

Our Mission

Gulf Coast Teaching Family Services (GCTFS) is now doing business as Gulf Coast Social Services (GCSS). We are a private, non-profit corporation founded in 1983 in Louisiana to provide comprehensive human service programs for Louisiana citizens, children and adults, with various physical and mental challenges.

Our mission is to empower people with mental, physical, behavioral, and other challenges to improve the quality of their lives and to live as independently as possible in the community.

We operate seven regional offices located in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Hammond, Houma, Lafayette, Lake Charles, and New Orleans.

Areas Served

Baton Rouge

5850 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

phone: (225) 201-0696
toll free: (800) 766-2291
fax: (225) 201-1792

Houma

(Main Office)
320 Progressive Boulevard
Houma, LA 70360

phone: (985) 851-4488
toll free: 1-800-947-7645
fax: (985) 872-0985

Houma

(Satellite Office)
2509 Petroleum Drive
Houma, LA 70363

phone: (985) 853-1445
toll free: (800) 831-2630
fax: (985) 853-0709

New Orleans

401 Whitney Avenue,
Suite 104
Gretna, LA 70056

phone: (504) 361-9950
toll free: (800) 947-5432
fax: (504) 362-9695

Therapeutic Foster Care



Personal Care. Quality Outcomes.

For more information, visit our website at
www.gctfs.org

or contact us at info@gctfs.org

 **Gulf Coast
Social Services**

Program Description

The Therapeutic Foster Care program provides homes with specially trained foster parents to children that have been abused, neglected, or experiencing special family circumstances requiring out-of home care. The program also serves children with physical, medical, and/or developmental challenges. Children needing foster care range from infancy to 18 years old. Placement in foster homes may be short-term (a few days) or long-term (several months) depending on the situation.

A professionally trained staff provides educational and social services to the children and their families.

Foster parents' responsibilities include:

- Providing for the daily care of the child
- Ensuring the continued growth and development of the child
- Building a positive, supportive relationship with the child's family
- Following all of the DSS (Department of Social Services) and OCS (Office Of Community Services) guidelines for family foster homes

Becoming a Foster Parent

Requirements to become a foster parent:

- Be at least 21 years of age, but no older than 60
- Two-parent families are preferred, but single parents are accepted if they have at least one certified alternate caregiver
- At least one caregiver must be available at all times (flexible job)
- Meet minimum education requirements:
 - Have a College Degree, or
 - High School Diploma, two years college with two years experience in specialized field, or
 - Four years work experience/parenting of children with special needs
- Be financially stable (be able to meet own's family's needs)
- Be in good physical, emotional, and mental condition
- Live in a home with adequate space to accommodate an additional child
- Be able to pass state and federal criminal clearances
- Be able to attend initial and on-going training
- Able to participate in a home study process
- Participate in all meetings (medical, psychological, etc.)
- Cooperate with family visits
- Keep accurate records (monthly report of activities, incidents)
- Work directly with GCSS worker, OCS worker, school and other identified caregivers
- Participate in the devising of child's treatment plan and the implementation of identified goals and objectives

Services Provided

- 8 hours per month of behavior consulting, including three face to face visits with the foster family
- Pre-service and on-going training for the foster parents
- Participation in family team conferences, school conferences, and other meetings regarding the child/children
- Assessment and facilitation of the need for therapy for the child/children
- Assistance with the child/children's transportation needs
- Coordination of the development of a treatment plan
- 24-hour crisis on-call back-up

