

There is additional financial support available to relatives who stepped in to support a family when CPS is involved; what does a caregiver need to know?

Relative Maintenance Support Payment is assistance to families who are providing relative or fictive kin care to children to prevent entry into foster care. When families are receiving services and supports from LDSS, they may make safety decisions for their child(ren) to live temporarily or permanently with relatives or fictive kin caregivers in order to prevent placement into foster care. In these cases, the relative or fictive kin caregiver would be eligible for this available financial assistance.

To be eligible for this additional assistance, a relative or fictive kin caregiver must (as verified by the LDSS):

- Be a non-parent, relative or fictive kin caregiver in need of financial assistance
- Relative: Be caring for and living with a child(ren) who is not related by blood, marriage, or adoption (legal custody is not required)
- Fictive Kin: Be caring for and living with a child(ren) who are not related by blood or adoption but have an established relationship (legal custody is not required)
- Have begun or must begin providing care to a child(ren) to prevent entry into foster care **on or after July 1, 2024**
 - This must include a signed Parental Child Safety Placement Agreement **on or after July 1, 2024**
- Comply with requirements of the Parental Child Safety Placement Program

The pursuit of child support is not a requirement for the TANF/RMP (relative) or Kinship Care (fictive kin) categories for Relative Maintenance Support payments. If the child enters foster care and the relative becomes a kinship care provider as a foster parent, they are not eligible for TANF funding; however, they would receive foster care maintenance support on behalf of the child(ren) and may be eligible for Kinship Guardianship Assistance (KinGAP) or adoption subsidy if reunification with the parent is no longer the permanency plan.