

Relative Caregiver Funds

During a home study a relative caregiver may have questions regarding possible financial assistance for placed children in their care.

***Prior to adjudication (which can take up to several months) relatives do not qualify for relative caregiver funds that are only available after adjudication through a court hearing (typically arraignment but may be longer). There is however temporary cash assistance that may be able to assist the family prior to adjudication.

Applying for temporary cash assistance is **done by the relative caregivers** by applying for temporary cash assistance through ACCESS.

The relative caregiver would do this by going onto the following website:

www.myflorida.com/accessflorida **to apply and see if they qualify for these funds.**

If they do not have access to a computer or would like to apply in person the local address is:

Brevard County ACCESS Application Center

801 Dixon Blvd Suite 1103

Cocoa, Florida 32922

Fax (866) 735-2469

Please sign below that you have received and understand the process of applying for possible temporary cash assistance along with possible relative caregiver funds in the future. I understand that I need to apply for these services through ACCESS to be considered for these funds and that I will notify the case manager of any additional assistance needed in the process.

_____ **Yes, I plan on applying (TCA)**

Relative Caregiver #1 **Date** **No, I do not plan on applying**

_____ **Yes, I plan on applying (TCA)**

Relative Caregiver #2 **Date** **No, I do not plan on applying**

Below is the step by step process to applying for these benefits that may be able to assist the relative in navigating through ACCESS to apply, though the website.

Please read the program requirements listed herein.

- I must be taking care of children under age 18 who are related to me.
- There must be a Florida court order by a judge finding the children were abandoned, abused or neglected. The child(ren) who I am applying for has been placed in my custody by a Florida juvenile court judge.
- I understand that the Department's Office of Family Safety will do a home study to be sure that the children in my custody are safe from abuse or neglect. If there are problems in my home, the Department may be court ordered by a judge to supervise them or even remove them from my home.
- I must have an interview and provide all the requested documentation the Department needs to decide if I meet the requirements for Temporary Cash Assistance. If it is hard for me to get the requested documentation, I understand that I can ask my caseworker to help me.
- If I receive Temporary Cash Assistance, I cannot also receive Relative Caregiver benefits in the same month. If I meet technical and financial requirements, I can ask to receive Temporary Cash Assistance while the request for Relative Caregiver eligibility is being processed. If I am eligible for Temporary Cash Assistance, I will not receive the increased Relative Caregiver benefit until the first month after the Department stops my Temporary Cash Assistance.
- I understand that the Relative Caregiver payment is to cover the cost of the child's basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, school supplies, and personal items like toiletries, entertainment, etc.

******Read through the requirements and if met then begin the process of applying for possible cash assistance for relative caregiver for assistance prior to adjudication of the child(ren). Remember that this is temporary assistance and may be available for child(ren) placed in your care if you are a relative needing assistance prior to receiving relative caregiver funds after adjudication.**

Please notify your case manager about applying for these funds and for any further assistance along with any future interest in relative caregiver funds after adjudication.