

Tip Sheet

Nonrelative Caregiver Financial Assistance

When children cannot safely remain in their own homes, the preferred option for placement is with a relative or non-relative. Non-relatives are often willing and able to care for children but may be concerned about the additional financial burden they will incur. Non-relative caregivers may apply to receive Non-Relative Caregiver Financial Assistance. Payments are provided to assist with the added expense of housing, food, clothing, incidentals, supplies and other costs or services that aid in the care, safety, and well-being of the dependent child.

Criteria for Eligibility to Apply for Nonrelative Caregiver Financial Assistance:

- A completed and approved Unified Home Study.
- The child has been adjudicated dependent by the court.
- The court has entered an order placing the child in the care and custody of the Nonrelative Caregiver and made a finding that the placement is in the best interest of the child.
- The Nonrelative Caregiver attests that financial assistance is needed to continue to care for the child long term.

Process for Obtaining Financial Assistance through Nonrelative Caregiver Funds:

- All program requirements must be met.
- Your Family Care Counselor will ask you to sign the Attestation of need in the Application for Nonrelative Caregiver Financial Assistance.
- Your Family Care Counselor will complete the remainder of the Application for Nonrelative Caregiver Financial Assistance form and send the form to the NRC Program Point of Contact with The Department of Children and Families.

Recertification:

- The Department of Children and Families will mail a recertification form to caregivers yearly as long as the child continues to receive Nonrelative Caregiver Funds.
- The Caregiver must return the recertification form to the Department of Children and Families.
- If the recertification form is not returned, The Department of Children and Families will STOP the Nonrelative Caregiver Fund payments.

You should be aware that:

- Payments are made only as funds are available for the Nonrelative Caregiver Program.
- Payments are only made from the point all requirements are met and the date the application is made.
- Children who remain in the care of a non-relative through dependency court action are potentially eligible to receive Nonrelative Caregiver Financial Assistance until the child reaches age 18.
- The child must be living within Florida.
- The child cannot be receiving assistance through other means such as child support, social security, or other programs.
- Caregivers with nonrelative children who also have a sibling also in out-of-home care in their care, who is related to the caregiver, are eligible for the Relative Caregiver funds for both children.

Discuss the Nonrelative Caregiver Financial Assistance program with your Family Care Counselor.