**Getting Started as a Kin Caregiver in Broward County**

Becoming a caregiver may feel overwhelming for you or your family at times – that is normal! When you attend the Family Team Meeting, you will meet your assigned case manager and licensing specialist. They will be your main contacts during your time as a caregiver and are there to help you get connected to supports and services. *Questions before the Family Team Meeting?* Call the Kinship Licensing Team: (###) ###-####.

The questions below are designed to help you start thinking about the immediate needs and other logistical considerations that might be new to you. The four sections below match the categories of caregiver supports on the following pages*.* You can match your family’s needs to the supports that may be available.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Financial Supports** | * Are you aware of financial supports available to caregivers? Monthly cash payments, funds for child care, and other financial resources may be available to you. * Do you know about your option for becoming a licensed (L1) relative caregiver?   + Do you understand the process requirements? * Are you aware of any benefits the child is currently receiving that you will need to file to become the payee for (i.e., Social Security)? |
| **Health & Wellness** | * What are the medical needs of the child? * Does the child have any private medical insurance? * Do you have access to formula and diapers, if needed? Does the child need WIC? * Do you have access to enough food?   + Do you know if the child has any food allergies? * Is the child currently receiving mental health services that you would like to maintain? * Would you or your child be interested in counseling or other mental health supports? |
| **Housing, Transportation & Concrete Goods** | * Does the child need a crib or bed? * Does the child need a proper car seat or booster seat? * What clothes and outerwear do you have for the child?   + Do you know their clothing and shoe sizes? * Do you need help setting up space for the child(ren) in your home? * Do you have age-appropriate toys and activities for the child?   + What are their interests? * What are the child’s routines related to eating and sleeping? * Is there anything you would like more information about (for example, how to change a diaper, or dietary needs for a young child or a teen)? |
| **Education & Child Care** | * If the child is old enough, where are they currently enrolled in school or preschool?   + What supports do you need to keep the child enrolled in this school? If you need to transfer the child to a different school, what options are available? * What school programs does the child participate in?   + What supports do you need to keep the child involved in these activities? * Is the child signed up for school lunch? * Does the child have friends and/or mentors at school that you would like them to stay connected to? * If you are working, what are your child care needs?   + Do you know about the county’s child care subsidy program? * Who else in your support network can help you with this transition? * Are there people who can help you with transportation, babysitting, and respite? |

**Supports Available to Kin Caregivers in Broward County**

**Supports at a Glance:** This table lists the types of available supports often accessed by kin caregivers in Broward County, with more details below. Remember, this is a starting place! Talk to your case manager about other needs or referrals you are looking for.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Financial Supports**   * L1 Board Rate or relative/fictive kin monthly stipend * [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)](https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1657)\* * [Guardian Assistance Program (GAP)](https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-and-family-well-being/guardianship-assistance-program-gap#:~:text=The%20State%20of%20Florida%20offers,System%20and%20meet%20eligibility%20criteria.) * [Social Security (SSI & SSA)](https://www.ssa.gov/) * Temporary cash assistance\*\* | **Medical, Mental Health, Nutrition**   * Support accessing medical services & prescriptions * [Medicaid](https://myflfamilies.com/Medicaid) * [SNAP](https://myflfamilies.com/services/public-assistance/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap)\* & [SNAPed](https://familynutritionprogram.org/)\* (food stamps & family nutrition) * [WIC](https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wic/index.html) for children up to 5 (formula, milk & baby food) * Mental health counseling & supports |
| **Clothing, Safety, Shelter\*\***   * Beds & cribs * Office storefront (clothes, toys & hygiene items) * Safety items (car seats, smoke detectors, etc.) * Home storage solutions * Emergency rental & utilities assistance | **School and Child Care**   * School supplies * Child care subsidy * [Early Learning Coalition](https://www.elcbroward.org/) (subsidized daycares) |

\*You can apply for these public benefits online at Access Florida: <https://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/>

\*\*One-time additional financial resources, gift cards, and temporary cash assistance may be available on a case-by-case basis.

**Monthly Cash Stipends**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **L1 Board Rate**  Kin caregivers can apply for a Level I License. Once approved, you will receive a monthly board rate for each child you care for.   * $$ for each child aged 0-12 * $$ for each child aged 13-17   Currently, with an approved home study, caregivers can receive this monthly payment, while waiting for licensing approval (available for up to six months). | **Relative and Non-Relative Fund**  If a kin caregiver does not decide to pursue licensing in the first six months, they can continue to receive monthly support from the Relative and Non-Relative Caregiver Parity Fund *if the child is adjudicated dependent*:   * $$ for each child aged 0-5 * $$ for each child aged 6-12 * $$ for each child aged 13-17 | **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**  Families can [apply](https://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/) for TANF through Access Florida while waiting for licensing, or if not planning to pursue licensing. Only the child's income and assets are counted when determining eligibility. *\*Note: TANF requires putting the birth parent(s) on child support*.   * $$ for 1 child * $$ for 2 children * $$ for 3 children * $$ for 4 children |

**Additional Financial Supports**

* **Guardian Assistance Program (GAP) Benefits:** Looking forward, if the child(ren)’s case closes, you accept permanent guardianship, and you have already received six consecutive L1 Board payments, you are entitled to Guardian Assistance Program (GAP) financial benefits that match your current L1 monthly amount. *\*Both GAP & EGAP include a tuition* *waiver & Medicaid benefits*
  + **Regular GAP**: If the case closes permanent guardianship at age 0-15, you are entitled to regular GAP, which is the amount of your L1 Board Payment up until the child is 18.
  + **Extended GAP:** If the case closes permanent guardianship at age 16 or 17, you are entitled to Extended GAP (EGAP), which is the amount of your L1 Board Payment up until the child is 21.
* **Social Security Benefits:** If the child is currently receiving Social Security benefits, you can begin receiving them as their caregiver. You will need to take the court order/letter of custody to the Social Security Office to become the payee.
  + **SSA** (Survivor benefits in case of death): If the monthly SSA death benefit amount being paid by Social Security is less than the monthly L1 board rate, you can apply for both.
  + **SSI** (Disability benefits): Since you cannot receive SSI and L1 board benefits at the same time, we recommend you choose the one that pays the higher monthly rate. This is *usually* the SSI benefit amount but varies by child.

