

■ Free or Reduced-Price School Lunches, Book Rental Fees and Book Fees

All relative foster children receive free or reduced-price school lunches, book rental fees or textbook fees. Relative foster children are automatically enrolled by DCS in this program. Discuss this with your local school corporation to ensure you are receiving this benefit.

■ Medicaid

The relative child placed with you should be eligible for Indiana Medicaid. Indiana Medicaid is Indiana's medical program that can pay the costs of medical, dental, behavioral/mental health and eye care. Your DCS family case manager can help ensure the child is enrolled in Medicaid.

■ Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)

This program provides financial assistance for child care for families who are working or enrolled in school. Apply for CCDF online at earlyedconnect.fssa.in.gov. If you receive a voucher, you must choose a child care provider who meets CCDF provider-eligibility standards.

Learn more at www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/child-care-assistance.

To learn more about assistance and support that may be available, please review the Relative Resource Guide, available at www.in.gov/dcs/files/Relative_Resource_Guide.pdf, and contact your DCS family case manager or regional foster care staff.

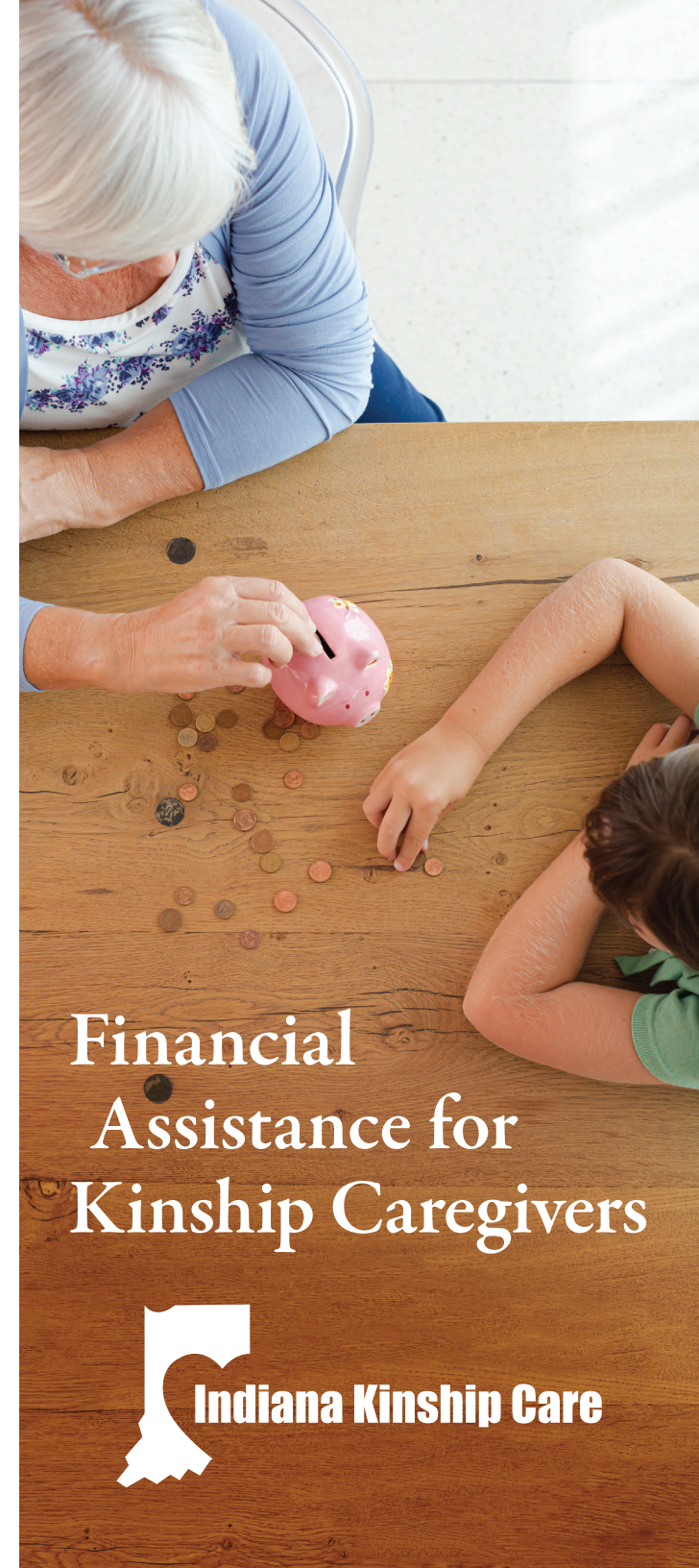
■ Important Contact Information

Indiana Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline:
1-800-800-5556

Foster Care Helpline:
888-631-9510

DCS Website:
www.in.gov/dcs

Indiana Foster Care Website:
www.indianafostercare.org



Financial Assistance for Kinship Caregivers



Indiana Kinship Care

Many kinds of financial assistance are available for kinship caregivers, including payments for licensed foster parents and stipends for unlicensed relatives.

■ Foster Care Licensing

If you become a licensed foster parent, you will receive payments to cover food, clothing, shelter, supervision, travel for visitation and school, personal items and school supplies for the relative child in your care. This per diem will start on the effective date of your license and varies based on the age and needs of the child, starting at \$23.95 per day in 2023, increasing to \$26.27 in 2024. You will also receive the following for the benefit of the child:

- Travel expenses for certain purposes if over about 162 miles per month.
- Initial clothing allowance up to \$200 when the child is first removed from their home.
- Annual personal allowance up to \$300 per child per calendar year, available when the child has been in placement for at least 8 days. Eligible expenses include baby equipment, special occasion clothing, school-related fees, extracurricular activities, computers, etc.
- Special-occasion allowance up to \$50 for the child's birthday and December holidays.

Your family case manager can help you contact regional foster care staff to assist with the licensing process.



■ Assistance for Unlicensed Kinship Caregivers

Unlicensed kinship caregivers receive a monthly stipend of \$300, or \$150 if the child is in the placement for less than 15 days. The stipend is in addition to the following:

- Initial clothing allowance, annual personal allowance, and special occasion allowance as described in the previous section.
- Travel expenses starting at mile 1 for travel to school (if not covered by the school corporation), visitation, medical and mental health appointments, and court-related travel.
- Respite care in a licensed foster parent's home for up to 5 days a year.
- Child care allowance up to \$18 per day or \$90 per week, per child, for licensed child care costs for relatives that work or attend school. Funding is available for up to six months or until Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) vouchers begin, whichever occurs first.
- Bedding Allowance up to \$400 per child for a bed and bedding if needed and pre-approved.

■ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

TANF can assist qualifying relatives by providing temporary financial assistance for a relative child in their care. The amount of cash payment is determined by the number of eligible family members and their total income. A child can be considered a family of one in some circumstances, without the relative's income being considered. This assistance can take 30-45 days to get started but will be retroactive to the date of application. Apply online at fssabenefits.in.gov. If you choose to be a licensed foster parent, you cannot also claim TANF for the relative foster child.

■ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP can help provide food for individuals who live with you in your home. Apply online at fssabenefits.in.gov. If you choose to be a licensed foster parent, your household may not qualify for SNAP. Be sure to discuss this with a representative of the SNAP program.

■ WIC Program

Kinship caregivers who care for infants and children up to age 5 may be eligible to participate in the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program when the relative's children are Medicaid eligible. WIC is a supplemental food and nutrition program, and participants receive vouchers that are redeemed at designated grocery stores. Learn more when you call 1-800-522-0874, email inwic@idoh.in.gov or visit www.in.gov/health/wic.

