in need of support
- Free lawn care services for foster families
- Grocery pick-up and delivery
- House cleaning and organizing support
- Life skills training for teens
- Music lessons
- Mentoring
- After school tutoring
- Foster Parents' Night Out Event

Spread the word about foster care needs through:

- Social Media
- Hosting informational events
- Inviting staff member to speak to your employees, volunteers, or members
- Distributing DCFS informational materials to the public

Scan the QR code to access digital flyers and materials.



DCFS OFFICES

Each parish in Louisiana is served by a local DCFS Child Welfare office. Cases are typically assigned based on where the child/youth was residing at the time they entered foster care.

Scan the QR code to find your local DCFS Child Welfare Office.

