

## Wrap Around Services

Caregivers may also qualify for help paying for short-term or one-time expenses such as furniture, moving costs, and clothing for the relative child. As with child care subsidies, the caregiver must prove they are relatives or legal guardians of the child and that the child lives with them.

Financial eligibility depends on the caregiver's age and the size and income of the family. The income levels are the same as for the child care subsidy.



To learn more about the Kinship Navigator Program, call 2-1-1.

[www.NJHelps.org](http://www.NJHelps.org)

See if you may be eligible for more than 30 social service programs.

**Medicaid Hotline**

**1-800-356-1561**

**NJ Child Care Helpline**

**1-800-332-9227**

**Food Stamp Information Line**

**1-800-687-9512**

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program**

**1-800-510-3102**

**Universal Service Fund (USF)**

**1-866-240-1347**

**Prescription Assistance for the Aged and Disabled (PAAD)**

**1-800-792-9745**



# Kinship Navigator Program

Services

for

families

caring

for

their

relatives'

children



NJ Department of Children and Families

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor



## Who are Kinship Caregivers?

Kinship caregivers are people who have taken on the responsibility of caring for their relatives' children –

frequently their own grandchildren, but occasionally, children of a sister or a brother or other relative. They provide one of the safest, most reassuring environments for the children in their care. After all, the children already know them and trust them as extended family members.

## Kinship Navigator Program


This program was created to help caregivers to “navigate” their way through government programs and to find local support and resources. The Kinship Navigator Program can provide information and referral for a wide range of needs including:

- ◆ Family support groups
- ◆ Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- ◆ Medicaid coverage and services
- ◆ Child Support
- ◆ Housing Assistance
- ◆ Custody procedure and other legal services
- ◆ Child Care resources
- ◆ Educational Issues

## In addition to the Kinship Navigator Program, what kinds of supports are available to Kinship Caregivers?

Kinship caregivers may be eligible to receive financial assistance, help with child care costs and help pay for the purchase of certain items or services, such as furniture, moving expenses or clothing for the child. Specifically, the following services are available to kinship caregivers.

### Financial Assistance



Kinship caregivers may be eligible to receive financial assistance under Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the State's public assistance program, at a rate of \$162 per month for the first child in their care. They may also be eligible for Medicaid health insurance for the child.

### Legal Guardianship

Some kinship caregivers who meet an income requirement of 150 percent of the federal poverty level, and go to court to acquire legal guardianship of the relative child in their home, may be eligible for a monthly subsidy of up to \$250 per child. For example, a family of three can have a maximum income of \$27,465 per year and receive the subsidy under the Kinship Care Subsidy Program.

This income level is increased each year, based on the federal poverty standard.

## Child Care

Kinship caregivers may qualify for child care subsidies if they meet income requirement and can prove they are relatives or legal guardians



of the child and that the child lives with them. Financial eligibility depends on the kinship caregiver's age and the size and income of the family. For example, for caregivers who are under age 60 and employed, going to school or training or

disabled, the maximum income is \$64,085 a year, for a family of three. For the same size family where the caregiver is 60 years of age or older, the maximum yearly income is \$91,550. These income levels are increased each year, based on the federal poverty standard.

For more information, call:

**2-1-1**

◆ *The Kinship Navigator Program differs from the services provided by the state Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) which formally places a child with a relative for care. If you are caring for a relative who was placed with you by DYFS and the case is active, contact your DYFS caseworker for find out what services might be available. However, if your DYFS case is closed, you may be eligible for Kinship Navigator services.*