

Services Available through the Department of Human/Social Services:

Child Welfare:

- **Colorado Kinship Connection website (www.COkinship.org)** Contains **Navigating Kinship Care: A Resource Guide for Kinship Families in Colorado**, forums with specific topics for kinship caregivers and for county staff and community providers, general resources, county specific resources, and a calendar of events with the kinship support groups statewide.
- Kinship families may be eligible for other child welfare services including Promoting Safe and Stable Families, Core Services, and county specific programs.

Temporary Aid for Needy Families:

Non-certified and informal kinship caregivers may be eligible for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, also known as the Colorado Works program. Kinship caregivers may apply for a Child-Only grant on behalf of the child/youth or they may apply to become part of the grant. Supports can include cash assistance and other non-monetary services such as counseling. TANF can be accessed through the local county department of human/social services. For more information contact your local county department of human/social services or the state Colorado Works office at (303) 866-6210. To check eligibility, please go to <http://www.colorado.gov/benefits>.

Child Support Enforcement:

Parents are legally responsible to support their children/youth. The Division of Child Support Enforcement ensures this by establishing and enforcing orders to pay monthly support for their children/youth. Families in kinship family foster care and families receiving Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) are referred to the Division of Child Support Enforcement by the Child Welfare and Colorado Works Divisions respectively. For more information, contact your local department of human/social services, or call the state Child Support Enforcement office at (303) 866-4300.

County Departments of Human/Social Services

Adams (303) 412-8121	El Paso (719) 636-0000	Montrose (970) 252-5000
Alamosa (719) 589-2581	Fremont (719) 275-2318	Morgan (970) 542-3530
Arapahoe (303) 636-1170	Garfield (970) 625-5282	Otero (719) 383-3100
Archuleta (970) 264-2182	Gilpin (303) 582-5444	Ouray (970) 626-2299
Baca (719) 523-4131	Grand (970) 725-3331	Park (303) 816-5939
Bent (719) 456-2620	Gunnison (970) 641-3244	Phillips (970) 854-2280
Boulder (303) 441-1000	Hinsdale (970) 641-3244	Pitkin (970) 920-5766
Broomfield (720) 887-2295	Huerfano (719) 738-2810	Prowers (719) 336-7486
Chaffee (719) 539-6627	Jackson (970) 723-4750	Pueblo (719) 583-6160
Cheyenne (719) 767-5629	Jefferson (303) 271-1388	Rio Blanco (970) 878-9640
Clear Creek (303) 679-2365	Kiowa (719) 438-5541	Rio Grande (719) 657-3381
Conejos (719) 376-5455	Kit Carson (719) 346-8732	Routt (970) 879-1540
Costilla (719) 672-4131	Lake (719) 486-2088	Saguache (719) 655-2537
Crowley (719) 267-3546	La Plata (970) 382-6150	San Juan (970) 387-5631
Custer (719) 783-2371	Larimer (970) 498-6990	San Miguel (970) 728-4411
Delta (970) 874-2030	Las Animas (719) 846-2276	Sedgwick (970) 474-3397
Denver (720) 944-3666	Lincoln (719) 743-2404	Summit (970) 668-9160
Dolores (970) 677-2250	Logan (970) 522-2194	Teller (719) 687-3335
Douglas (303) 688-4825	Mesa (970) 241-8480	Washington (970) 345-2238
Eagle (970) 328-8840	Mineral (719) 657-3381	Weld (970) 352-1551
Elbert (303) 621-3149	Moffat (970) 824-8282	Yuma (970) 332-4877
	Montezuma (970) 565-3769	

Additional Contacts:

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Colorado Kinship Connection
www.COkinship.org

Kinship Care in Colorado



KINSHIP CARE OPTIONS AND RESOURCES

Colorado Kinship Connection
www.COkinship.org



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Who are Kinship Caregivers?

Kinship caregivers are relatives, friends, and neighbors who provide care and protection to children and youth who cannot remain safely in their home.

Why Provide Kinship Care?

Kinship caregivers provide care to children and youth in a safe environment when their parent(s) are unable to due to reasons such as child abuse/neglect, substance abuse, incarceration, mental health, domestic violence issues within the family, death of a parent, financial hardships, etc.

Types of Kinship Care:

Kinship Family Foster Care is a relative or person with a significant relationship to the family that has met the foster care certification requirements through a county department of human/social services. Kinship foster care certification is only available to those with an open child welfare case. Kinship foster families are eligible for foster care reimbursement. The county department of human/social services has legal custody of the child/youth.

Non-Certified Kinship Care is a relative or person with a significant relationship to the family that has not met the foster care certification requirements or has chosen not to pursue the process. Non-certified kinship families are not eligible for foster care reimbursement, but may apply for TANF. The kinship caregiver has legal custody of the child or youth either individually or as a result of a Dependency and Neglect action.

Informal Kinship Care is an arrangement made within the family or with friends and does not involve child welfare. Custody may be with the parent(s) or the kinship caregiver.

How Do I Choose the Right Option for My Family?

Some questions to consider when deciding whether to be certified are:

- How long will the child/youth be with me?
- What services are available for the child/youth and how do I apply?
- What financial assistance is available?
 - What are the eligibility criteria?
 - How do I apply?
- Will I meet certification requirements?
- What is expected of me as the caregiver?
- What if the child/youth cannot return to their parents?

Permanency Options for Children and Youth in Kinship Care:

- **Reunification:** Children/youth are reunited with their family.
- **Adoption:** Legal process where parental rights are terminated and permanently awarded to the adoptive parents.
- **Relative Guardianship Assistance:** Provides assistance to relative guardians who meet eligibility requirements.
- **Allocation of Parental Responsibility (APR):** Provides legal authority to make basic decisions regarding the child or youth.



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Common Requirements:

All potential kinship caregivers that have a child/youth placed by a county department of human/social services must complete the following requirements:

- An application to provide care.
- Fingerprint-based background checks with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for all adults age 18 and older living in the home.
- Background check of child abuse/neglect records in every state where the adult has resided in the five (5) years preceding the date of application.

Additional Requirements:

This is not an all-inclusive list and the county departments of human/social services may have additional requirements.

Kinship Family Foster Care

Other requirements kinship caregivers wanting to apply for foster care certification must complete include but are not limited to:

- Colorado's home study (Structured Analysis Family Evaluation or SAFE).
- 27 hours of pre-certification training and CPR/First Aid.

Non-Certified Kinship Care

In addition to the common requirements listed above, caregivers that want to remain non-certified must complete the following requirements (dependent upon the policy of the county department of human/social services):

- SAFE home study, modified SAFE home study, or a written county assessment.
- Training hours (0–27 hours dependent upon the county department).