

Kinship Quarterly Strengthening Families

January 2022

New Year, New Start.

Did you know....

There is a grant out there called **Kinship Support Services (KSS)**.

This grant can help each kinship family with up to \$1000, to help with licensing to-dos. Ask your Kinship Development Worker about it. This grant is only for children in CPS care that are placed in a kinship home. The grant ends 8/31/2022.

Licensing from a Kinship Caregiver's Prospective

How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time...

Thinking about getting licensed to be a kinship foster home for children in your care? Making the decision to get licensed can feel a bit like eating an elephant. Like any important goal, finishing big things can be compared to eating an elephant! Deciding to become licensed to take care of the children in the State's care that are placed within a kinship home has many benefits for the child as well as the caregiver.

But, where do you start? How do you "eat" the big "elephant" to become a licensed provider? Your first step is to select an agency to get licensed. Your Kinship Development Worker will give you a list of resources to connect you to local child-placing agencies. After you select one, you will be given a list, or your elephant to eat, which are items that must be completed before you can hang that license up on your fridge (or wherever you choose). That list can be scary at first because it's a lot of things to follow the State's, many, many safety measures. These are put into place to make sure children are safe.

Mark Twain said, "the secret of getting ahead is getting started." That's really all you need to do to eat your elephant. Take one bite today...do one thing on the list. Then, take another bite and another, and before you know it, you will have eaten your elephant. Most importantly, you will have been given a valuable opportunity to provide a safe and loving home to your kin, no matter how short or long the stay.



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- Mark Twain



Texas Department of
Family and Protective Services

Child Protective Services



