

## What Types of Assistance Can Relative Placements Receive?

The experience of being removed from a parent's care can be traumatic for children and youth who become involved in the child welfare system. Being placed in the care of an appropriate relative or family friend can help the child maintain a sense of connection and belonging after experiencing the trauma of removal. Unfortunately, relative and fictive kin caregivers often face greater socioeconomic challenges and have more limited access to needed assistance than licensed foster homes.

## Short-Term Assistance for Temporary Relative Placements

### Becoming a Licensed Foster Home

Any kinship caregiver can choose to pursue foster home licensure in order to access the additional assistance and supports offered to licensed foster parents. If they are successful in becoming licensed as a foster home, they will be eligible to receive monthly foster care payments to assist them in meeting the needs of the children placed in their care. Currently, foster families on average receive around \$675 per child per month. Licensed relative caregivers will also receive ongoing case management services and support from their licensing agency.

### Kinship Reimbursement Payments

Some relative caregivers are not able to meet the requirements to become a licensed foster home, or choose not to pursue licensure. These caregivers may be eligible to receive monthly Kinship Reimbursement Payments from DFPS. Currently, the Kinship Reimbursement Payment is set at approximately \$345 per child per month. Eligibility requirements include that their total household income does not exceed 300 percent of the current federal poverty limit.

## Long-Term Assistance for Permanent Relative Placements

Circumstances sometimes arise when a child cannot be reunified with their parents but adoption is also not possible. In these situations, a child may be placed permanently in the care of a relative, and the relative caregiver may be able to receive some financial assistance.

### Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC) with Permanency Care Assistance (PCA)

If the relative caregiver seeking PMC has previously become licensed as a foster parent and has had the child placed in their care for a minimum of six months after becoming licensed, this caregiver can apply to receive Permanency Care Assistance (PCA) benefits. These benefits include monthly payments of approximately \$400 per child per month as well as health care assistance until the child reaches adulthood.

### Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC) with Three-Year Annual Reimbursements

Relative caregivers who are interested in becoming a permanent placement for a child but who are not able to become a licensed foster parent can still be granted Permanent Managing Conservatorship of the child. However, the financial assistance available to them is much more limited. If a caregiver receives PMC of a child, the caregiver can request the \$500 annual reimbursement per child for child-related costs. DFPS can reimburse caregivers in this amount for up to three years or until the child turns 18, whichever comes first.

If PMC to a relative is your concurrent permanency plan, work with your supervisor as early in the case as possible to explore the option of PCA. This will help ensure the placement has ample time to pursue licensure and serve as a licensed placement for at least six months before the case deadline is reached.