

ANNEX A – FACTSHEET ON ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Key Data

As of Dec 2024, about 3 in 5 of teenagers (aged 13 years and above) in out-of-home care were in residential care, while only 1 in 5 were in foster care and 1 in 5 were in kinship care. We encourage more families to step forward to foster teenagers and provide them with a nurturing family environment.

A Enhanced Support for Fostering Teenagers

Foster parents caring for teenagers aged 13 years old and above¹ will receive the increased fostering allowance starting from January of the year the foster child turns 13.

Increased Fostering Allowance Rates

	Existing Fostering Allowance Rates	Enhanced Fostering Allowance Rates
Foster Child aged below 13 years (Level 1)	\$1,100	\$1,100
Foster Child aged 13 years and above (Level 1)		[New] \$1,300
Foster Child with special/medical needs aged below 13 years (Level 2)	\$1,500	\$1,500
Foster Child with special/medical needs aged 13 years and above (Level 2)		[New] \$1,800

MSF will also partner with our appointed Fostering Agencies to improve casework support for foster parents. Fostering Agencies' caseworkers can attend specialised training conducted by the Social Service Institute to deepen their understanding of adolescent development so they can better support foster parents and teenagers. This complements existing training provided to foster parents, which equip them with the knowledge and skills to better understand the needs of adolescents, including areas such as youth mental well-being, managing challenging behaviours, and navigating online risks.

B Expansion of Fostering Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility criteria for foster parents have been expanded to be more inclusive. Applicants from all income and educational backgrounds are now welcome to apply to

¹ The Children and Young Persons Act (CYPA) protects any person under the age of 18 years from abuse or neglect. Children in out-of-home care (i.e., foster, kinship and residential care) remain in care until 18 years old. Youths aged 18 years old and above may remain in out-of-home care if their Voluntary Care Agreement or Court Order remains valid between ages 18 to 21 years old.

become foster parents. All applicants will continue to undergo a comprehensive and holistic assessment to ensure they can provide a safe, stable, and loving environment for foster children.

The updated eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Be at least 25 years old
- Be financially stable and medically fit to care for children
- Be married and apply together as a couple
- Commit to provide a child-safe and nurturing home environment for the children in their care. This includes using positive and respectful care-giving practices, and refraining from the use of physical punishment such as caning or hitting

ANNEX B – FACTSHEET ON FOSTERING OPEN HOUSE

A Fostering Open House

This year's annual Fostering Open House is held at the Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre on 23 August 2025. Organised by MSF and our Fostering Agencies, the event is open to members of public to learn more about fostering and how they can provide a safe and nurturing home for children in need.

This year's Fostering Open House features an interactive theatre segment that is inspired by a former foster youth's journey, a personal sharing session from the former foster youth, sharing sessions from foster parents, engagement with human library profiles, and free-and-easy interactive activities. Participants will hear first-hand sharing from foster parents, learn about the support provided by foster care professionals, and find out how they can make a difference in the lives of children in need.

B Fostering Scheme

MSF administers the Fostering Scheme for children and youth aged below 18 years, who have experienced abuse, neglect or abandonment and require alternative care arrangement. Foster care is a temporary arrangement which allows children to benefit from a nurturing home environment that facilitates their growth and enables them to fulfil their potential by providing safety, stability and shelter. The goal is to reunite the foster children with their birth families, once their birth parents are assessed to be able to care for them safely.

As of December 2024, there were 530 foster children and 633 foster families. MSF is always looking for more families to step forward as foster parents so that more children can benefit from family-based care. Studies have shown that family-based care offers more personalised, stable and responsive caregiving, vital for a child's social, emotional, and mental well-being. MSF and our partners are committed to supporting foster parents in caring for foster children, and we hope to continue increasing the pool of foster families.

Families who are interested in fostering can find out more details and submit their application through the MSF website at www.msf.gov.sg/fostering.

