



F.a.c.e.s.
Foster a Child to Excel in Society

The FACES Foster care awareness campaign

May 2021

Foster Family Resources

Handy guide on how to become a foster parent

WHO ARE FOSTER PARENTS?

According to the [Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies](#), a foster parent(s) are:

- People who want to parent
- Single people
- Couples
- People who have a desire to contribute to the well-being of children and youth in their community
- People from many different religious backgrounds
- People who are from all cultural backgrounds

HOW DO I BECOME A FOSTER PARENT?

The Centre intégré de Santé et de Services sociaux (CISSS, formerly the youth centers) of each region are responsible for the recognition of foster resources in Quebec. Want to dedicate time and energy to a child or teenager? You are able to give him tenderness, attention and care according to the child's condition? You can offer a stable, soothing, safe and stimulating environment in a short, medium or long term? Are you ready to collaborate with the child's natural parents? If you answered yes to these questions and would like to go further in the process, you must begin by submitting an application to the CIUSSS / CISSS Resource Accreditation Program in your area.

First, in order to verify that your project is feasible, the evaluation service of this program will generally take the following steps:

- Assessment of your capabilities and abilities;
- Drawing up your portrait on several aspects, especially concerning your family dynamics;
- Defining the characteristics of the children you can accommodate;
- Verification of your criminal record;
- Visit your home or dwelling to ensure that it meets physical standards.

The following aspects will be considered:

- Will the child be welcomed by a single person, a couple or a family?
- Do you have the physical space to accommodate a child? Does your living environment meet certain standards of safety, hygiene and comfort?
- Will you be able to consider the child entrusted to you has a member of your family?
- Do you believe in the potential of the child to develop physically and intellectually?



If your project is accepted, the following services may be offered to you:

- Documentation and training to better understand the child's situation and difficulties;
- Support and advice during periodic meetings with the facilitator-child support;
- Support during meetings between the child and his / her natural family;
- Access to a non-taxable financial remuneration to cover the expenses of each child entrusted to you.

STEPS

Each institution must specify in its recruitment program the steps to follow to become a foster family, the information to send to the applicants and the information that they must provide to the institution. You can visit the CIUSSS / CISSS website that concerns you to see the details of the recruitment.

The information gathered should help to select candidates who can ensure the interests and rights of the users and their families. They must also help to achieve the purpose of the placement, while respecting the people who offer their services.

To begin the process to become a foster family, here is the link for each region:

[CIUSS Quebec](#)

[CIUSS Maruicie Centre-du-Quebec](#)

[CIUSS Batshaw](#)

[CISSS Outaouais](#)

[CISSS Abitibi-Temiscamingue](#)

[CISSS Cote-Nord](#)

[CISSS Gaspesie/Les Iles](#)

[CISSS Laval](#)

[CISSS Laurentides](#)

Depending on the province, a foster care applicant must complete the following requirements to provide foster care:

- Complete a SAFE (Structured Analysis, Family Evaluation) home study.
- The home study can be quite invasive. Not only do they study your home for potential threats and hazards, but it also studies your family and your extended family. You will also be asked to talk about your parenting skills and your family history
- Complete PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education) pre-service.

Is a comprehensive 27 hour educational program that has been considered to be essential and mandatory training for those families who are interested in becoming foster or adoptive parents in Ontario.



It is important for foster and adoptive parents to be prepared to understand and meet the needs of children in the foster care system, and be aware of the challenges they may experience. This must be completed before any children(s) are placed in your home.

Once these steps are completed - your application is approved, your home study is completed successfully and approved, and you have completed and successfully passed your training, the agency will approve your home to be a foster home or provide you with a license to be a foster parent(s).

Regarding placement, it is important to note that there are different types of placement. You may be open to all or just to some.

These include emergency foster placement, relief foster placement, short-term foster placement, long-term foster placement, or foster-to-adopt placement. If a placement comes up, you will get a call from a social worker who will give a few details about a child who is in need of a foster home. You will have the opportunity to accept the foster placement or decline if you feel the placement would not be successful in your home. Once children are placed in your home, it is your responsibility to meet their needs, shower them with love, and accept them with open arms until the time comes for them to move on.

