

## Is financial assistance available?

Financial assistance is available in two forms:

### 1. FIP (Family Independence Program) grants:

FIP grants, or cash assistance grants, are available for relatives caring for foster children; both require that relative caregivers fill out a MDHS Application for Public Assistance (DHS-1171). These applications are available at local DHS offices and on-line by clicking on [Assistance Programs Quick Link](#), then [forms](#) on the DHS home page. (<http://www.michigan.gov/dhs>) Submit your application as soon as possible to ensure timely financial payments. Drop off the completed application at your local DHS office or mail it immediately. A Family Independence Specialist (FIS) will be assigned to your case. You will be required to provide proof that the child is living with you. A court order or Caregiver Assistance Application Cover Letter (DHS-498) provided by the foster care worker may be used. There are two types of FIP grants:

- [Ineligible Grantee Awards](#) (Child Only Grants) are available for the child regardless of household income.
- [Eligible Grantee Awards](#) (Family Grants) are based on the income and assets of all family members. To remain eligible, relative caregivers must work unless they provide proof of disability or are over 65 years.

### 2. Foster Care Payments:

Foster care payments are available if you become a licensed foster parent.

## Additional Resources

Car seats, beds, and clothing may be available for children placed in your care. Your foster care worker can help you get these items, if needed.

**You are not alone!** Ask your foster care worker about other resources in your community or call the Kinship Care Resource Center at (800) 535-1218 or (517) 355-9600. Their website also has information at:

<http://www.kinshipcare.net>

## Reporting Responsibilities

You must report the following changes that you or any member of your household experiences to your foster care worker within one (1) business day:

- Changes in household members.
- Arrests or convictions.
- Court-supervised parole or probation.
- Serious illness, injury or death (as soon as possible).
- Admission or release from a correctional facility or a facility/hospital/institution for the treatment of an emotional, mental or substance abuse problem.
- Outpatient counseling, treatment or therapy for an emotional, mental or substance abuse problem.
- Changes in employment or income.
- When a child placed in your home is missing or runs away (as soon as you become aware).

Authority: DHS Director  
Quantity: 30,000  
Cost: \$1,647.91 (.06 ea.)

Department of Human Services (DHS) will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to a DHS office in your area.

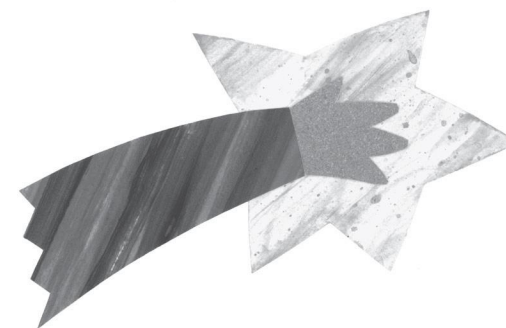
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Michigan Department of  
Human Services

MDHS



# Relative Caregiver Resources & Responsibilities



## Am I a foster parent?

Children are placed in foster care when a court determines their parents are unwilling or unable to provide safe care. The court takes temporary custody of the children and may order the children placed with a relative caregiver, an unrelated caregiver, or a licensed foster parent. Foster parents are trained and licensed by the State of Michigan. If you are interested in becoming a licensed foster parent, call your local DHS office and ask to speak to a foster home certification worker.

### Foster Care Worker:

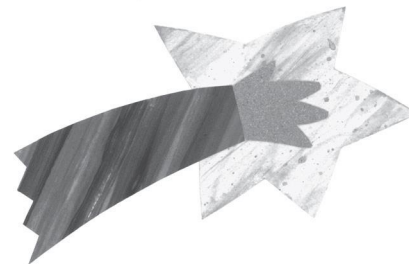
All children in foster care have a foster care worker who works with them and their caregivers to make sure their needs are being met. A foster care worker will complete a required home study when a child is placed with a relative shortly after the placement is made. A copy of the home study will be given to the court for approval.

### Lawyer:

All children in foster care have a court-appointed attorney called a Lawyer Guardian Ad-Litem (L-GAL) who represents the child's best interest. The L-GAL may come to your home to visit with the child. The foster care worker can give you the name and phone number of the L-GAL.

## What are my caregiver responsibilities?

- Provide the child with safe, nurturing care.
- Use non-physical, age-appropriate discipline.
- Assist the foster care worker to ensure that the child receives regular medical, dental, therapy, and other required services.
- Enroll the child in school.
- Follow all court orders and facilitate the case plan for the child.
- Report child's progress and concerns and be available for scheduled home visits by the foster care worker.
- Attend court hearings and Team Decision Making Meetings/Family Case Reviews when required, to provide input.
- If able, provide transportation and support visits with the child's parents and siblings.
- Keep all information about the child's case confidential. Your child's foster care worker will advise what information may be shared with professionals working with the child.



## What support is available?

### Day Care (Child Development and Care – CDC):

Is available if you work outside the home, the child is under age 13, and you use DHS approved daycare. You may also qualify if special circumstances exist for you or the child (contact your caseworker to discuss this option). To apply you must fill out a CDC application (DHS-4583) and submit the application to your local DHS office quickly to ensure timely coverage of costs.

### Medical Assistance (Medicaid):

Is available for all foster children. If completing an application for financial assistance and/or CDC, check the “Medical Assistance” box for the child, and the Medicaid will be opened by your FIS. The foster care worker is responsible for ensuring that the child's Medicaid is active. Talk with the foster care worker if you are unsure about Medicaid coverage for the child.

### WIC (Women, Infants & Children):

Is a health and nutrition program administered by local health departments. WIC provides vouchers for infant formula, milk, cereal, cheese, eggs, dried beans, and peanut butter for children under age 5. Call your local WIC office or 1-800-26-BIRTH to set up an appointment. Ask what documentation to bring.