



What is FOSTER CARE?

When a child or youth isn't safe at home because of neglect, abuse or conflict, the child or youth may temporarily live with another family member, family friend, or foster caregiver.



3,672

children and youth
are in foster care



178

young adults are in
extended foster care



Louisiana only has

1,613

certified foster homes



Foster caregivers are:

- ♥ Married, single, widowed, or divorced
- ♥ Relatives, close family friends, or teachers
- ♥ Already parents to biological children (or not!)



Foster children and youth require:

- ♥ Their daily needs met, love, support, guidance, encouragement and nurturing
- ♥ Help building self-esteem, acceptance, trust, and confidence



Biological families work to:

- ♥ Maintain a relationship with the foster family with the ultimate goal of reunification.
- ♥ Find support and services from DCFS and other agencies so their children can return home.



Steps to Becoming a Foster Caregiver

1. Visit www.dcfsls.gov/foster to learn more!
2. Attend a virtual orientation
3. Complete an application
4. Attend free pre-service training
5. Work with DCFS to complete your home study
6. Accept a placement!



Additional Requirements

- 21 years of age or older
- Financially able to meet own family's needs
- Good physical, emotional and mental health
- Adequate space in home for additional children
- Pass state and federal criminal clearances
- Pass child protection clearances



Support for Foster Caregivers, Children, and Youth

- DCFS offers training, dedicated case workers, financial assistance, online support, mental health/health services, and educational support
- DCFS also partners with support organizations and community partners to provide additional resources for foster caregivers, children and youth