**Health & Wellness**

* The **Medical Unit** (xxxx@xxx.com)is available to help all caregivers access medical services, equipment or prescriptions and navigate insurance issues or network changes. As a new caregiver, the Medical Unit can help you:
  + Coordinate services that have been authorized by Medicaid (more info below)
  + Obtain insurance member ID number and request ID cards for
  + Complete referrals for PPEC (Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care)
  + Process referrals to Embracing Smiles and My Healthy Care Grant for children’s braces
* **Medicaid** covers or assists in the cost of medical services for the child(ren) in your care. Your case manager will apply on your child’s behalf to receive these benefits for the duration of the case. Children who qualify for GAP benefits automatically qualify for Medicaid. *\*If the case is closed and the child remains in your care, your case manager can help you to get the benefits transferred under your name.*
* If the child is 17 and under when they first enter out of home care, the Medical Unit will contact you to coordinate a doctor’s appointment to complete a **Child Well Check (EPSDT)** within 72 hours that the child is in your care.
* **WIC (Women, Infants & Children)** is a federal program thatprovides qualifying children up to age 5 supplemental nutrition (formula, milk, and baby food) at no cost. If you qualify, you receive an EBT card to spend on these items. Call (###) ###-#### or go to [https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wic/](https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wic/.).
* **Mental Health:** If you and/or children in your care need mental health services, counseling, or substance abuse supports, there are providers in Broward County that accept Medicaid and/or use grant funding so that you can receive services at no cost. Speak with your case manager about setting up a referral.
  + Note: If the child is referred when they first enter out of home care, an assessor will contact you to complete a **Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment (CBHA)** within the first 30 days that the child is in your care. It is important that you share all relevant information with the assessor so that they can accurately assess the child’s emotional, social, behavioral, and developmental functioning needs.
* **Support Groups for Licensed Caregivers** are available through Broward County Foster & Adoptive Parent Association (FAPA). They offer weekly & monthly support group meetings, open to those who choose to pursue an L1 license. Email: xxxx@xxx.com.

**Housing & Concrete Goods**

* The Licensing Team and your case manager are committed to helping you obtain the home and safety items you need to support the child(ren) in your care. Start by making a list of what you need so that staff can connect you to the office storefront and other community resources.
* **Emergency Rental & Utility Assistance** may be available to you — based on family situation — through Access Florida or Broward Family Success Centers. If interested, start by talking to your case manager.

**Education &** **Child Care**

* **Child Care Subsidy:** A $200 monthly subsidy is available to any employed caregiver to go toward the cost of an early learning or child care program until a case is closed. Your case manager can help you apply if:
  + The child is under 5 or 5 and not yet attending school
  + Caregiver/provider is employed (both must be employed if two-parent household)
  + You can provide child care cost documentation (receipt, invoice, or CBC Attestation Form)
* **Early Learning Coalition (ELC)** Your case manager may be able to refer you to subsidized daycare through the ELC based on child’s age (up to 9) and caregiver’s income. Go to [www.elcbroward.org](http://www.elcbroward.org/) for list of approved daycares and talk to your case manager if interested.

**Additional Broward Community Organizations that Support Kin Caregivers**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [**KIN Connect (CBCI)**](http://communitybasedconnections.com/programs/kinship-program/)  Call (###) ###-#### | Offer in-home support visits for new kin caregivers (up to 9 months) & monthly support groups. Can help with applying for public benefits, budgeting, home-safety, and legal assistance. |
| **KID Kinship Program**  Call (###) ###-#### | Can help kin caregivers navigate school systems, medical care, mental health services, public benefits, and parenting education. Offer academic supports and life coaching for kinship youth. |
| [**Broward Family Success Centers**](https://www.broward.org/FamilySuccess/Pages/FamilySuccessCenters.aspx) | 4 locations in Broward County with free resources to help caregiver families set goals, learn skills & become financially stable. |

*Use the template below to develop a resource guide that highlights community-based services and supports available to kin caregivers.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Financial Supports** | | | |
| **Resource** | **Description** | **Eligibility** | **Enrollment & Contact Info** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Health & Wellness** | | | |
| **Resource** | **Description** | **Eligibility** | **Enrollment & Contact Info** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Education,** **Child Care & Respite** | | | |
| **Resource** | **Description** | **Eligibility** | **Enrollment & Contact Info** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Housing, Transportation & Concrete Goods** | | | |
| **Resource** | **Description** | **Eligibility** | **Enrollment & Contact Info** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal Supports** | | | |
| **Resource** | **Description** | **Eligibility** | **Enrollment & Contact Info** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Training, Resource Navigation & Peer Support** | | | |
| **Resource** | **Description** | **Eligibility** | **Enrollment & Contact Info** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Additional Community Organizations**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization Name** | **Description** | **Contact Information** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |