For many years, DC KinCare Alliance in solidarity with DC relative caregivers and advocates for systems change have urged the DC government to eliminate the arbitrary 6-month eligibility period to apply for a subsidy under the Grandparent Caregiver and Close Relative Caregivers Programs.

ON APRIL 8, 2020, OUR GOAL WAS ACHIEVED!

The six-month eligibility period caused real hardship to relative caregivers and the children they raise. These caregivers are primarily women of color living in Wards 7 and 8. They endure housing and food instability even before they are called upon to raise a relative child. The children usually arrive with nothing but the clothes on their backs, and the relatives have to scramble to buy food, clothing, shoes, toiletries, bedding, and even a bed. The up-front costs of caring for a child unexpectedly are great. Relative caregivers do not have savings or other resources available to cover these costs. Their struggles are even more devastating during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

We are grateful that DC is addressing the immediate needs of these unsung hero caregivers who step up to protect DC's at-risk children in times of crisis.

For help applying for these subsidies, please call the DC KinCare Alliance Legal Helpline at 202-505-5803 www.dckincare.org