

Kinship Care

Financial Support for Relatives

This resource shows a financial support comparison related to relatives and the kinship system. The full module includes additional information about the legal framework, understanding and weighing Virginia kinship placement options, and resources on legal options and public benefits.



SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
ALLY TRAINING HUB
Virginia Department of Social Services



Creating a Kin First Culture:

Engaging Kin and Understanding Their Options

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Financial support comparison in Virginia

Outside the Foster Care System or Not Yet Fully Approved Kinship Foster Care Temporary Assistance for Needy Families child-only grants* (higher of the two possible rates)	Fully Approved Kinship Foster Care Foster Care Maintenance Payments (rates based on children ages 0 to 4 with no VEMAT**)	KinGAP and Adoption Assistance KinGAP or Adoption Subsidy (rates based on children ages 0 to 4 with no VEMAT**)
One Child \$275/month	One Child Minimum rate without VEMAT \$486/month	One Child Up to foster care rate Up to \$486/month
Two Children \$367/month	Two Children Minimum rate without VEMAT \$972/month	Two Children Up to foster care rate Up to \$972/month
Three Children \$442/month	Three Children Minimum rate without VEMAT \$1458/month	Three Children Up to foster care rate Up \$1458/month

**As of July 1, 2020, VA also has a "Relative Maintenance Support Program" of \$200/mo. for eligible relatives (not fictive kin) who prevent a child from entering foster care. See FAQ prepared by VDSS in handouts. Fictive kin also don't qualify for child-only TANF in VA.*

*** Children with relatives and fictive kin are eligible for VEMAT – this chart uses the lowest possible rate for comparison purposes only.*

VEMAT: VEMAT stands for "Virginia Enhanced Maintenance Assessment Tool," which is how DSS and your City or county who has custody for your child assess how much of an allowance that child is allowed due to his or her age and other factors that include behaviors, social and emotional needs. A review has to take place upon the child entering care (and may take up to 30 days), so the child's VEMAT score should be known to you at the time of placement.

KinGAP: The 2018 General Assembly enacted legislation establishing the Virginia Kinship Guardianship Program (KinGap) with implementation effective July 1, 2018 (COV §63.2-1305, §63.2-100 and §63.2-905). KinGap facilitates the placement of children with relatives and provides a supported permanency option for foster children for whom return home or adoption are not appropriate goals. While current VDSS Foster Care policy encourages the use of relative placements when a child is at risk of foster care placement, KinGap provides a new way for relatives to access long-term support when assuming the responsibility of caring for children in their extended family.

Adoption Subsidy: Such assistance provides adoptive parents with the support they need to adopt and care for the child who has any particular needs and who meets eligibility criteria for adoption assistance. While adoptive parents assume primary financial responsibility for raising their adopted child, adoption assistance supplements the resources of the adoptive parents. It is not intended to cover the cost of raising the child.