

**Kinship caregivers are partners with biological parents and BCDSS. Being a partner means:**

- Supporting the birth parents' relationship with their child
- Participating in Family Team Decision Making Meetings (FTDMs)
- Ensuring the youth are registered in school and transported to health care visits
- Working with BCDSS to plan for visits with the parent(s) and sibling(s) and for the youth's future

- Respect and support the birth parents' relationship with their child by co-parenting and working in partnership to help the child return home
- Keep open communication with the caseworker on the child's progress, needs, and concerns
- Participate in Family Team Decision Making Meetings (FTDMs)
- Ensure the children are registered in school and work with the school on their behalf
- Ensure the children are taken to health care visits and follow-up treatment as necessary
- Work with BCDSS to plan for visits with the parents and siblings and for the child's future

## Contact Us

To learn more about the many benefits of Kinship Care visit us or call:

**443-423-5442**

**KinCare Center  
2923 E. Biddle Street  
Baltimore, MD 21213**

**For more information,  
visit our website:**



<https://bit.ly/4ckWJVO>



# Kinship CARE



## What is Kinship Care?

Kinship Care is when youth are cared for by a kin caregiver or family by choice for a short or extended period of time. Kinship caregivers are grandparents, aunts/uncles, adult siblings, godparents, neighbors or domestic partners, etc. Kinship homes can reduce the trauma youth experience being separated from their parents, and keep them connected to their families and community.



## Vision

The Baltimore City Department of Social Services (BCDSS) is committed to promoting and prioritizing kinship families first with support, resources, and information to care for their loved ones.

## What Can You Expect from BCDSS?

- Connect to our KinCare Center and Kinship Navigators
- Information and referral to services/resources that will help meet your family's needs;
- Social and emotional support for the entire family, including parents, children, and kinship caregiver(s);
- Supportive listening and help with understanding why BCDSS is involved, family dynamics, and the court process;
- Visiting the home to ensure the youth receives age-appropriate supervision and care from the kinship caregiver and
- Support and linkage to services to address the youth's health, school, and wellness needs.

As a kinship caregiver, there are several benefits available to your family, BCDSS will help you to determine if you are eligible and how to apply:

## Licensed Kinship Home



As a licensed kinship caregiver, your home would be licensed like a resource parent for only the child(ren) in your home. You would be eligible to receive a monthly care stipend to support the child(ren) in your care. \*\*This benefit is available to youth experiencing foster care.

- **Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA):** "Child only" grant is available to eligible children and their kinship caregivers.
- **SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program):** Provides nutrition benefits to supplement your family's food budget.
- **Medical Assistance:** Health insurance for the child
  - Apply online at <https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us>
  - In person at BCDSS locations
  - Call 1-800-332-6347
- **Child Care:** Apply online at <https://maryland.mendixcloud.com>, or call 1-866-243-8796
- **Social Security Survivors Benefits or Social Security Income:** Apply online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call 1-800-772-1213

## What are my rights as a Kinship Caregiver?

- To receive respect and courtesy from any staff person at BCDSS;
- To have the option to become a licensed kinship caregiver or to apply for Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) and;
- To request and receive other benefits and supportive services such as transportation, day care, or emergency assistance and;
- To discuss the plan for the family and share any concern regarding the youth with the child welfare team.

## What are the Future Plans for the Child?

Youth experiencing foster care is a temporary arrangement. BCDSS will immediately work with and provide support to parent(s), kinship caregiver(s), and the youth to address any barriers and develop a plan to exit out-of-home care. Planning for the transition from out-home-care for youth, may include one of the following plans:



- Return home to parent(s)
- Legal custody or guardianship by a kinship caregiver
- Adoption by a kinship caregiver