

Relatives as Caregivers

In Kansas, more than one in four children in the custody of the Secretary of the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) live with relatives who are dedicated to providing primary care for grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or siblings. Relatives providing care for children in out-of-home placement have options for financial assistance and access to other supports.

Financial Support:

Relatives may be reimbursed by the Child Welfare Case Management Provider at the rate of \$10 per day, or

Relatives may apply for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and a medical card for each child by contacting the closest DCF service center. Call 1-888-369-4777 or visit www.dcf.ks.gov to obtain information about the closest center, or

Relatives may request to become payee for benefits the child might be receiving, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Assistance (SSA) by contacting the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213. The Social Security Administration may select DCF to be the payee, or

Relatives may receive financial assistance at the foster home payment rate, if licensed as a foster care home through the Kansas Department for Children and Families Foster Care and Residential Licensing Facility Division and are willing to provide care for both related and non-related children. To learn more, contact the child's case management provider.

Kinship Support:

With an increase in relatives providing care for children, support and resource groups are available statewide. For information on available support groups, contact the Kansas Children's Service League at 877-530-5275 or visit their website at www.kcsl.org.

Requirements:

To meet the requirements for placement, a walkthrough of the home is conducted and each caregiver and child age 10 and older must pass KBI criminal background checks, and a Child Abuse Neglect registry check. Adults and children age 14 and older shall pass a fingerprint check.

To find out more, call the Kansas Department for Children and Families at 1-888-369-4777.

