In Maryland, a person assuming care of a relative’s child is referred to as a Kinship Caregiver. As the relative caregiver, you are able to apply on behalf of the child(ren) in your care for certain benefits.

**Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) “Child only” Grant**
Cash assistance may be available to eligible children and their relative caregivers. (No adult is included in the grant)
- Apply at your Local Department of Social Services
- Call 1(800) 332-6347
- [https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us/dashboardClient/#/home](https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us/dashboardClient/#/home)

**Food Stamps**
Application for food stamps is based on income for the entire household.
- Go to [https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us](https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us)

**Child Care**
If applicable, application for child care must be filed separately and is based on the caregiver’s income.
- Go to [https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/node/620](https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/node/620)

**Health Connections**
Maryland’s health insurance marketplace for families to enroll in health insurance. Only one application is required to determine the child’s eligibility. Legal custody is not required.
- Go to [https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/](https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/)

**Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP)**
MCHP is available for children (up to age 19 years) in families with low income. See income guidelines and health department directory for locations.
- Go to [www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/glossary/\maryland-childrens-health-program-mchp-3/](http://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/glossary/\maryland-childrens-health-program-mchp-3/)
- Go to [https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/chp/pages/Home.aspx](https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/chp/pages/Home.aspx)
- Call 1(877) 463-3464 for more information

**Consent of Health Care Affidavit**
Provides relative caregiver ability to obtain health care for a child in their care due to a family hardship. Child can not be in the care/custody of the local DSS. You as the caregiver must be able to verify relationship to the child who is in need of health care services. To receive this form,
- Call 1(877) 463-3464
- Go to [http://dhmh.maryland.gov/Pages/departments.ASPX](http://dhmh.maryland.gov/Pages/departments.ASPX) for your local health department’s location and telephone number
- Contact your Local Department of Social Services

**Education Affidavit**
Provides relative caregivers assistance in enrolling the child in school and allows the relative caregiver to be an advocate for the child in school matters. To receive the form,
- Contact the child’s school or for further assistance go to [www.msde.state.md.us](http://www.msde.state.md.md.us)
- Call (410) 767-0295

**Social Security Survivors Benefits or Social Security Income (SSI)**
If the parent(s) of the child in your care, is/are deceased or disabled, the child may be eligible for Social Security Survivor’s Benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). You must apply directly with the Social Security Administration
- Go to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)
- Call 1(800) 772-1213
- Visit your local Social Security Office, for locations go to [https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp](https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp)

**CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES**
- **Maryland Coalition for Children’s Mental Health**
  [www.mdcoalition.org](http://www.mdcoalition.org) or call (410) 730-8267.
- **Legal Services**

**KINSHIP CARE ADVOCATES**
- **Grandparent Family Connections** (Baltimore)
- **Grandparents & Other Relative Caregivers**
  (Baltimore) [www.lighthealth.org](http://www.lighthealth.org) or (410) 225-2600 X111.
- **Progressive Life Center Kinship Care Program**
  (Prince George’s County Only) [http://www.plcntu.org/kinship-care.html](http://www.plcntu.org/kinship-care.html) or (301) 909-6824.

For specific questions contact your Local Department of Social Services or Syreeta Williams State Kinship Care Coordinator, syreeta.williams@maryland.gov or (410) 767-7249.

Maryland Department of Human Services

1-888-MD-KIDS2 or (1-888-635-4372)
[www.dhr.maryland.gov/foster-care/kinship-care](http://www.dhr.maryland.gov/foster-care/kinship-care)