



HANDBOOK FOR GRANDPARENTS:

# RAISING GRANDCHILDREN IN NORTHEAST MICHIGAN

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DEVELOPED BY:

*Region 9 Area Agency on Aging*



The NEMCSA Region 9 Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is pleased to provide you with this handbook of helpful materials and publications directed towards Kinship Care providers.

Kinship care is the full-time care, nurturing, and protection of children by relatives, members of their tribes or clans, godparents, stepparents, or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child. Currently, about 36% of the foster care placements in Michigan are with relatives.

The cost of raising one or more children can be overwhelming. Along with food, clothing, medical bills, and school supplies, kinship families are also concerned about making long term plans for their grandchildren. Many kinship providers are coping with health problems with an added emotional stress that arises from the expansion of their household.

The materials provided in this handbook are designed to offer kinship care providers with resources and information. We hope you find this handbook a helpful resource.

Kind Regards

Laurie L. Sauer  
Director



**Serving the Counties of:**

Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle and Roscommon

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*Region 9 Area Agency on Aging is a division of Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency.*

# Handbook

The Kinship Care Handbook is updated annually. Changes or additions should be e-mailed to the Region 9 Area Agency on Aging at [healthyaging@nemcsa.org](mailto:healthyaging@nemcsa.org). Revised on 2.28.2025

## Document Checklist

**Possible documents that you may be asked to bring, when applying for different assistance programs:**

- Birth Certificates (child's, yours and birth parents)
- Death Certificates
- Social Security numbers
- Medical Records and proof of immunizations
- Dental Records
- Proof of income for everyone in the family (pay-stubs, award letters from Family Independence Program (FIP) or Social Security, bank statements, court orders receipts and child support letters)
- Proof of residency (utility bill or credit card bill issued within 90 days)
- Proof of assets for everyone (bank statements, deed to house, title to car and burial plots)
- Any document proving that you are the "Caregiver" for the child
- Custody/Guardianship/Adoption Papers

# District Health Department

## **ALCONA COUNTY**

District Health Department #2  
311 Lake Street, P.O. Box 218  
Harrisville, MI 48740  
Phone: 989.724.6757  
Website: [www.dhd2.org](http://www.dhd2.org)

## **ALPENA COUNTY**

District Health Department #4  
100 Woods Circle  
Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone: 989.356.4507  
Website: [www.dhd4.org](http://www.dhd4.org)

## **ARENAC COUNTY**

Central MI District Health Department  
4489 M-61 #3  
Standish, MI 48658  
Phone: 989.846.6541  
Website: [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org)

## **CHEBOYGAN COUNTY**

District Health Department #4  
825 South Huron Street, Suite 1  
Cheboygan, MI 49721  
Phone: 231.627.8850  
Website: [www.dhd4.org](http://www.dhd4.org)

## **CRAWFORD COUNTY**

District Health Department #10  
501 Norway Street #1  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
Phone: 989.348.7800  
Website: [www.dhd10.org](http://www.dhd10.org)

## **IOSCO COUNTY**

District Health Department #2  
420 W. Lake Street, P.O. Box 98  
Tawas City, MI 48764  
Phone: 989.362.5211  
Website: [www.dhd2.org](http://www.dhd2.org)

## **MONTMORENCY COUNTY**

District Health Department #4  
12519 State Street  
Atlanta, MI 49709  
Phone: 989.785.4428  
Website: [www.dhd4.org](http://www.dhd4.org)

## **OGEMAW COUNTY**

District Health Department #2  
630 Progress Street  
West Branch, MI 48661  
Phone: 989.345.5020  
Fax: 989.343.1899  
Website: [www.dhd2.org](http://www.dhd2.org)

## **OSCODA COUNTY**

District Health Department #2  
393 South Mt. Tom Road  
Mio, MI 48647  
Phone: 989.826.3970  
Website: [www.dhd2.org](http://www.dhd2.org)

