

Available Benefits and Services

Child Welfare

Kinship families may be eligible for child welfare services, including case management, Promoting Safe and Stable Families, preventative services and other county-specific programs.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Non-certified and informal kinship families may apply for Colorado Works, the state's TANF program. Kinship caregivers have the option of applying for a child-only grant on behalf of the child or youth in their care or they may apply to become part of the grant. Applications can be submitted online at coloradopeak.secure.force.com or in person at the local county department of human/social services.

Medicaid

The public health insurance plan may be available to assist with the costs of health care. Individuals can apply for Colorado Works and Medicaid with the same form and at the same time.

Child Support Services

Parents are legally responsible for supporting their children or youth. Child Support Services ensures this occurs by establishing and enforcing financial and medical orders for parents to provide monthly support for their children or youth who are not residing with them. Referrals can be made by the kinship caregiver, Division of Child Welfare or Division of Colorado Works. For more information, contact the local county department of human/social services.



We all play a role in preventing **child abuse and neglect.**



You dial the number.
We'll make the call.
1-844-CO-4-KIDS
(1-844-264-5437)



COLORADO
Department of Human Services

Kinship Care in Colorado



Options and Resources

COkinship.org



COLORADO

Office of Children,
Youth & Families

Division of Child Welfare

Who are Kinship Caregivers?

Kinship caregivers are relatives, friends, neighbors and other people with a significant relationship to the child, youth or family. Kinship caregivers provide care and protection to children and youth who cannot remain safely in their home due to issues including, but not limited to:

- child abuse and neglect
- substance abuse
- incarceration
- mental health
- domestic violence
- death of a parent
- financial hardships
- military deployments

Types of Kinship Care

Kinship Family Foster Care

Kin who are caring for children or youth who are involved in a child welfare case and are in the legal custody of the county department of human/social services. These kin meet foster care certification requirements although some non-safety certification standards may be waived.

Non-Certified Kinship Care

Kin who have not met the foster care certification requirements or have chosen not to pursue the process. Legal custody is with the parent(s), kinship caregiver or the county department of human/social services.

Informal Kinship Care

An arrangement made within the family or with friends and does not involve child welfare. Custody may be with the parent(s) or the kinship caregiver.

Permanency Options

Regardless of the type of kinship care, all children and youth in kinship care can achieve permanency in one of the following ways:

Reunification: Children or youth are reunited with their family.

Adoption: A legal process where parental rights are terminated and permanently awarded to the adoptive parent(s).

Relative Guardianship Assistance Program (RGAP): Provides assistance to relative guardians who meet eligibility requirements.

Allocation of Parental Responsibility (APR): Provides kin with the legal authority to make basic decisions regarding the child or youth.

Choosing the Right Option

The county department can help kinship caregivers assess their needs through a Kinship Needs Assessment. This assessment can help kinship families make an informed decision about which kinship care option is right for them.

Some questions to consider when deciding whether to become certified:

- How long will the child or youth be with me?
- What services are available for the child or youth and how do I apply?
- What financial assistance is available?
 - What are the eligibility criteria?
 - How do I apply?
- Will I meet certification requirements?
- What is expected of me as the caregiver?
- What if the child or youth cannot return to their parents?

Common Requirements

All kinship caregivers who have a child or youth placed by a county department of human/social services must complete the following requirements:

- An application to provide care;
- Fingerprint-based background checks with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for all adults age 18 and older living in the home;
- Check of child abuse and neglect records in every state where the adult has resided in the five years preceding the date of application;
- Colorado judicial case management system check;
- Check of the CBI and National Sexual Offender Registries; and
- A home study or assessment.

Additional Requirements

Depending on the kinship option chosen, there may be additional requirements such as training. The county department of human/social services will explain all of the requirements.

