

Alternative Family Care (AFC) Program

Caregiver Fact Sheet

About the program

- This is a financial support program. It offers a temporary, less intrusive option to support children who are not in the Minister's care to maintain their existing family relationships while there is Child Protection involvement.
- The program supports case plans when the goal is to reunite the child with their family. Parental support of the care arrangement and involvement in the case plan is expected.
- Income through the AFC Program is not taxable by the CRA, does not affect Guaranteed Income Supplement, and does not impact the child or caregiver's eligibility for other social programs, such as Income Assistance, the Caregiver Benefit, and the Child Care Subsidy.

How much financial support is available?

- First month: \$500 for the first child and \$250 per additional child (\$1000 maximum)
- Regular monthly amount: \$250 for each child thereafter (no maximum)
- Other expenses are considered on a case-by-case basis.

How long does this financial support last?

- Up to 18 months, or until the child is reunified with their parents, the child protection case closes, or the child is transitioned into another care arrangement.

What other supports are available?

- Reach out to your social worker with questions. Expect regular contact and visits with your social worker.
- Discuss with your social worker what other community supports may be right for you and the child you are caring for.

Need immediate support outside of regular business hours?

- Provincial After Hours Response Team: 1-866-922-2434
- Mi'kmaw Family & Children's Services of Nova Scotia After Hours:
 - Mainland communities: 1-800-263-8686
 - Cape Breton communities: 1-800-263-8300

What else do I need to know about becoming a caregiver?

- Everyone 12 years or older in your home must either submit or undergo several background checks.
- You must complete an application form and sign an AFC Agreement.