## **OTSEGO COUNTY**

Health Department of  
Northwest Michigan  
95 Livingston Boulevard  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
Phone: 800.432.4121  
Website: [www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org)

## **PRESQUE ISLE COUNTY**

District Health Department #4  
106 East Huron, Suite P  
Roger City, MI 49779  
Phone: 989.734.4723  
Website: [www.dhd4.org](http://www.dhd4.org)

## **ROSCOMMON COUNTY**

Central Michigan District  
Health Department  
200 Grand Avenue, Suite A  
Prudenville, MI 48651  
Phone: 989.366.9166  
Website: [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org)

# Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Provides child care expenses when the parent or guardian is unavailable due to employment, education, or health/social condition.

## **ALCONA COUNTY**

410 East Main Street  
Suite 7 & 7A  
Harrisville, MI 48740  
Phone: 989.724.9000

## **ALPENA COUNTY**

600 Walnut Street  
Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone: 989.354.7200

## **ARENAC COUNTY**

3709 Deep River Road  
Standish, MI 48658  
Phone: 989.846.4365

## **CHEBOYGAN COUNTY**

827 South Huron Street  
Cheboygan, MI 49721  
Phone: 231.627.8500

## **CRAWFORD COUNTY**

2450 S I-75 Business Loop  
Grayling, MI 49738  
Phone: 989.348.7691

## **IOSCO COUNTY**

2145 East Huron Road  
East Tawas, MI 48730  
Phone: 989.362.0300

## **MONTMORENCY COUNTY**

13210 M-33  
Atlanta, MI 49709  
Phone: 989.785.4218

## **OGEMAW COUNTY**

444 East Houghton Ave  
West Branch, MI 48661  
Phone: 989.345.5135

## **OSCODA COUNTY**

200 West Fifth Street  
Mio, MI 48647  
Phone: 989.826.4000

## **OTSEGO COUNTY**

931 South Otsego Ave  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
Phone: 989.732.1702

## **PRESQUE ISLE COUNTY**

164 North Fourth Street  
Rogers City, MI 49779  
Phone: 989.734.2108

## **ROSCOMMON COUNTY**

715 South Loxley Road  
Houghton Lake, MI 48629  
Phone: 1.844.464.3447



# Probate/Family Court

## **ALCONA COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

106 Fifth Street  
Harrisville, MI 48740  
Phone: 989.724.9490  
Website: [www.alconacountymi.com](http://www.alconacountymi.com)  
Hours: Mon.- Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## **ALPENA COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

719 West Chisholm Street # 4  
Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone: 989.354.9650  
Website: [www.alpenacounty.org/probate](http://www.alpenacounty.org/probate)  
Hours: Mon.- Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## **ARENAC COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

120 North Grove Street  
PO Box 666  
Standish, Michigan 48658  
Phone: 989.846.6941  
Website: [www.arenacountymi.gov](http://www.arenacountymi.gov)  
Hours: Mon.- Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## **CHEBOYGAN COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

870 South Main Street  
Cheboygan, MI 49721  
Phone: 231.627.8823  
Website: [www.cheboygancounty.net](http://www.cheboygancounty.net)  
Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## **CRAWFORD COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

200 Michigan Avenue  
Grayling, MI 49738  
Phone: 989.348.2841  
Website: [www.crawfordco.org](http://www.crawfordco.org)  
Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## **IOSCO COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

422 West Lake Street  
P.O. Box 609  
Tawas City, MI 48763  
Phone: 989.362.3991  
Website: [www.iosco.net/government/probate/](http://www.iosco.net/government/probate/)  
Hours: Mon. - Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## **MONTMORENCY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

12265 M-32 West Judicial Annex  
Atlanta, MI 49709  
Phone: 989.785.8064  
Website: [www.montmorencycountymichigan.us](http://www.montmorencycountymichigan.us)  
Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## **OGEMAW COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

