

**IMPORTANT CHANGES
TO THE DC GRANDPARENT CAREGIVER AND
CLOSE RELATIVE CAREGIVER PROGRAMS**

Starting October 1, 2024, two important legislative changes took effect¹ enabling many more grandparents, aunts and uncles, adult siblings, cousins, and other relatives and close friends raising DC's at-risk children to qualify for subsidies through the Grandparent and Close Relative Caregiver programs:

- **First**, the maximum household income limit for individuals applying for the programs was **increased from 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 300% of FPL**.
- **Second, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and General Assistance for Children (GAC) benefits no longer count toward household income**, so more caregivers receiving TANF or GAC for the children in their care will be eligible for the subsidy.²

This follows another important development that took effect last year with respect to Supplemental Security Income (SSI):

- As of October 1, 2023, **SSI benefits no longer count toward an applicant's household income, nor are they deducted from the monthly subsidy rate a caregiver receives**.

These changes work together to ensure kinship families receive vitally needed support by substantially reducing eligibility barriers while increasing the amount some caregivers receive.

If you are raising a DC child whose parents are not able to care for them and are interested in applying for a Grandparent or Close Relative Caregiver program subsidy, contact the Child and Family Services Agency's Kinship Navigator Program at www.dckincare.org/about or by calling (866) 326-5461.

Caregivers can also get assistance with custody or benefits by calling the DC KinCare Alliance Legal Helpline at (202) 505-5803.

¹ These changes were authorized by the District's Budget Support Act of 2024.

² The monthly amount a caregiver receives in TANF or GAC benefits for the child will still be deducted from the amount of their monthly caregiver subsidy.