

# Licensed Family Foster Care Provider Benefits

Children who enter the child welfare system have experienced difficult family situations and traumatic experiences. By no fault of their own, they find their world turned upside down and need someone to give them the care they deserve. With appropriate counseling and supervision, most children remain at home, but some children need to be placed out of home, in court ordered foster care, for their safety or for treatment. There are a variety of foster care options, but for most children, a strong support system and loving home can make all the difference for the success of child. The Department of Health and Human Services, as part of the Family First Initiative, is striving to help support kinship placements.



The Kinship Caregiver Payment program is one of the financial supports provided to remove money as a barrier to caring for a child. The Kinship Caregiver Payment Program provides short-term financial assistance to families willing to care a child in their family or kin circle, who has come to the attention of Iowa's child welfare system and is court ordered out of home.

On behalf of children in Iowa, the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services wants to say “thank you” for all you do for Iowa’s children and invites you to become a licensed foster parent.



**Health and  
Human Services**

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Foster parents are licensed by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Service to care for children who have been abused or neglected, or who come to the attention of juvenile justice due to delinquent behaviors of the child. The licensing process includes free training, as well as provider and peer support. This is a time to learn more about caring for the child(ren) and ask any questions you may have.

**Tangible benefits of becoming licensed for family foster care include:**



A per-child per-diem stipend, paid monthly, which is provided the length of placement a child is in your home.



Childcare subsidies for the child placed in your home. Subsidies are not based on your family's income.



Medicaid coverage for medical, mental health and dental care of the child placed in your home.



24 days of paid respite care for the child placed in your home.



Payments received for family foster care are tax-free income.



Financial assistance with clothing.