806 West Houghton Ave # 203  
West Branch, MI 48661  
Phone: 989.345.0145  
Website: [www.ocmi.us/probate-court/](http://www.ocmi.us/probate-court/)  
Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## **OSCODA COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

Oscoda County Courthouse Annex  
105 South Court Street  
Mio, MI 48647  
Phone: 989.826.1107  
Website: [www.oscodacountymi.com](http://www.oscodacountymi.com)  
Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## **OTSEGO COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

Alpine Center 800 Livingston Blvd., Suite 1-C  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
Phone: 989.731.0204  
Website: [www.otsegocountymi.gov](http://www.otsegocountymi.gov)  
Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

## **PRESQUE ISLE COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

151 East Huron Avenue  
Rogers City, MI 49779  
Phone: 989.734.3268  
Website: [www.presqueislecounty.org/probate](http://www.presqueislecounty.org/probate)  
Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

## **ROSCOMMON COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

500 Lake Street  
Roscommon, MI 48653  
Phone: 989.275.5221  
Website: [www.roscommoncounty.net](http://www.roscommoncounty.net)  
Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

# Proper Child Safety Seat Use Chart

This chart is a quick guide on where to start your search. It is important to continue your research to learn about each seat you use.

| Types of Car Seats at a Glance |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Age-Group                      | Type of Seat                | General Guidelines                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Infants and Toddlers           | Rear-facing-only            | All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing seat until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car seat manufacturer. Most convertible seats have limits that will allow children to ride rear facing for two years or more.                                                                                             |
|                                | Rear-facing-convertible     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Toddlers and Preschoolers      | Forward-facing convertible  | Children who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their convertible seat should use a forward-facing seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by their car seat manufacturer. Many seats can accommodate children up to 65 pounds or more.                                       |
|                                | Forward-facing with harness |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| School-Aged Children           | Booster                     | All children whose weight or height exceeds the forward-facing limit for their car safety seat should use a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle seat belt fits properly, typically when they have reached 4 feet 9 inches in height and are 8 through 12 years of age. All children younger than 13 years should ride in the back seat. |
| Older Children                 | Seat belts                  | When children are old enough and large enough for the vehicle seat belt to fit them correctly, they should always use lap and shoulder seat belts for the best protection. All children younger than 13 years should ride in the back seat.                                                                                                         |

## SAFETY TIPS:

- Keep kids rear-facing for as long as possible.
- Make sure everyone in the car is buckled up.
- Keep the car seat straps snug.
- Do not start using a booster seat too soon and do not stop using a booster seat too soon.
- The center seat is generally the safest spot in the car for kids.
- After you install your child's car seat, have it checked by a trained technician.
- Remember car seats expire.
- Do not text or talk on the phone while driving.

Adapted from Car Safety Seats: A Guide for Families 2020  
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# CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSPECTION STATIONS

## **ALPENA COUNTY**

Alpena Police Department  
501 West Chisholm Street  
Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone: 989.354.1830

Alpena County Sheriff  
320 Johnson Street  
Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone: 989.354.9830 Press 1  
Contact: Cash Kroll

## **ARENAC COUNTY**

Michigan State Police  
496 East Houghton Avenue  
West Branch, MI 48661  
Phone: 989.345.0956  
Contact: Shane Noble

## **CHEBOYGAN COUNTY**

Michigan State Police  
1206 South Main Street  
Cheboygan, MI 49721  
Phone: 989.732.2778  
Contact: Corey Hebner

## **IOSCO COUNTY**

Iosco County Sheriff's Office  
428 West Lake Street  
Tawas City, MI 48763  
Phone: 989.362.6164  
Contact: James Franks

## **OGEMAW COUNTY**

Michigan State Police  
496 East Houghton Avenue  
West Branch, MI 48661  
Phone: 989.345.0956  
Contact: Shane Noble

