

## Kinship Care Eligibility Requirements

- The basic needs of the child can be better met with the relative than with the parent.
- The placement is in the best interests of the child; and
- The child currently or would potentially meet the requirements for court jurisdiction as being in need of protection or services if the child were to remain in his or her own home.
- The relative must be able to prove legal relationship, if requested.
- The relative must demonstrate an ability to meet the needs of the child and be able to provide a safe, stable living environment.
- The relative and any other adult residing in the home must agree to have a local and state criminal background check completed in addition to a check into any current or past involvement with Child Protective Services. Also, any child over the age of 10, living in the home, must be checked for any current or past involvement with Child Protective Services or Juvenile Justice Services. Extensive contacts with law enforcement or child protective services by an adult in the home may cause the applicant to be denied kinship care funding.
- A home visit by a social worker must be conducted to ensure that the home environment is appropriate and safe for the child.
- The child's natural parents will be contacted to be sure they know of and approve of the child's living arrangements, unless it is a court ordered placement.
- The relative needs to cooperate with providing information regarding the birth parents to the child support agency in an attempt to recoup the cost of the kinship care grant.