



Kinship resources outside of DCS

Many times, there are kinship and relatives caring for children without an open DCS case. When families are at a loss for help, they rightfully turn to the Department of Child Services for ideas. There are a number of different places where we can direct them.

1. WIC Program (Women, Infant & Children) – Supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children 5 and under

Relative/kinship caregivers who care for infants and children up to age 5 may be eligible to participate in the WIC program. Participants receive vouchers that are redeemable at designated grocery stores. You can obtain more information on applying at www.in.gov/isdh/19691.htm or by calling 1-800-522-0874.

2. TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)

TANF, a program managed by the Division of Family Resources (DFR), assists qualifying relatives by providing temporary financial assistance for a relative/kinship child in their care. To apply for TANF, you must contact your local DFR office. The amount of cash payment

is determined by the number of eligible family members and their total income. If you choose to become a licensed relative/kinship caregiver, you cannot claim TANF for the relative/kinship child placed in your home. For more information on TANF, please visit www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/2684.htm.

3. SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

The SNAP program provides food for individual family members. If you choose to be a licensed foster parent, your household may not qualify. To apply, visit www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/2691.htm.

4. CCDF (Child Care Assistance)

Families who are working or enrolled in school may qualify for Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), which provides financial assistance for childcare. To apply, you must contact your kinship navigator/licensing specialist/or family case manager to request an application. It must be submitted to the CCDF provider in your area. If you receive a voucher, you must choose a child care provider who meets CCDF provider eligibility standards. More information can be found at www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/3900.htm.

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5. On My Way Pre-K Program

On My Way Pre-K awards grants to 4-year-olds from low-income families so they receive access to a high-quality pre-K program the year before they begin kindergarten. Families who receive a grant may use it at any approved On My Way Pre-K program. For more information on how to apply, please visit www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/4932.htm.

6. First Steps Indiana

First Steps is Indiana's early intervention program that provides services to infants and toddlers who have developmental delays or disabilities. Services extend from birth to the child's third birthday. First Steps brings families together with a local network of professionals from education, health and social service agencies. Please visit www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/4655.htm for more information.

7. Free Lunch Program & Textbook Program

All relative/kinship foster children receive free or reduced-price school lunches and book rental/textbook fees. Relative/Kinship foster children are automatically enrolled in this program by DCS. Talk with your local school corporation to ensure you are receiving this benefit.

8. Legal Assistance

The Coalition for Court Access helps people looking for civil legal aid, including family, housing, consumer, healthcare, benefits, employment, and educational services. Visit indianalegalhelp.org.

9. Community Partners for Child Safety

Community Partners for Child Safety (CPCS) builds community resources in order to have a collaborative prevention network throughout each region. The service is for those families that are identified through self-referral or other community agency referrals. Please visit www.in.gov/dcs/2455.htm for eligibility.

10. 211

Dial 211 on a touchtone phone to access referrals to health, human and social service organizations.

11. Kinship Portal

DCS maintains resources specific for Kinship caregivers with children in their care without involvement from the DCS. Visit www.indianafostercare.org/s/kinship-indiana-support-services for information surrounding: Financial, Health, Adult Support, Education, Legal and Child Resources.

