

## Types of Benefits Available to Caregivers

Type of Care	Relative Agrees to an Informal Arrangements with Parent	Relative Agrees to an Informal Arrangement with CPS (Diversion)	Relative Gains Temporary Custody (Direct Placement)	Relative Gains Legal Custody or Guardianship	Relative Becomes an Approved Foster Care Parent	Relative Who Has Been Approved as a Foster Care Parent Assumes Legal Guardianship (KinGAP)
Relatives Access Kinship Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Types of Benefits Available for Child or Caregiver	<p>Relative caregivers may apply for a non-parent caregiver grant that provides benefits to the child and/or caregiver household.</p> <p>Benefits will include Medicaid for the child. May also include Food Stamps, Women, Infants &amp; Children (WIC) nutrition assistance, heating assistance (HEAP), reduced or free lunch at school, child care costs, earned income tax credits.</p>	<p>Relative caregivers may apply for a non-parent caregiver grant that provides benefits to the child and/or caregiver household.</p> <p>Benefits will include Medicaid for the child. May also include Food Stamps, Women, Infants &amp; Children (WIC) nutrition assistance, heating assistance (HEAP), reduced or free lunch at school, child care costs, earned income tax credits.</p>	<p>Relative caregivers may apply for a non-parent caregiver grant that provides benefits to the child and/or caregiver household.</p> <p>Benefits will include Medicaid for the child. May also include Food Stamps, Women, Infants &amp; Children (WIC) nutrition assistance, heating assistance (HEAP), reduced or free lunch at school, child care costs, earned income tax credits.</p>	<p>Relative caregivers may apply for a non-parent caregiver grant that provides benefits to the child and/or caregiver household.</p> <p>Benefits will include Medicaid for the child. May also include Food Stamps, Women, Infants &amp; Children (WIC) nutrition assistance, heating assistance (HEAP), reduced or free lunch at school, child care costs, earned income tax credits.</p>	<p>Relative caregivers receive foster care payments as well as a clothing allowance for the child. Caregivers may also receive other special payments (e.g., diaper allowance, school-related expenses).</p> <p>Other benefits include Medicaid or Child Health Plus for the child.</p> <p>Children in foster care, who meet program age requirements, are categorically eligible for Early Head Start and Head Start, regardless of their foster family's income.</p>	<p>Relative caregivers receive payments comparable to the children's foster care board rate or no less than what the caregiver would receive if they adopted the child.</p> <p>Other benefits include Medicaid or Child Health Plus for the child.</p>
Daycare	Child care is not guaranteed if a wait list exists.	Child care is not guaranteed if a wait list exists. If the child resided in another county before coming to this county, that district is responsible for all needed benefits to include TA, MA and child care as long as the custody order remains temporary.	Child care is not guaranteed if a wait list exists. If the child resided in another county before coming to this county, that district is responsible for all needed benefits to include TA, MA and child care as long as the custody order remains temporary.	Child care is not guaranteed if wait list exists.	Child care is available through Children Services; the policy on this varies from county to county.	Child care is based on eligibility rules and is not guaranteed if a wait list exists.
"Entry" to Kinship Care	Relative caregiver makes arrangements with the parent to care for children in the parent's absence.	During an investigation by Child Protective Services (CPS), CPS staff makes arrangements with relative to assume care for child; done as alternative to formal foster care. (a.k.a. diversion).	Family Court removes the child from the home due to abuse or neglect (Article 10 FCA), and places the child in the direct custody of a relative.	Relative files a petition to the court for custody or guardianship and Family Court awards custody or guardianship (Article 6 FCA), to the relative caregiver.	Family Court removes the child from the home (Article 10 FCA), and places the child in the care and custody of local Department of Social Services (LDSS) Commissioner, who places the child in with an approved relative.	Relative acts in the capacity as an approved foster care parent for at least 6 months, then assumes legal guardianship of children under their care as foster children.
In LDSS Custody	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Child Welfare	No child welfare supervision.	No child welfare supervision; generally child welfare Child Protective Services conducts an investigation.	Child welfare supervision is required.	No child welfare supervision.	Child welfare supervision is required.	No child welfare supervision.
Family Court	No court intervention.	No court intervention.	Family Court reviews at permanency hearings.	No ongoing Family Court involvement required.	Family Court reviews at permanency hearings.	Family Court approves the letters of guardianship; no other court intervention.