

Kinship Caregivers



What is Kinship care?

Kinship care refers to a temporary or permanent arrangement in which a relative – or any non-relative adult who has a long-standing relationship or bond with the child and/or family – has taken over the full-time, substitute care of a child whose parents are unable or unwilling to do so.

Kinship care can be established by an informal arrangement, a legal custody or guardianship court order, a relative foster care placement, or a kinship adoption. For more information on the topics below, and additional topics such as education and medical services, check out the Ohio Resource Guide for Relatives Caring for Children:

<http://ocwtp.net/PDFs/ProtectOHIO/OhioResourceGuideforRelatives.pdf>



Medical Options for Kinship Caregivers

1. Healthy Start and Healthy Families Programs: this program offers free and low-cost comprehensive health care coverage to families, children (up to age 19), and pregnant women with limited income. You may apply for this program for yourself and for the children in your care. If receiving Ohio Works First (OWF) through a child-only grant, the children in your care are automatically eligible, and no separate application is needed. Applications can be found at the <http://odjfsbenefits.ohio.gov>, or by calling the Ohio Medicaid Consumer Hotline at 1-800-324-8680.

Children younger than 19, pregnant women, parents or caretaker relatives living with children under 18, and adults ages 19 to 64 are eligible for temporary enrollment in Medicaid while their application is being processed.

2. Women, Infants, and Children Program: this program is for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. Participants in the program receive coupons that can be used to purchase nutritious foods and infant formula. WIC has income-related and other eligibility requirements. To locate agencies that provide these services, call the Help Me Grow Helpline at 1-800-755-GROW (4769).
3. Medicare: this is a federal health insurance program for those 65 years or older and some people with disabilities under the age of 65. To apply, please contact your local Social Security office: <https://www.ssa.gov/chicago/ohio.html>

4. Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps: this option is a health care program within the Ohio Department of Health that links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for children services. Contact the Help Me Grow Helpline at 1-800-755-GROW (4769).
5. Early Intervention Services Program: this program provides early intervention and treatment services for infants and children with developmental delays. Contact the Help Me Grow Helpline at 1-800-755-GROW (4769).
6. Help Me Grow: this program is designed to encourage prenatal and well-baby care. By calling this helpline, you can receive free prenatal and wellness guides, including incentive coupons. The helpline will also provide information and referral services to other state programs: 1-800-755-GROW (4769).



Seek Help!



Your local county or region has a Kinship Navigator that can help you, answer questions, and provide information on available resources for kinship caregivers. To find your local Navigator, call **1-844-OHIO-KAN (1-844-644-6586)** or visited at ohiokan.jfs.ohio.gov. The link can be opened by scanning the QR code to the left with a smartphone camera.

The information on this flyer is not legal advice.

**If you are seeking representation or legal advice, please contact LASC or SEOLS.
An attorney-client relationship does not exist between you and LASC or SEOLS.**

Contact for Services: Intake line: 1-844-302-1800

www.columbuslegalaid.org

LASC provides services in Central Ohio and has offices in Columbus and Marion.

www.seols.org

SEOLS provides services in 34 counties in Southeastern Ohio and has offices in Athens, Chillicothe, New Philadelphia, Newark, Portsmouth, and Steubenville