



BE THERE

for your Community



Department of
Children & Family Services
Building a Stronger Louisiana

Community-based organizations are uniquely able to meet local needs. You can **BE THERE** in one or more of the following ways.



Connect through Community Support Workshops

Businesses, churches, and other organizations across the state partner with DCFS to offer assistance and support to birth families, children in foster care, and foster families. DCFS offers quarterly meetings in each region to share about current resources and local foster care needs for anyone interested in providing support. Scan the QR code on the last page to sign up for a Community Support Workshop.



Support Foster Caregiver Recruitment

Certified foster homes are needed in every community in Louisiana to allow children and youth in foster care to remain in their hometowns and maintain important connections. You can **BE THERE** by helping DCFS spread the word about the need for foster caregivers in your community. Scan the QR code on the last page to access ready-to-use recruitment materials to share via email and social media.



Become a foster caregiver through the following steps:

- Attend a virtual orientation
- Complete fingerprinting and required background checks
- Participate in pre-service training
- Submit an application and supporting documents
- Work with DCFS to complete your home study
- Become certified and accept your first placement!



Unite with others

Identify others within your church, business, or organization who would be interested in providing support for your local foster care community. Consider how you can use your organization's existing services, programs, or ministries in partnership with DCFS to meet local foster care support needs.

Here are some examples of how churches, businesses, and organizations in Louisiana have supported their local foster care communities:

- Providing necessities such as diapers, wipes, and gently used baby gear for birth families and foster families
- Collecting Christmas gifts for children and youth in foster care
- Offering a meal train for foster families when they welcome a new child into their home
- Hosting a life skills training event for teens
- Hosting Foster Parent's Night Out for foster caregivers
- Offering a discounted rate for paid services for foster caregivers and children/youth in foster care
- Providing free after-school tutoring for children and youth in foster care

Connect with DCFS

Service gaps can vary by each region of the state. Learn more about the foster care needs in your community by completing the online form and connecting with a DCFS representative in your region.

