

Financial Support for Raising Grandchildren

Many grandparents find themselves in the caregiver position after the incapacitation, incarceration, or death of a child's parent(s). Beyond the day-to-day care of a child, providing care for a child with special needs is especially challenging. This fact sheet provides information regarding financial support options for grandparents raising grandchildren.

The **legal and living arrangement** established by grandparents who are raising their grandchildren varies. Those arrangements include kinship care, assuming legal guardianship, and caring for the child through the foster care program, which entitles the family to all foster care services.

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps in order to meet the child's food and nutrition needs and/or cash assistance through Indiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. For more information about these programs or to apply, view <https://www.in.gov/medicaid/members/52.htm>, call 1-800-403-0864, or go to your local Division of Family Resources office.

- If children are being cared for through the foster care program, reimbursement for "out-of-pocket" expenses is made on a "per diem" (per day) basis. Per diem rates vary according to the needs of the child and the agency that holds the license. Grandparents who find the agreed per diem rate does not meet the child's physical and medical needs, can petition the court for an increase in the reimbursement rates.

Children being raised by grandparents may be eligible for **free or low-cost health insurance** through Indiana's Hoosier Healthwise program. In some cases, caregivers may also be eligible for coverage. For program and application information, call 1-800-889-9949 or visit <http://member.indianamedicaid.com/>.

The child may be eligible for **respite services** through the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) office. This program provides funds for qualified caregivers to provide respite to the primary caregivers. Caregiver Support Services information is available by calling the BDDS office at 1-800-545-7763 or reviewing this document: http://www.in.gov/fssa/files/Caregiver_Supports_FAQ.pdf. Applications available here: <https://ddrprovider.fssa.in.gov/BDDS/ConsumerInfo/CaregiverSupportRequest.aspx>.

The child may be eligible for a home and community-based **medicaid waiver**. Information regarding the waiver program can be obtained by calling the BDDS office or contacting Family Voices Indiana for more information.

In some cases, a child living with grandparents may be eligible for **Social Security benefits** on the grandparent's record. Additionally, a child with disabilities and under the age of 18 may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) based on household income and assets. To find out more, contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213.

There are other programs that may be appropriate for the child's needs. Family Voices Indiana can assist with navigating these services. Please contact us at 844-323-4636.

To learn more about these and other programs, contact Family Voices Indiana. We will assist you as you navigate health care systems and services, especially those available to individuals with special health care needs.
844-323-4636
fvindiana.org