## **OTSEGO COUNTY**

Michigan State Police-Gaylord  
563 Otsego Avenue  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
Phone: 989.732.2778  
Contact: Corey Hebner

## **PRESQUE ISLE COUNTY**

Alpena County Sheriff  
320 Johnson Street  
Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone: 989.354.9830 Press 1  
Contact: Cash Kroll

## **ROSCOMMON COUNTY**

Roscommon County Sheriff  
111 South Second Street  
Roscommon, MI 48653  
Phone: 989.275.5101  
Contact: Shaun Hand

Michigan State Police  
9011 West Lake City Road  
Houghton Lake, MI 48629  
Phone: 989.422.5101



# Contact Your Local Senior Center

## Limited Funding Available

Monetary assistance to support relatives age 55+, raising relative children. See page 12 for more information.

### **ALCONA COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**

P.O. Box 218  
807 Barlow Road  
Lincoln, MI 48742  
Phone: 989.736.8879  
[www.alconaseniors.org](http://www.alconaseniors.org)

### **ALPENA SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER**

501 River Street  
Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone: 989.356.3585  
[www.alpenaseniors.com](http://www.alpenaseniors.com)

### **SUNRISE SIDE SENIOR SERVICES**

P.O. Box 36  
131 Cylde  
Omer, MI 48749  
Phone: 989.653.2692

### **CHEBOYGAN COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING**

1531 Sand Road  
Cheboygan, MI 49721  
Phone: 231.627.7234  
[www.3coa.com](http://www.3coa.com)

### **CRAWFORD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**

308 Lawndale Street  
Grayling, MI 49738  
Phone: 989.348.7123  
[www.crawfordcoa.org](http://www.crawfordcoa.org)

### **IOSCO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**

P.O. Box 160  
220 North Washington  
Hale, MI 48739  
Phone: 989.728.6484  
[www.ioscocoa.org](http://www.ioscocoa.org)

### **MONTMORENCY COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**

P.O. Box 788  
Atlanta, MI 49709  
Phone: 989.785.2580  
[www.montmorencycoa.org](http://www.montmorencycoa.org)

### **OGEMAW COMMISSION ON AGING**

1528 South M-33  
West Branch, MI 48661  
Phone: 989.345.3010  
[www.ogemawcoa.org](http://www.ogemawcoa.org)

### **OSCODA COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING**

429 Mt. Tom Road  
Mio, MI 48647  
Phone: 989.826.3025

### **OTSEGO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**

1165 Elkview Avenue  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
Phone: 989.732.1122  
[www.otsegocountycoa.org](http://www.otsegocountycoa.org)

### **PRESQUE ISLE COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING**

6520 Darga Highway  
Posen, MI 49776  
Phone: 989.766.8191  
[www.piccoa.org](http://www.piccoa.org)

### **ROSCOMMON COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**

1015 Short Drive, Suite A  
Prudenville, MI 48651  
Phone: 989.366.0205  
[www.rccoa.net](http://www.rccoa.net)

# Self-Care Ideas

- Do yoga
- Journal
- Workout
- Garden
- Go shopping
- Go for a run
- Bake cookies
- Go for a drive
- Go on a date
- Get a massage
- Visit the dentist
- Try a new recipe
- Read a good book
- Go for a walk outside
- Listen to an audiobook
- Spend time with your pet
- Dance in the living room
- Schedule your eye exam
- Plan a movie date with friends
- Go to a park and people watch
- Take your prescribed medication
- Buy yourself a bouquet of flowers
- Get your yearly physical or check-up
- Meditate
- Take a nap
- Watch T.V.
- Go on a hike
- Soak your feet
- Listen to music
- Take a hot bath
- Go to bed early
- Plan a vacation
- Create a wish list
- Work on a puzzle
- Apply a face mask
- Sit in the sunshine
- Listen to podcasts
- Visit your therapist
- Shut your phone off
- Watch a funny movie
- Diffuse essential oils
- Find a good therapist
- Light scented candles
- Color in a coloring book
- Take a break from all social media
- Paint your fingernails and/or toenails

**"You cannot pour from an empty cup. Take care of yourself."**



**Call 211  
or visit  
mi211.org to  
find local  
resources.**

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## Nutrition

Food and nutrition programs exist to assist caregivers in meeting the daily requirements of the children who depend on them.

