

Kinship Care Fact Sheet

If you provide care for a relative 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 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>

Food Stamps

Application for food stamps is based on income for the entire household.

- Go to <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 <http://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/>

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/
- Go to <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> 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
- 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
- Call 1(800) 772-1213
- Visit your local Social Security Office, for locations go to <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>

KINSHIP CARE ADVOCATES

- **Grandparent Family Connections** (Baltimore) <http://www.family.umaryland.edu/fc-gfc/> or (410) 706-5479.
- **Grandparents & Other Relative Caregivers** (Baltimore) www.lighthouse.org or (410) 225-2600 X111.
- **Progressive Life Center Kinship Care Program** (Prince George's County Only) <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.

CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- **Maryland Coalition for Children's Mental Health** www.mdcoalition.org or call (410) 730-8267.
- **Legal Services**
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.

Maryland Department of Human Services
1-888-MD-KIDS2 • (1-888-635-4372)
www.dhr.maryland.gov/foster-care/kinship-care

