

# Supporting Kinship Caregivers

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## TANF Policy and Practice in Massachusetts



# TANF Grant Options

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- Two options for kinship caregivers to best fit the needs of their family
  - Be included on the grant and subject to all program rules
  - Child only grant where caretaker does not have to meet program rules
- No special grant amount for kinship caregivers or child only grants
  - MA legislature raised grants in January 2021 and June 2021, a 20% increase in total

# Current Grant Amounts

Household size	TAFDC subsidized rent	TAFDC market rate rent
1	\$466	\$506
2	\$589	\$629
3	\$712	\$752
4	\$829	\$869
5	\$950	\$990
6	\$1075	\$1115
7	\$1196	\$1236
8	\$1316	\$1356
9	\$1436	\$1476
10	\$1558	1598
Each additional household member	+126	+126



Department of  
Transitional  
Assistance

# Subsidized Child Care

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- Kinship caregivers who are working are eligible for fully subsidized child care while the child in their care is receiving TANF
- They must verify that at least one caregiver is working for at least minimum wage
- Vouchers are good for a minimum of 1 year, even if the TANF case closes
- If the TANF case closes, many families remain eligible for continued care

# Child Support Requirements

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- MA recently expanded definition of good cause for kinship caregivers
  - Caregivers are not required to pursue paternity or child support when it is not in the best interest of the child to do so
  - Proof is not required
  - Caregivers have the option of working with DOR-CSE if they want

# Outreach Efforts

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- Local office staff attend Family Resource Center GRG support groups
- Policy team is present at and does presentations for GRG meetings and resource fairs
- Updated guidance and educated local office staff on terminology kinship caregivers might use when asking for help
- Designated staff person works with the Kinship Navigator program to disseminate information and follow up on referrals