- Baby Pantries
- Child Nutrition Program
- Churches and Community Centers
- Community Meals
- Congregate Meals at Senior Centers
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Feeding Kids Ministry
- Food Pantries
- Foodbanks
- Free and Reduced-Priced School Lunch and Breakfast Program
- Salvation Army
- Soup Kitchens
- Summer Food Programs
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Food Stamp Program
- Women, Infant, and Children (WIC)

# Legal

**Below are some different legal options.**

## **INFORMAL KINSHIP**

Informal kinship care includes relatives who take care of other family members children without a formal, legal arrangement. Parents maintain legal custody and rights of the children regardless of level of emotional and financial support.

## **ADOPTION**

Adoption is the process of gaining permanent legal custody. Adoption ends all of the birth parents' rights and responsibilities, which means that birth parents cannot go to court later and reclaim those rights and responsibilities. This makes access to services on behalf of the child the same as for any parent.

## **POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Signing a Power of Attorney, parents legally grant relatives the authority to raise the children, without the involvement of an attorney.

## **GUARDIANSHIP**

Guardianship does not take away all the birth parents rights and responsibilities. However, Guardianship allows access to services on behalf of the child that otherwise might not happen without changing family relationships legally. Birth parents keep certain rights and the obligation to financially support the child. Unlike adoption, the birth-parents can go back to court and ask for the guardianship to be ended.

## **LEGAL CUSTODY**

Custody is gaining legal rights and responsibility through a Family Court. Change in custody requires a formal hearing in the court.

**In the Region 9 AAA service area, contact  
Legal Services of Northern Michigan at  
989.356.9081 or 989.705.1067**

# Other Services

- *F.I.S.H Inc.:* FISH provides emergency aid to people in our community.
  - Oscoda: 989.739.9400
  - Tawas 989.362.8788
- *St. Vincent de Paul:* Thrift stores.
  - Alcona: 989.736.6271
  - Alpena: 989.354.3671
  - Ogemaw: 989.345.0779 and 989.873.5797
  - Roscommon: 989.366.7613 and 989.275.3036
- *Hope Shore Alliance:* Include a 24-hour help and support line, advocacy, counseling, supportive listening, emergency shelter, and long-term housing.
  - Alpena: 989.356.2560
  - Montmorency: 989.250.7979
  - Oscoda: 989.739.0144
  - Presque Isle: 989.734.7306
- *Foster Closets:* Provides foster children with belongings they can call their own.
  - Alpena: 231.884.1279
  - Arenac: 989.698.6876
  - Up North Adoptive and Foster Closet: 1649 Michigan 32, Gaylord, MI
  - Roscommon-Crawford: 989.390.2254
- *Habitat for Humanity:* Helps families build and improve places to call home.
  - Alpena: 989.354.5555
  - Fairview: 989.848.2200
  - Lewiston: 989.786.3385
  - Gaylord: 989.732.6070
  - West Branch: 989.345.7085
  - Cheboygan: 231.597.4663
- *The Family Independence Program (FIP):* Provides temporary cash assistance to Michigan families with children to help pay for living expenses such as rent, heat, utilities, clothing, food, and personal care items.
  - Phone: 855.275.6424
  - Website: [www.benefits.gov/benefit/1220](http://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1220)

