

OPTIONS AND BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO KINSHIP FAMILIES

UNVERIFIED KINSHIP CAREGIVER BENEFITS

- Now that you are a designated kinship caregiver by the Department of Family and Protective Services, you are eligible for various benefits and options. Kinship caregiver payments are an option that has been **funded for certain kinship caregivers** that meet financial eligibility requirements. If you are eligible, you will receive \$11.55 a day. To be eligible:
 - CPS has conservatorship of the child in your care.
 - CPS approved you through the home-assessment process.
 - You are not a verified foster home or group home receiving maintenance payments.
 - You previously signed and are abiding by the Kinship Caregiver Agreement.
 - Your total household income is not more than 300% of the federal poverty limit. Total family income must include all household members. This includes parents and anyone who moved in on or after the child was placed in your home.
 - You have begun the Kinship Caregiver Training
- **However, these kinship caregiver payments have a time limit of up to 12 months, with a potential 6-month extension if DFPS finds good cause.** Good cause reasons include:
 - Trying to find a previously absent parent of the child.
 - Waiting for appeal process in a termination of parental-rights case.
 - Allowing more time for you to complete the approval process for verification or adoption of the child.
 - Awaiting approval of a child's placement from another state.
 - A delay in finding out the child's Indian Child status or waiting for the Indian Child's Tribe to approve.
 - Any other situation in which DFPS finds the need for an extension.

RECEIVING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT- VERIFIED KINSHIP CAREGIVER BENEFITS

- **It is important that you know there is another option- becoming verified as a kinship foster parent. Kinship foster parents receive \$23.10 a day. Payments do not have a time limit or income eligibility limit. Also, kinship foster parents receive additional support services from their child placing agency.**
- If you are interested in becoming a verified kinship foster parent, **start that process today!** Your CPS caseworker will get you contact information for child placing agencies in your community. **Becoming verified can take six months, and therefore it is important to get the process started before the kinship payments end.**

- Another benefit of becoming a verified kinship foster parent is your **future eligibility for the Permanency Care Assistance Program**. This program gives financial support to kinship caregivers who want to provide a permanent home to children who can't be reunited with their parents. Monthly payments are \$400 - \$545 per month, depending upon each child's needs. PCA benefits continue until children turn 18 or 21 if the child is 16 years old or older when PMC is granted. The PCA process and monthly payments are the same as those in the Adoption Assistance Program. To qualify, you must:
 - Apply to become foster parents.
 - Care for the child as foster parents for at least six months.
 - Negotiate and sign a Permanency Care Agreement.
 - Go to court to get legal custody of the child.

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