

Qualified Caregivers

To be considered for the Kinship Care Program, relatives must:

1. Be the grandparents, aunts, uncles, sibling (older than age 16), or cousins (age 18 or older) of children who have been removed from their homes and who are under the care of county social service officials,
2. Sign a Kinship Care Agreement and participate in the required background checks (criminal and child abuse and neglect) and a home study;
3. Complete an application for benefits including a face-to-face interview, and submit all required verifications and reports; and
4. Cooperate with Child Support Enforcement efforts.

Coordination with Child Support Enforcement

When a child is removed from the home of his or her parents, the state pursues child support from legally responsible parents to assure that the child's needs are met. If child support is obtained and totals more than the kinship care benefit, the caregiver will receive the child support payment instead of a kinship care benefit. Child support payments to the relative caregiver end when the child is reunited with his or her parents.



For information

Contact the County Social Service office in your area.



North Dakota Department of Human Services
Public Assistance Unit
600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 325
Bismarck ND 58505-0250

Phone 1-800-755-2716 Fax 701-328-1060
ND Relay TTY: 1-800-366-6888 Email: dhseap@nd.gov
www.nd.gov/dhs
DN 891 (06-08)

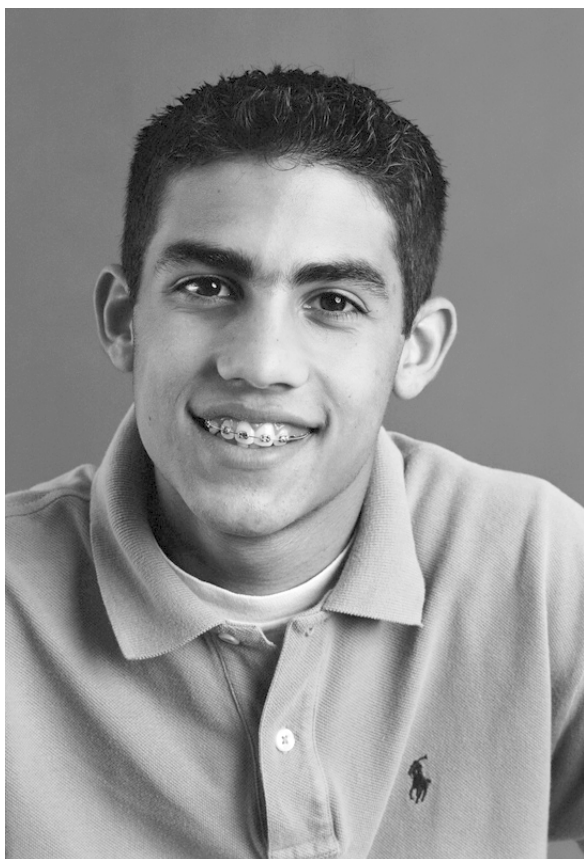
North Dakota Kinship Care Program



*Helping family members
care for children*

When children are removed from their homes, North Dakota's Kinship Care Program makes it possible for children to live with close relatives. This new program provides an alternative to out-of-home foster care, which can be frightening to children whose lives have already been dramatically disrupted.

Under the program, child welfare professionals work to place children with close family members including grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings older than age 16, or cousins who are age 18 or older. They also work to line up the necessary resources to help meet the care needs of children.



Provides resources to meet children's needs

While Kinship Care placements are usually temporary, the program helps close relatives address the financial challenges that come with caring for a child. This financial assistance, funded under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, is available for the child until the child is reunited with parents or moves into a more permanent living situation.

Kinship Care Supportive Services Include:

Child care assistance
Clothing allowance
Legal fees associated with obtaining guardianship status*
School and community activity fees* (uniforms, activity fees, transportation costs, school pictures, etc.)
Emergency needs*
NOTE: *Reimbursement requires prior approval

Other helpful resources:

Children in kinship care may qualify for health coverage under Medicaid.



Kinship Care Benefits

The amount of Kinship Care support that relative caregivers receive will vary and is based on the number of eligible individuals in the household, income available to eligible individuals, allowable deductions, and the current payment level established by the North Dakota Department of Human Services.

Qualified Children

To be considered for the Kinship Care Program, a child must:

1. Be in the care and custody of the county;
2. Be younger than age 18 (unless a child is enrolled full-time in high school and is expected to graduate before he or she turns 19);
3. Meet citizenship and other requirements under TANF, and
4. Not in receipt of Supplemental Security Income.