# Other Services Continued

- *Baby Pantries*: Help children with basic needs such as clothes, formula, baby food, blankets, bottles, etc.
  - Alcona: 989.305.5440
  - Alpena: Third Thursday of every month, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 989.356.9317
  - Arenac: Mondays from 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m., 989.233.3515
  - Crawford: First and third Thursday of every month, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 989.348.2985
  - Iosco: Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 989.756.4840
  - Montmorency: Fridays, 989.306.2064
  - Ogemaw: 345.3909
  - Roscommon: Second Thursday of every month, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., 989.821.9115
- *Salvation Army*: Operates summer camps for children, thrift stores, and many other services.
  - Alpena: 989.358.2769
  - Cheboygan: 231.627.9003
  - Gaylord: 989.731.5959
  - Iosco: 989.984.5160
  - Roscommon: 989.202.4652
- *Legal Services of Michigan*: Provide legal assistance to adults aged 60 or older. 989.356.9081 or 989.705.1067
- *Michigan 2-1-1*: This is a free service that connects Michigan residents with help and answers from thousands of health and human services agencies and resources in their communities. 2-1-1 is a confidential service and can help with accessing food, housing, and paying bills. Visit [www.mi211.org](http://www.mi211.org) or call 844-875-9211.
- *Chelsea's Closet (Cheboygan)*: Lends dresses to girls attending their high school formal dances for free. 231.818.9126



# Region 9 Area Agency on Aging Kinship Care Program

- Kinship Care is a program for relative care providers caring for related children. If you are age 55 or older and caring for a related child under the age of 18, this program may be able to help you with expenses such as recreational activities, school supplies, clothing, needed furniture and more. Funding is limited.
- Two requests per year may be made per child.
- There is a limit of \$300 per request.
- Some eligibility restrictions and limitations apply.

## Some Funded Items:

Here is a list of some of the possible items funded through the Kinship Care Program. These are not limited to:

- Respite
- School supplies
- Girl/Boy Scouts
- Sports or sport equipment
- Clothing
- Extracurricular activities
- Summer camps
- Educational outings
- Tutoring
- Counseling

**If you have any questions regarding the Kinship Care Program, call your local Commission on Aging or Region 9 AAA to assist you. See page 7 for contact information.**



# Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency (NEMCSA) Services

- **HEAT AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

- This program provides assistance to qualifying at-risk households for electricity and natural gas as well as delivery of fuel for a household's primary heat source either propane, fuel oil, or firewood.
- Interested applicants are screened for eligibility by calling 989.358.4713.

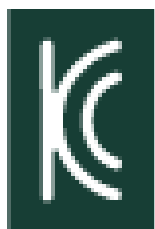
- **LOW-INCOME WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM**

- This program provides ceiling and attic insulation and ventilation, wall, floor, and perimeter insulation, caulking, weather-stripping, and other measures to prevent air infiltration.
- Interested applicants are screened for eligibility by calling 989.358.4714.

- **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

- *Early Head Start:* Serves pregnant women and children birth to three years of age and their families. The program provides intensive and comprehensive child development and early education services including health, nutrition, and family support services.
- *Head Start:* This is a school-readiness preschool program for children 3 - 5 years of age whose family incomes are at or below 100% of poverty.
- *The Great Start Readiness Program:* Provides many of the same services as Head Start with the exception that eligibility is limited to 4 years of age and is open to families whose incomes are within 400% of poverty.

**For a full list of NEMCSA Services visit:  
[www.nemcsa.org](http://www.nemcsa.org)**



# KINSHIP CARE

resource center

**The Kinship Care Resource Center connects kinship families to the resources, tools, and networks that support them. We've made it our mission to support and empower kinship families across Michigan to ensure the children they are raising are safe, healthy, nurtured and loved.**

**The Kinship Care Resource Center is pleased to offer the following services for current and prospective relatives caring for relative children:**

**Coordination of Care:** Helping service provider networks that engage with kinship families collaborate, connect, and coordinate with one another alongside and on behalf of kinship caregivers and the children in their care.

**Communication, Technology, and Information Sharing:** Using newsletters, a website, a toll-free phone line, and social media to share resources and provide support for kinship families.

