



Foster 50 Challenge 2026 Timeline

Starts: May 1, 2026 – 12:00 AM (CST)

Ends: July 31, 2026 – 11:59 PM (CST)

What is the Foster 50 Challenge?

The Foster 50 Challenge is a nationwide effort to grow foster programs and rally communities in support of animals in need. Organizations across the country come together to learn, take action, and make fostering more accessible and sustainable.

By signing up for the Challenge, you'll tap into tools, support and a community designed to help you amplify your fostering impact. To be eligible for up to \$240,000 in grant awards from PEDIGREE Foundation, Maddie's Fund®, Adopt a Pet and MuttNation, organizations must actively participate in the Challenge and report their results at the end.

Get Started

Create an account or log in through the Blackbaud Grantmaking portal using your email. If you're new to Blackbaud, select "Create New Account" to get started. If you already have an account, simply log in. To join the 2026 Foster 50 Challenge, your organization must be registered with the Blackbaud Verified Network. If your name doesn't appear in the sign-up dropdown, registration is free at <https://nonprofit.yourcause.com>. Questions about the Challenge? Email info@pedigreefoundation.org or grants@maddiesfund.org

Challenge Timeline & Grant Information

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Challenge, join our learning sessions and use our free resources to grow their foster programs. Please note that grant awards are limited to U.S. dog and cat shelters, foster-based organizations, municipal agencies and 501(c)(3) public charities, including eligible 501(c)(3) dog shelters in Puerto Rico.

- April 8–April 30, 2026 (11:59 PM CST): [Sign up here](#) or if you just want to check it out ([see sample link](#)).
- May 1–July 31: Put your plan into action! Implement measurable practices, track your data along the way and capture the full journey of at least one foster pet - from intake to adoption - through photos and/or videos. All participating organizations will be featured on the consumer-facing landing page.
- August 1 – August 15, 2026 (11:59 PM CST): Submit your Challenge Results Report ([see sample link](#)) to be eligible for grant funding.
- October 2026: Grant recipients announced. Post-award follow-up and required reporting for recipients will occur at a later date.

