

Kinship Care Fact Sheet

If you provide care for a relative's child for 24 hours day, seven days a week - there are benefits that you may be eligible to receive.



In Maryland, a person assuming care of a relative's child is referred to as Kinship Care.

As the relative caregiver, you are able to apply for certain benefits on behalf of the child(ren) in your care.

Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)

Provision provides cash assistance to eligible children and their relative caregivers. Legal custody is not required.

- Apply in person at your Local Department of Social Services
- Apply online: <https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us>
- You may also file an application by mail, fax, or other electronic means or someone may drop an application off for you.
- **Application for Assistance** (PDF Form)
- Call 1(800) 332-6347

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Food assistance based on income for the entire household.

- Apply online: <https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us>
- **Income Guidelines for FSP**

Child Care Scholarship Program (CCS)

Provision provides financial assistance with child care costs to eligible Maryland families. Caregivers may qualify for a child care subsidy if they meet income and program requirements.

- Apply online: **Child Care Scholarship Program (CCS)** Website
- **Child Care Subsidy Application** (PDF Form)

Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP)

MCHP provides full health benefits for higher income uninsured children (up to age 19 years). MCHP enrollees obtain care from a variety of Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) through the Maryland HealthChoice Program.

- **Maryland's Children's Health Program Information**
- Apply online at <https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/>
- Visit a local **connector entity, health department or Local Department of Social Services**
- Call Maryland Health Connection at 1-855-642-8572; (TTY: 1-855-642-8573).

KINSHIP CARE RESOURCES

- **211 Maryland**
Dial 2-1-1 or <https://211md.org/>
- **Grandparent Family Connections** (Baltimore) (410) 706-8716
- **Grandfamilies Law & Policy Resource Center**
<https://www.grandfamilies.org/>
- **Training Resources for Caregivers**
[MD Commission on Caregiving-Training Resources](#)
- **Maryland Coalition of Families**
www.mdcoalition.org or call (410) 730-8267

Medicaid-Medical Assistance (MA)

State program that provides health coverage for individuals seeking coverage on the basis of being aged, blind, disabled, living in a nursing home, or medically needy.

- Apply online at <https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us/>
- Apply at your **Local Department of Social Services**

Social Security Benefits

If the parent(s) of the child in your care, is/are deceased or disabled, the child may be eligible for Survivor Benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). You must apply directly with the Social Security Administration.

- Go to <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/>
- Call 1(800) 772-1213
- Apply in person **Social Security Office Locator**

Consent for Health Care -Affidavit

Provision provides for a relative of a child providing informal kinship care to consent to health care on behalf of the child. The relative must be able to verify the informal kinship care arrangement through an affidavit. To receive this form,

- Call 410-767-7249
- Contact your Local Department of Social Services
- Contact **Maryland Local Health Departments**

School Enrollment- Informal Kinship Care

Provision allows for a child in an informal kinship care relationship based on the six family hardships to receive an appropriate education in the jurisdiction where the relative resides. The informal kinship care arrangement must be verified through an affidavit.

- **Informal Kinship Care Fact Sheet**
- **MSDE Informal Kinship Care Affidavit-** (English Version)
- **MSDE Informal Kinship Care Affidavit-**(Spanish Version)
- Call (410) 767-0295

Legal Resources

Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, Go to www.mdlab.org Maryland Courts Self Help Centers, Go to www.mdcourts.gov/selfhelp/ Family Law Hotline, Call 1-800-845-8550.

For specific questions contact your Local Department of Social Services or Trina Townsend, Kinship Ombudsman trina.townsend2@maryland.gov or (410) 767-7063.

Maryland Department of Human Services

1-888-MD-KIDS2 • (1-888-635-4372)

www.dhs.maryland.gov/foster-care/kinship-care

