

Who is a Relative Caregiver ?

A relative caregiver is someone related to a child by blood, marriage, or adoption and who has primary care and control of the child through legal and/or informal arrangements.

What is the Relative Caregiver Program (RCP)?

RCP provides support to Relative Caregivers to help them continue to care for and provide the child(ren) with a safe, stable, nurturing home, thus eliminating the possibility of the child(ren) entering the foster care system.

What support does RCP offer?

- Resource Linkage
- Case Management
- Family Advocacy
- Support Groups
- Education and Enrichment Workshops
- Respite
- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Monthly Stipend

What are the Counties Served by WRAP ?

Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Tipton, Weakley



Complete referral form and email to rcpreferrals@wraptn.org



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Relative Caregiver Program

This project is funded under a Grant Contract with the State of Tennessee.



Why RCP?

Children who cannot be raised by their parents have better outcomes when they are able to remain in the care of their family.

This is especially true of siblings who are able to stay together or have regular contact with each other. It is also true that many relatives who would be willing to provide a safe and nurturing home for these children need support systems to partner with them.

The Relative Caregiver Program seeks to be a support system to these families. All services are offered in collaboration with the family, as we believe that the family is the expert of their lives. Case managers strive to work with the whole family unit to ensure the best decisions are being made on behalf of the children. Families are also treated with respect and dignity.

We are sensitive to the limitations and strengths of our families and provide our services from a strengths-based perspective that allows our participants to maintain both their privacy and confidentiality.

Relative Caregiver Program

Eligibility

- Children reside in the caregiver's home full-time by a court order, power of attorney, or informal agreement with the parents.
- Caregiver consents to needs assessments and participates in activities (i.e. home visits, follow-up calls, and other support activities).
- Caregiver agrees to accept needed support services (i.e. resource linkage, goal planning, evaluation, and participation in support groups for self and children).
- Caregiver agrees to provide a safe home for relative children and are committed to providing that home for as long as necessary.
- Parent(s) of the child(ren) do not live in the caregiver's home.
- Caregiver is within the first, second, or third degree of relationship to the parent or stepparent of the child and is related to the child through blood, marriage, or adoption.
- Caregiver's adult household income does not exceed twice the current Federal Poverty Guideline based on the size of the family unit.
- Caregiver is not receiving DCS kinship payment or subsidy.

Eligibility for the Relative Caregiver Program does not guarantee eligibility for the Relative Caregiver Stipend Program. Caregivers must provide supporting documents that verify relationship to the child and the adult household income before eligibility can be determined.

Relative Caregiver Stipend

Beginning January 1, 2023, a stipend was added to the program. This stipend offers eligible Relative Caregivers a percentage of the monthly foster parent board rate.

The monthly stipend is offered to assist eligible families in meeting the children's need in their home. It comes with four additional qualifications:

- Child(ren) are not in state custody.
- Caregiver is 21 years old or older.
- Caregiver obtains final order of the court.
- Caregiver agrees to pursue child support and establish paternal responsibility.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE
TENNESSEE RELATIVE CAREGIVER
PROGRAM WEBSITE**

<https://www.tn.gov/dcs/program-areas/prevention/relative-caregiver.html>