C Fostering Agencies

MSF has appointed five Fostering Agencies (FAs) – Boys' Town Fostering Services, Epworth Foster Care, Gracehaven Fostering, Muhammadiyah Association (Projek Sinar Ihsan), PPIS Oasis – to support and grow foster care in the community. The agencies also organise outreach initiatives to raise awareness on the need for more foster parents.

Boys' Town Fostering Service (Boys' Town)

Boys' Town Fostering Services (BTFS) was appointed by MSF as a Fostering Agency in 2015. In 2019, BTFS expanded its services to support children in kinship care. BTFS supports children in care to achieve their potential through a stable, safe family environment that meets their needs.

BTFS resides under Boys' Town, a charity that provides residential care, fostering, adventure therapy, youth outreach and other community and school-based programmes and services. Their beneficiaries are children and youth up to the age of 21.

Epworth Foster Care (Epworth)

Epworth Community Services was appointed by MSF in 2015 to set up the first Fostering Agency in Singapore, Epworth Foster Care. Their mission is to provide quality care and

support to foster parents, and connect them to a wider network of resources. Epworth Foster Care aims to ensure that foster families are well equipped to ensure the well-being and holistic development of foster children in a safe, nurturing and caring family environment.

Gracehaven Fostering (The Salvation Army)

Gracehaven Fostering was appointed by MSF as a Fostering Agency in 2017. Gracehaven Fostering collaborates with foster families to provide a safe and secure home for foster children and young persons who require care and protection.

Gracehaven Fostering is a part of The Salvation Army (TSA) which aims to serve the underprivileged in the community. It runs a network of social services, including youth and children services, family support services, services for families who are incarcerated, childcare and student care centres, a nursing home, and day centres for seniors. TSA runs residential services as well as family reunification work to support vulnerable children and families.

PPIS Oasis (Persatuan Pemudi Islam Singapura Oasis)

PPIS Oasis was established to be appointed as a Fostering Agency by MSF in 2017. It is part of Persatuan Pemudi Islam Singapura (PPIS) or Singapore Muslim Women's Association, which is a non-profit organisation focused on community services. PPIS runs three core community services, namely Family Services, Student Care and Early Childhood Education.

PPIS Oasis offers fostering programmes in their childcare centres island wide. Through casework management, therapeutic and support services, the centre hopes to facilitate the fostering journey of both foster children and parents, as well as to reach out to more aspiring foster parents through recruitment efforts.

Projek Sinar Ihsan (Muhammadiyah Association)

Muhammadiyah Association (Projek Sinar Ihsan) was officially appointed as a Fostering Agency by MSF in 2019. Together with other community partners and MSF, Muhammadiyah Association (Projek Sinar Ihsan) hopes to encourage more families to step forward to care for the children in need.

Muhammadiyah Association has also been running Muhammadiyah Welfare Home (an institution of Muhammadiyah Association) since 1989. The Home has been providing holistic rehabilitation programmes to reintegrate more than 1,000 children and youths-at-risk to their families and the community.

ANNEX C: TRANSLATED TERMS

Keywords (English)	Chinese	Malay	Tamil
Fostering Open House	寄养计划开放日/寄养家庭开放日	Rumah Terbuka Skim Ibu Bapa Titipan	வளர்ப்பு பராமரிப்பு நிகழ்வு
Out-of-Home Care	家外关护/ 住家外托管	Penjagaan Luar Rumah	வீட்டிற்கு வெளியே பராமரிப்பு
Fostering Scheme	寄养计划	Skim Keluarga Titipan MSF	வளர்ப்புப் பெற்றோர் திட்டம்
Foster Parent	寄养父母	Ibu Bapa Titipan	வளர்ப்புப் பெற்றோர்
Foster Child	寄养孩子/ 寄养儿童	Anak titipan	வளர்ப்புப் பிள்ளை
Foster Care Worker	寄养服务官	Pegawai Penjagaan Titipan	வளர்ப்புப் பெற்றோர் அதிகாரி
Fostering Allowance	寄养津贴	Elaun Penjagaan Titipan	வளர்ப்புப் செலவுத்தொகை
Fostering Agency	寄养支援服务社	Agensi Skim Keluarga Titipan	வளர்ப்பு பெற்றோர் ஆதரவு நிலையம்