**Kinship Navigators:** Connecting trained Kinship Navigators, who have experienced kinship caregivers, to other kinship caregivers through phone consultation and community outreach.

**Group Services:** Providing a calendar of support groups offered throughout the State of Michigan, assessing where the need for new or more groups exists, and support group implementation.

**Training:** For families and professionals who serve kinship families. When Kinship Caregivers have the knowledge, tools, and resources they need, outcomes for child safety, permanency, and well-being improve.

TOLL-FREE:  
800-535-1218

WEBSITE:  
KINSHIP.MSU.EDU

EMAIL:  
KINSHIP@MSU.EDU

**Available by phone  
Monday - Friday,  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



# Resources

## NEWSPAPERS

- *Child Welfare*
  - [www.childwelfare.gov/catalog/topiclist/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/catalog/topiclist/)

## WEBSITES

- *AARP Grandparent Information Center*
  - [www.aarp.org/grandparents](http://www.aarp.org/grandparents)
- *Adoption Council*
  - [www.adoptioncouncil.org](http://www.adoptioncouncil.org)
- *Adoptive Families*
  - [www.adoptivefamilies.com/](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com/)
- *Generations United's National Center on Grand-families*
  - [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org)
- *Grandfamilies*
  - [www.grandfamilies.org](http://www.grandfamilies.org)
- *Grandfacts*
  - [www.Grandfactsheets.org](http://www.Grandfactsheets.org)
- *Help Guide*
  - [www.helpguide.org](http://www.helpguide.org)
- *Michigan State University Extension: Kinship Care Resource Center*
  - [www.kinship.msu.edu/YouAreNotAlone.pdf](http://www.kinship.msu.edu/YouAreNotAlone.pdf)

## YOUTUBE

- *St. Louis Children's Hospital*
  - [www.youtube.com/channel/UCrXcwOL6QIOXWLvs8obulRw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrXcwOL6QIOXWLvs8obulRw)
- *How to Raise Successful Kids: Without Over-Parenting*
  - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=CyElHdaqkjo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CyElHdaqkjo)
- *Communication and the Teenage Brain*
  - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbruY110QI8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbruY110QI8)
- *Dr. Joseph Crumbley's*
  - <https://www.youtube.com/@josephcrumbley355>

# Financial Help

**There are two types of Family Independence Program (FIP) Grants:**

- 1. Ineligible Grantee Awards (Child Only Grants)** are available for the child regardless of household income. A foster child's income (Supplemental Security Income [SSI], Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance [RSDI], etc.) is not included in the household income and will reduce the award amount.
- 2. Eligible Grantee Awards (Family Grants)** are based on the income and assets of all family members. To remain eligible, relative caregivers must work unless they provide proof of disability or are older than 65 years old.

## **How do I apply for the Family Independence Program (FIP)?**

The Assistance Application, DHS-1171 is available at local MDHHS offices or you can apply online at [www.michigan.gov/mibridges](http://www.michigan.gov/mibridges).

## **How will I get Medical Care for the Child?**

If children do not have medical coverage through a private insurance, they will be covered by Medicaid.

## **CHILD ONLY GRANT**

- The Child Only Grant is not through MDHHS.
- The Child Only Grant is available for children who are being raised by a relative who is not a biological parent.
- This financial assistance is based on the child's income and assets; not the caregiver's.
- More information about the Child Only Grant can be found in the Relative Caregiving: What You Need to Know brochure.

**The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has multiple assistance programs that exist to help individuals in need. MDHHS provides cash assistance, food assistance, child care assistance, and medical assistance to eligible individuals. Eligibility is based on need/income level for the majority of these programs. More information about these programs can be found in the paragraphs below and at MI Bridges.**

- CASH ASSISTANCE
- FOOD ASSISTANCE
- CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE
- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE



MY NOTES:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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REV. 2025