



COUNTY OF ESSEX
DEPARTMENT OF CITIZEN SERVICES
DIVISION OF WELFARE

Putting Essex County First

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
County Executive

Anibal Ramos, Jr.
Director
Department of Citizen Services

Bruce Nigro
Director
Division of Welfare

HOW TO OBTAIN HELP
FOR
KINSHIP CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Benefits In Essex County

HOW TO APPLY FOR KINSHIP CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

The Kinship Care Subsidy Program provides monthly childcare subsidies to certain low-income individuals raising children whose parents are unwilling or unable to do so. Usually blood or marriage relates such caregivers to the children, but such a relationship is not necessary if the court awards guardianship to the caregiver.

KINSHIP LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP

To be eligible for the Kinship Care Subsidy Program, the caregiver must have been granted kinship legal guardianship pursuant to a court order and the child must have lived with the caregiver for 12 consecutive months. To secure such guardianship, the Division of Welfare shall refer the interested caregiver to the Salvation Army which has been designated to provide an assessment process and eligibility determination.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Caregivers who meet Kinship Care Subsidy Program criteria will be eligible to receive up to \$250 per month/per Kinship child. Such caregivers must cooperate with efforts to secure an order for child support from the natural parents.

If blood or marriage relates the child cared for, the caregiver may be eligible to receive TANF while the application for Kinship Care is pending and Medicaid for that child.

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

If there is no existing WFNJ/TANF case for the kinship child, the caregiver must apply for the subsidy at the Division of Welfare.

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

The caregiver's family income must be equal to or less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level and kinship legal guardianship must have been granted. The kinship child's income is also considered part of the family's income for eligibility purpose.

RESOURCES

Caregiver resources are not considered when determining financial eligibility for the Kinship Care Subsidy Program.

WHERE DO I APPLY?

The Kinship Care Subsidy Program is administered by the Department of Human Services and will direct kinship families interested in making an application. The toll free number 1-877-816-3211.