



Treatment Foster Care Program

Ranch Ehrlo Society

Helping children reach their full potential in a caring, family environment.



About the program

Ranch Ehrlo Society's Treatment Foster Care (TFC) is a dynamic family and community-based program for children whose needs require intensive care and treatment outside of their own homes. The program provides homes to children, ages 6 to 15, who require a more intensive level of care than traditional foster care, but less restrictive than residential treatment.

TFC is not designed to provide long-term foster service. The program also serves families of children placed in the program and works to help support healthy relationships, thus promoting family reunification or helping to find alternative placements if that is not possible.

Treatment is individualized and flexible. Trained foster care parents provide the care in their own homes and are supported by qualified program staff. Clinical assessment, treatment, and educational services are provided as required. Treatment foster parents receive training, supervision, and support from qualified program staff including respite services, in-home supports, and 24 hour on-call support if necessary.

Foster parent recruitment process

TFC program is a unique collaboration between Ranch Ehrlo and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services. The Ranch recruits foster parents and the Ministry completes the home study and approval process.

The ministry uses the PRIDE foster parent training model, which integrates the home study and evaluation process with core training. Once a home is approved, the Ranch contacts the foster family and provides additional training and support to families throughout the process.

Once a treatment foster home is officially approved by the Ministry, a legal service contract is signed between the Ranch Ehrlo Society and the foster parents detailing expectations about how the home is managed - including the quality of the environment, food, clothing, recreation, and related areas. Further, the contract details what the agency provides relative to respite, crisis support services, on-call procedures, and other considerations.

Youth we provide services to

TFC serves children with a variety of complex problems including behavioural, emotional, and developmental issues compounded by the long-term consequences of trauma, neglect, separation, and loss.

Children referred to the program have the ability to participate in a family setting without posing any risk to themselves, other children in the home, or the community. Placement in TFC is not considered appropriate if the child exhibits:

- A level of acting out aggression that poses an uncontrollable threat to other members of the family or community.
- A level of developmental, mental, or physical disability that requires an alternative treatment resource.
- The need for hospitalization due to either medical or psychiatric reasons.
- Presents a danger to themselves or others without 24-hour wake supervision and support.

Matching families

The Ranch adheres to best practice standards regarding the placement and matching of children to appropriate families. Before a child is formally admitted to a home, three pre-placements visits (including at least one overnight visit) are scheduled by the TFC team. The visits are followed with a final placement decision which takes into account the perspective of all parties, including children, foster parents, and birth family.

Living environment

In keeping with Ranch Ehrlo standards, the Treatment Foster Care Program ensures all foster parents are providing a nurturing and safe home for the children that are placed in their care. This includes providing healthy food and snacks, providing timely medical care, and maintaining clothing.

They ensure a well maintained, safe, and clean environment. Each youth has their own bedroom.

Smoke alarms are hard-wired in and located on every floor, as well as in the child's bedroom. Fire extinguishers are located on each floor and situated near potential hazards. Both are mandatory.

Each home participates in an annual home safety check to ensure that all standards are being maintained.



Share your love, share your home

Make a difference and become a Treatment Foster Parent

Responsibilities

Treatment foster parents provide a safe and caring home for the children placed in their care. In order for children to meet their full potential, emotionally, socially, physically, mentally, culturally, and spiritually, it is imperative that they clearly understand the responsibilities of their role.

1. Gather and observe important information on the youth, in the home, in the community, and from other family members. Actively participate with the caseworker and other team members in sharing this information for the purpose of developing a treatment plan for the youth.
2. Implement the treatment plan utilizing the strategies put forward by the team.
3. Work as part of a team under the leadership of the caseworker and attend all meetings, training sessions that would be required as part of the youth treatment plan.
4. Record all information pertaining to the youth in their care.
5. Assist the youth in maintaining contact and enhancing a healthy relationship with the birth family unless contra-indicated in the treatment plan.
6. Build a strong relationship with community based agencies such as the Ministry of Social Services, school personnel, and mental health professionals.
7. In collaboration with all professionals connected to the youth, provide advocacy for the youth and ensure that youth have access to all the services to fulfill their goals.
8. Develop a relationship with the teachers and school administration associated with the youth. Attendance, homework and appropriate extra-curricular activities are promoted and supported.
9. Ensure the child receives all regular medical, dental and, optical services.
10. Ensure the child is engaged in appropriate community activities that are geared towards social development.
11. Ensure appropriate behaviour management techniques are practiced.
12. Inform the caseworker of changes to the occupancy of the residence.
13. Report any incidents deemed to be of a critical nature to the caseworker and/or program director.
14. Maintain a clean environment and ensure that all safety procedures and standards are met.
15. Responsible for all transportation needs.
16. Refrain from smoking in the home or vehicles while children are in their care.
17. Engage in cultural experiences for youth in care that will educate and sustain connections with their cultural identities.

Support

Treatment foster care parents receive ongoing training, supervision, and support. This includes 24-hour on-call support.

Throughout the year, monthly team meetings and individual training sessions are held for



parents which cover a range of topics and allow for peer-to-peer support.

Foster parents also have access to 17 days of planned respite during the year, as well as ongoing relief and crisis support as required.

Clinical services

There are three main branches to the clinical services that supplement the foster parent's care and enhance the treatment process.

The first branch consists of caseworkers - a team of

multidisciplinary professionals who provides services such as: psychosocial assessments, service planning, and counselling. They also serve as a link between the Ranch, foster parents, birth families, and referring agencies.

The second branch is Ranch Ehrlo's Clinical Assessment and Resource Services team. This team consist of psychologists, a speech language pathologist, and an occupational therapist that can be consulted as needed.

Psychiatric consultation is the third branch of clinical services offered to families in the TFC. These services are also provided on a referral basis as needed.



For further information contact:

Lisa Neill, BA Psychology
program manager, Ranch Ehrlo Society
P: 306-751-9808
E: lisa.neill@ranchehrlo.ca