FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OPTIONS FOR RELATIVE CAREGIVERS

You have different options for receiving financial assistance to cover the costs of placement when a relative child is placed with you. The below information will assist you in understanding those options.

Foster Care Licensing

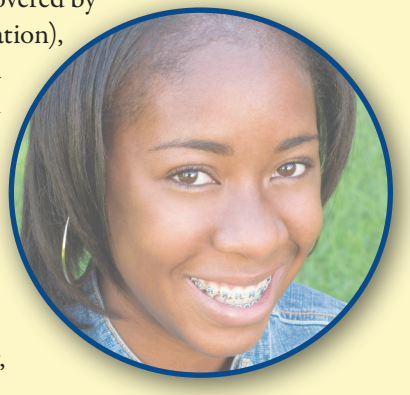
At the time of placement, your FCM will give you contact information for Regional Foster Care staff who will provide information about the licensing process. If licensed, you will receive a daily payment from DCS for the care of your relative child to cover food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, travel for visitation and school, personal incidentals for the child, and school supplies. The per diem will start on the effective date of your license and varies based on the age and needs of the child, starting at $18.88 a day. A foster parent can also receive the following for the benefit of the child:

- **Travel Expenses** for certain purposes if over about 162 miles per month,
- **Initial Clothing** up to $200 when the child is first removed from his/her home,
- **Annual Personal Allowance** up to $300 per child per calendar year; available when the child has been in placement for at least 8 days. Examples are baby equipment, special occasion clothing, school related events/fees, extracurricular activities, computers, etc.,
- **Special Occasion Allowance** up to $50 on child's birthday and during December holidays.

Assistance for Unlicensed Relatives

If you do not wish to become a licensed foster parent, DCS cannot make a daily payment, but does provide the following financial assistance:

- **Initial Clothing, Annual Personal Allowance, and Special Occasion Allowance as stated previously,**
- **Travel Expenses** starting at mile 1 for travel to school (if not covered by the school corporation), visitation, medical and mental health appointments, and court related travel,
- **Respite Care** in a licensed foster parent's home for up to 5 days a year,
- **Child Care Allowance** up to $18 per day or $90 per week, per child, for licensed child care costs for relatives that work or attend school. Funding is available for up to six months or until Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Vouchers *(see below)* begin, whichever occurs first,
- **Bedding Allowance** up to $400 per child for a bed and bedding if needed and pre-approved.



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

TANF is a program managed by the Division of Family Resources (DFR). It can assist qualifying relatives by providing temporary financial assistance for a relative 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. A child can be considered a family of one in some circumstances without the relative's income being considered. This assistance can take 30-45 days to get started but will be retroactive to the date of application. If you choose to be a licensed foster parent, you cannot also claim TANF for the relative foster child. Information on TANF can be found at: ***http://www.in.gov/fssa dfr/2684.htm.***

Food Stamps

The Food Stamp program, called Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), can help provide food for individuals who live with you in your home. To apply for this program, visit this website at ***http://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/2691.htm***. If you choose to be a licensed foster parent, your household may not qualify for food stamps. Be sure to discuss this with a representative of the food stamp program.

WIC Program

Relative parents who care for infants and children up to age 5 may be eligible to participate in the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program when the relative's children are Medicaid eligible. WIC is a supplemental food and nutrition program and participants receive vouchers that are redeemed at designated groceries. You can obtain information

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on applying at: *http://www.in.gov/isdh/19691.htm*, 1-800-522-0874 or *inwic@isdh.in.gov*.

Free or Reduced-Price School Lunches, Book Rental Fees and Book Fees

All relative foster children receive free or reduced-price school lunches, book rental fees or text book fees. Relative foster children are automatically enrolled by DCS in this program. Discuss this with your local school corporation to ensure you are receiving this benefit.

Medicaid

The relative child placed with you should be eligible for Indiana Medicaid. Indiana Medicaid is Indiana's medical program that can pay the costs of medical, dental, behavioral/mental health and eye care for your relative child. Your DCS FCM can help ensure the child is enrolled in Medicaid.

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)

This program provides financial assistance for child care for families who are working or enrolled in school. To apply for the CCDF voucher program, you must contact your local Intake Agents at *http://www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/3900.htm*. If you receive a voucher, you must choose a child care provider who meets CCDF provider eligibility standards.

More information can be found at: *http://www.in.gov/fssa/2552.htm (in the left column, click on Child Care Assistance—Child Care Development Fund).*

Important Contacts & Links

Indiana Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline

1-800-800-5556

Foster Care Helpline

888-631-9510

DCS Website

www.in.gov/dcs

For additional information on the above and to learn what other forms of assistance and support may be available, please review the complete *Relative Resource Guide* and contact your DCS Family Case Manager or Regional Foster Care Staff.

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES

State of Indiana
Department of Child Services
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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2739
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Financial Assistance Options for Relative Caregivers

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES