



Kinship Caregiver Payment Program

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Kinship Caregiver Program is a Family First Initiative inspired program, which aims to keep children in the safe care of kin and fictive kin.

The Kinship Caregiver Payment Program is a time-limited payment specifically for kinship caregivers. This is an automatic payment, so kinship caregivers are not required to complete an application to receive this payment.

Monthly Payment

- Up to \$310 (\$10 per day) for each child court ordered into their care
- May start as soon as two months* after the child is placed into the kinship caregiver's home
- Payments may continue for up to six months

*If a child was previously placed in a paid placement prior to kinship/fictive kin placement the payment may start sooner.

For the purpose of this program, kinship caregiver is a person to whom a child is related by blood, marriage, or adoption, or a person who has a significant, committed, positive relationship with the child and who is caring for a child in foster care.

60 Days After Placement

During the first 60 days of kinship placement, kinship caregivers will receive assistance in applying for FIP (Family Investment Program) and Medicaid health care coverage for a child in their care. If a child is believed to have a disability, support and direction will be provided to connect with services or to apply for Social Security benefits. The FIP payment will end once the kinship caregiver payment begins.



6 Months After Placement

After six months of receiving the kinship caregiver payment, this payment will end. For kinship caregivers to continue to receive financial support for the child who remains in care beyond the six months, HHS encourages kinship caregivers to consider becoming a licensed foster parent. The Recruitment, Retention, Training and Support (RRTS) contractor will reach out to kinship caregivers to offer an informational session once they have received a referral, or a caregiver has reached out to Four Oaks Family Connections. An in-person or virtual meeting is available at the convenience of the kinship caregiver.



If the kinship caregiver becomes an approved licensed foster parent, they will receive:

- A monthly foster care payment
- Automatic Medicaid enrollment for any child placed by court order in their home
- Child care assistance
- A clothing allowance per child
- Support from the RRTS contractor

If the kinship caregiver does not become licensed, a FIP application is advised in order to resume receiving caretaker FIP payments.