ANNEX D: SUITE OF SUPPORT FOR FOSTER FAMILIES

This is a non-exhaustive list of support for foster families. Eligibility for subsidies and schemes is subject to citizenship criteria and other assessments by the respective agencies. Foster parents may contact their foster care worker to find out more.

SN	Subsidy/Scheme	Summary of Benefits
General Support		
1.	Support from Foster Care Workers and Professionals	A Foster Care Worker is attached to every foster family to provide guidance and support. MSF officers and social service professionals provide regular supervision and support. Where needed, other professionals such as MSF psychologists, counsellors, educational, and medical professionals may also be roped in to support the foster child.
2.	Fostering Allowance	Monthly allowance to defray the out-of-pocket costs of caring for a foster child.
3.	Foster Parent Training	Curated training courses by the Social Service Institute to equip foster parents with skills needed to care for foster children.
4.	Emergency Hotline	In case of emergency, foster parents will be able to obtain immediate support via a 24/7 fostering emergency hotline run by their fostering agency.
5.	Respite Care	Foster parents who are unable to care for the foster child for brief periods of time (e.g. when on overseas trips) may request for respite care from another foster parent during this period.
6.	Peer Support	Self-facilitated support groups are available to foster parents. They provide an avenue for foster parents to share their experiences and best practices with one another, and offer a source of emotional support and encouragement.
7.	Support from Volunteers	Foster children can be matched with volunteers for befriending.
Healthcare		
8.	Healthcare Subsidies	Healthcare subsidies cover medical treatment at public healthcare institutions (polyclinics, public hospitals and public specialty centres). Foster children also receive subsidies at participating CHAS General Practitioners and dental clinics.
Education and Care		
9.	Infant Care/Child Care Subsidies and Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA)	<p>After subsidies and CCFA, foster parents can pay a flat monthly co-payment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. \$200 for full-day infant care and childcare b. \$150 for half-day infant care and childcare <p>Applies generally to Anchor Operator and Partner Operator run childcare centres. The fostering allowance is sized to cover the co-payment.</p>
10.	Student Care Fee Assistance	Flat monthly co-payment of \$80 at MSF-registered student care centres. The fostering allowance is sized to cover the co-payment.

SN	Subsidy/Scheme	Summary of Benefits
11.	Financial assistance for Special Education (SPED) schools	Foster children attending SPED schools with higher fees than that covered by the fostering allowance may apply for financial assistance through the SPED schools.
12.	Government bursaries for Post-Secondary Education Institutions (PSEIs)	Bursaries for foster children attending publicly-funded PSEIs (ITE, polytechnics, autonomous universities, and arts institutions).
Disability		
13.	Disability Schemes and Services	Subsidies for the following services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Government-funded Early Intervention (EI) Services b. Home-Based Care Services (HBCS) c. Sheltered Workshops (SW) d. Day Activity Centres (DAC) e. Assistive Technology Fund (ATF) f. Enabling Transport Subsidy (ETS) g. Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS)
Others		
14.	Migrant Domestic Worker Levy Concession	Foster parents can qualify for a concessionary levy rate when caring for a foster child as birth parents do, if they meet the Ministry of Manpower's qualifying criteria (e.g. living with a child aged below 16 or a person with disabilities).
15.	Childcare Leave	Foster parents enjoy the same childcare leave benefits for their foster children as birth parents do under the Child Development Co-Savings Act and Employment Act. With the leave benefits, foster parents who work can utilise the leave to take care of their foster children, e.g. to bring their foster children to see a doctor when they are ill.