



Relative Caregiver Program

The Relative Caregiver Program (RCP) is an option available for relatives to care for non-custodial children who require care outside of their biological parents. Through the RCP program, children and relative caregivers receive supportive services geared toward prevention and maintaining the child to stay within the family instead of entering foster care. The family has access to several opportunities to support them, and potentially a monthly stipend for those who qualify.

Who is eligible for RCP services?: The relative caregiver must be related to the child by blood, marriage or adoption. The relative caregiver must have primary care and control of the child through informal family arrangements or through legal custody or guardianship. The birth parent(s) must not reside in the caregiver's home. The relative caregiver shall not have a total adjusted household income that exceeds twice the current Federal Poverty Guideline based on the size of the family unit. Once RCP and the caregiver meet, there will also be financial eligibility determined to be enrolled to the program.

In addition to the standard RCP eligibility criteria, additional criteria applies to qualify for a monthly Stipend:

- ◆ A final custody order of the court, Caregiver is 21 years of age or older, and the relative caregiver agrees to seek the establishment and enforcement of child support.

RCP agencies deliver the following core services:

- ◆ Information and Referral – for counseling or any other local services needed
- ◆ Support Groups – to give caregivers a space to grow as a relative caregiver, for children seeking an outlet
- ◆ Education and Informational Workshops
- ◆ Respite & Enrichment Services – such as games and events that are no cost to the caregiver
- ◆ Family Advocacy – Case Management with caregiver, child, birth parent
- ◆ Financial and/or Start-up Assistance – such as replacement mattresses, clothing, assistance with buying school supplies, infant needs, etc.
- ◆ Information about applying for TANF, SNAP, Child Only Grant
- ◆ Support in locating birth certificates, social security cards, and insurance cards

What's next?

A Family Advocate from the Relative Caregiver Program will be available to meet once you take the step to call the RCP that covers your county in which you live.

Upper Cumberland

Upper Cumberland Development District

Vickie Durham

931-476-4123 vdurham@ucdd.org

1104 England Dr., Cookeville, TN 38501

Counties Covered:

Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, Dekalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Van Buren, Warren, White

Shelby Region

UT Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities

Laura Teresa English

901-448-3133 ldaniel1@uthsc.edu

University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program
239 S. Dudley, Memphis, Tn. 38104

County Covered:

Shelby

Northwest and Southwest Regions

Wo/Men's Resource & Rape Assistance Program (WRAP)

Valerie Conley

731-694-5860 vconley@wraptn.org

62 Directors Row, Jackson, TN 38305

Counties Covered:

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

Tennessee Valley

Southeast TN Area Agency on Aging and Disability

Theresa Jorgensen

1-866-735-8752 tjorgensen@sedev.org

1000 Riverfront Pkwy., Chattanooga, TN, 37402

Counties Covered:

Bledsoe, Bradley, Hamilton, Marion, Meigs, McMinn, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie

Davidson Region & Mid-Cumberland Region

Family and Children's Services

Julie Flannery

(615) 340-9725 rcpreferral@fcsnashville.org

2400 Clifton Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209

County Covered:

Davidson, Cheatham, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, Wilson, Dickson, Humphreys, Houston, Stewart.

Northeast Region

UT Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS)

Daryl Chansuthus

(865) 974-7514 dchansut@utk.edu

600 Henley Street, Suite 224, Knoxville, TN, 37996

Counties Covered:

Hancock, Hawkins, Greene, Washington, Unicoi, Sullivan, Carter, Johnson

South Central Region

The Center for Family Development

Sue Fletcher

Cell: (615) 943-3822 Office: (931) 684-4676 ext. 205

sue@mytcfcd.org

514 Belmont Ave. Shelbyville, TN 37160

Counties Covered: Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Grundy, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, Maury, Moore, Perry, Wayne

East, Smoky, Knox Region

Childhelp

Tiffany Kaun

865-291-0289 tkaun@childhelp.org

408 N. Cedar Bluff Rd, Suite: 300, Knoxville, TN

Counties Covered:

Anderson, Campbell, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roan, Scott, Union, Knox, Blount, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Sevier