Available Resources for

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.
Relatives as Caregivers for Children in the Custody of the DCF Secretary

**Financial Support:**
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.

Relatives may request to become the 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.

If the child placing agency standards are met, relatives may negotiate a financial plan with the child’s case management provider.

Relatives may receive financial assistance at the foster home payment rate, if licensed as a foster care home through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) 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 Department for Aging and Disability Services at 1-800-432-3535 or visit the agency’s website for the Relatives as Parents Program at www.kdads.ks.gov.

**Requirements:**
To meet the requirements for financial assistance, a walkthrough of the home is conducted, and each caregiver must pass KBI and FBI criminal background checks, and each adult living in the home must also pass a Child Abuse Neglect registry check.

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