

Benefits of Becoming a Licensed Foster Parent

As a kinship caregiver, you are already making a positive difference for a child in need. Children who enter the child welfare system have experienced difficult family situations and traumatic events. Having a strong support system and loving home can make all the difference for the success of an individual child.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) encourages all kinship caregivers to consider becoming licensed foster parents. If a child placed in your care will be living with you for a length of time or if you are not sure how long they will be in your care, there are benefits to becoming a licensed foster parent.

These benefits include:

- ◆ A per-diem monthly stipend provided to you the entire length of time a child is placed in your home.
 - This stipend is twice the amount of the kinship caregiver payment
- ◆ Medicaid coverage for medical, mental health, and dental care of the child placed in your home
- ◆ Childcare subsidies for the child placed in your home.
 - Subsidies are not based on your family's income
- ◆ Financial assistance with clothing
- ◆ Foster children automatically qualify for free school lunches
- ◆ 24 days of paid respite care for the child placed in your home
- ◆ Free training opportunities
- ◆ Peer support groups

If you choose the path to become a licensed foster parent, a RRTS caseworker will be assigned to you who is available to answer questions, get you connected with services and supports, and will advocate for you and on your family's behalf. There is no cost associated with the licensing process or to any of the supportive services.