



# Kinship Caregiver Payment Program

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Kinship Caregiver Payment 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

- Daily rate equivalent to base foster care maintenance payment for each child court ordered into their care
- Will be eligible to receive as soon as 14 days\* after court-ordered placement of the child into the kinship caregiver's home.
- Payments may continue for up to four months

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

|                  | Ages 0-5 | Ages 6-11 | Ages 12-15 | Age 16+ |
|------------------|----------|-----------|------------|---------|
| Basic Daily Rate | \$18.50  | \$19.24   | \$21.06    | \$21.34 |

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.

# 14 Days After Placement

Kinship caregivers will be eligible for the kinship caregiver payment 14 days after placement of the child(ren). The payment will be issued to the caregiver on the first day of the following month of eligibility, for up to four months throughout the duration of the child's placement. During the first 14 days of kinship placement, kinship caregivers will receive assistance in applying for 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. You cannot receive the kinship caregiver payment and FIP (Family Investment Program) for a child placed in your care at the same time.



## 4 Months After Placement

After four 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 four 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 a 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

Following the four months of kinship caregiver payment, if the kinship caregiver does not become licensed, a FIP application is advised in order to see if they are eligible for FIP payments.