

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.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM CALL 211

www.nj211.org

This number can connect callers with human services agencies, including Kinship Navigator Programs, in local communities.

HOTLINES AND HELPLINES

**Medicaid Hotline
1-800-356-1561**

**NJ Child Care Helpline
1-800-332-9227**

**NJ SNAP
(New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly Food Stamps)
1-800-687-9512**

**Home Energy Assistance
1-800-510-3102**

**Prescription Assistance for the Aged and Disabled (PAAD)
1-800-792-9745**

**www.njHelps.org
See if you may be eligible for more than 30 social service programs.**



****KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM***

Services for Families Caring for their Relatives' Children

**Family and Community Partnerships
PO Box 717
Trenton, NJ 08625-0717
609-888-7400**



KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

The **Kinship Navigator Program** was created to help caregivers “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

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 \$28,635 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.

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. 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. For example, for caregivers who are under age 60, the maximum income is \$66,815 a year, for a family of three. In a family of the same size where the caregiver is 60 years of age or older, the maximum yearly income is \$95,450. These income levels are increased each year, based on the federal poverty standards.

** The Kinship Navigator Program differs from the services provided by the state Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) which formally places a child with a relative for care. If you are caring for a relative who was placed with you by CP&P and the case is active, contact your CP&P caseworker for information about services. However, if your CP&P case is closed, you may be eligible for Kinship Navigator services.*