

Kinship Care Fact Sheet

Maryland Department of Human Resources

If you provide care for a relative child - for 24 hours a 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.

AVAILABLE BENEFITS

- **“Child only” Temporary Cash Assistance Grant**
Application can be made several ways: using the internet at www.marylandsail.org or www.dhr.state.md.us/fia or by requesting an application from your local department of social services by calling this general number 1(800)332-6347. (No adult is included in the grant.)
- **Medical Assistance**
Only one application is required to determine the child's eligibility for cash assistance and medical assistance. Legal custody is not required.
- **Food Stamps**
Application for food stamps is based on income for the entire household.
- **Child Care**
If applicable, application for child care must be filed separately and is based on the caregiver's income.
- **Social Security Survivors Benefits or Social Security Income**
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 Social Security. The website is www.socialsecurity.gov or call 1(800)772-1213.





- **Maryland Children's Health Program (M-CHP)**
M-CHP is available for children (up to age 19 years) in families with low income. See income guidelines and health department directory for locations at www.dhmh.state.md.us/mma/mchp or call 1(877)463-3464 for more information.
- **Consent of Health Care Affidavit**
Available to relative caregiver who does not have legal custody or guardianship of the relative child in their care. 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, contact 1(877)463-3464 or go to www.dhmh.state.md.us for your local health department's location and telephone number.
- **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 or call (410)767-0295.

CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- **Baltimore County DSS Kinship Care Resource Manual**
www.dhr.state.md.us/ssa/pdf/kinman.pdf
- **Mental Health for Children**
www.dhmh.state.md.us or (410)767-6860.
- **Maryland Coalition for Children's Mental Health**
www.mdcoalition.org or (410)730-8267.

- **Legal Services**
www.mdlab.org or 1(800)999-8904.
- **Maryland Department on Aging**
www.oaa.state.md.us or 1(800)243-3425.

KINSHIP CARE ADVOCATES

- **Baltimore Grandfamilies Program**
www.baltimoregrandfamilies.org or (410)381-4800.
- **Grandparent Family Connections (Baltimore)**
www.family.umaryland.edu or (410)706-8716.
- **Grandparents & Other Relative Caregivers (Baltimore)** www.lighthouse.org or (410)225-2600 x111.
- **Progressive Life Center Kinship Care Program (Prince George's County and surrounding area)**
www.ntuplc.org or (301)773-1701.
- **Relatives as Parents Program (Eastern Shore)**
www.macinc.org or (410)742-0505 X 105.
- **Solutions for Children and Caregivers of Maryland (Statewide)** (301)898-8023 or toll free at 1-866-203-8926 or www.solutionsforchildrenandcaregivers.org.

For specific questions, please contact your local department of social services or Pamela Miller, Kinship Care Coordinator at pmiller@dhr.state.md.us or (410)767-7171.



1-888-MD-KIDS2
(1-888-635-4372)

www.dhr.state.md.us/ssa/kinship.htm