Foster parents work with Children's Aid staff as part of a team to develop and support a plan of care for each child or youth in care. The preferred plan is to reunite a child or youth with their family. When this is not possible, the plan may include exploring alternative permanency options such as adoption, kinship care, customary care, legal custody by a family member or foster parent, or an independent living situation. Foster parents can provide stability and a caring home that encourages a child or youth's growth and well-being.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENT IN CANADA, PLEASE VISIT:

- Ontario [Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies](#)
- Alberta [Alberta Foster and Kinship Association](#)
- British Columbia [BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations](#)
[Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents](#)
- Manitoba [The Kinship & Foster Family Network of Manitoba](#)
- New Brunswick [New Brunswick Foster Families Association](#)
- Newfoundland and Labrador [Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association](#)
- Northwest Territories [Foster Family Coalition of Northwest Territories](#)
- Nova Scotia [Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia](#)
- Saskatchewan [Saskatchewan Foster Families Association \(SFFA\)](#)
- Québec [Fédération des familles d'accueil et ressources intermédiaires du Québec](#)
- Yukon [Yukon Health and Social Services](#)
- Prince Edward Island [Government Family and Human Services](#)
- Nunavut [Government Department of Family Services](#)



FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO ADOPT IN CANADA, PLEASE VISIT:

[Adoption Council of Canada](#)

[Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption](#)

[North American Council on Adoptable Children \(NACAC\)](#)

[Evan B. Donaldson Institute on Adoption](#)

Ontario	Adopt Ontario
Alberta	Alberta Human Services
British Columbia	Adoptive Families Association of B.C.
Manitoba	Government of Manitoba
New Brunswick	New Brunswick Department of Social Development
Newfoundland and Labrador	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Children, Seniors, and Social Development
Northwest Territories	Northwest Territories Department of Health and Social Services
Nova Scotia	Nova Scotia Department of Community Services
Saskatchewan	Adoption Support Centre of Saskatchewan
Québec	Government of Québec English
Yukon	Yukon Health and Social Services
Prince Edward Island	Prince Edward Island Department of Family and Human Services
Nunavut	Nunavut Department of Children & Family Services

CANADIAN FOSTER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

[Canadian Foster Family Association](#) works in collaboration with the provincial and territorial foster family associations and other national organizations involved with children & youth in care to enhance foster care across Canada.

For more information, contact Tammy Roberts, Secretary of the Canadian Foster Family Association.
Phone: (867) 766-3326 (this is a shared number so please state that you are calling about CFFA business)
Email: secretary@canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca

[LEAGUE OF ONTARIO FOSTER FAMILIES](#)

It is a provincial voice for the protection, support, education, and advocacy for all Foster Family Care Providers.

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PARENTING CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

According to the [Children's Aid Foundation of Canada](#), 30,000 children and youth in Canada's child welfare system are eligible for permanent adoption but only 2,000 are adopted each year.

For children and youth who have experienced the traumas of abuse and neglect, forming strong bonds and finding comfort with new people can be a struggle. Open your home as a foster or adoptive parent to provide comfort and support for kids and youth in care.

The support of a caring foster or adoptive family provides many benefits for children and youth, including a sense of safety and stability, improvements to their overall health and well-being, and help to overcome their past traumas so that they may build their own strength and resilience. It is important to note that fostering children(s) comes with some hardships and wonderful memories as you give children the opportunity to have some routine and normalcy in their lives. Foster children range in age from infancy to 18 years and come from diverse cultural, spiritual, and family backgrounds. Some foster children are teenagers as others are siblings. As a foster parent you do have a saying about the children(s) that you are willing to care for (e.g., gender, age, special needs, sibling groups, etc.).

TYPES OF FOSTERING

- **REGULAR FOSTERING:** This makes up the majority of foster parent(s)/families who commit to children of a variety of ages and needs for as long as they are in care.
- **RESPIRE FOSTERING:** Respite homes give relief to other foster parents for weekends or on a short term basis.
- **RECEIVING HOMES:** These families provide contracted 24 hour emergency placements for children ages 6-16 years of age. These placements are usually for up to 30 days.
- **PARENT-OPERATED RECEIVING:** Foster parents reside in a house provided by the Agency with the same expectations as contract receiving.
- **TREATMENT FOSTER:** These homes are designated for children with special treatment needs. It is required that there is at least one stay-at-home parent or one parent available to the child at all times. The foster parent(s)/families are supported by mandatory paid respite and vacation because of the high needs of the children. These foster parent(s)/families are required to attend specialized training and are supported by, and are expected to participate as part of, a treatment team.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Foster Parents are given a tax free daily per diem that varies according to the needs of the child(-ren) and the skills and expectations placed on the foster parent(s). Daily per diems range from \$29.30 (regular foster care) to \$100 (treatment foster care), as well as incentives for length of service and specialized training.



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