



September 2020

Dear {!Contact.FirstName},

It's Kinship Care Awareness Month!

September is the month when we celebrate our kinship families. In Michigan, there are about 61,000 children being raised by a family member. To help increase awareness and supports for kinship families, the Michigan Kinship Care Coalition has put out a call to action: **Celebrate National Kinship Month by Getting Michigan Bills Across the Finish Line.**

Two bills that will help kinship families already passed the Michigan House of Representatives, and in late July moved out of a Senate committee. They now await action by the full Senate and the Governor's signature to become law.

While this is exciting news, there is one complication: the clock is ticking. We are in the final months of the current legislative session and without passage and signature by the Governor, the entire process will restart in January. Let's ask our Senators to get it done by the end of the year.

More details to help you contact your Senator can be found in this [Action Alert](#) from our Michigan Kinship Care Coalition partner, Michigan's Children. You can also help spread the word by [sharing the link](#) or the attached image of the Action Alert.

Child Care & More: Assistance May Be Available to Help Cover the Cost

Full-time caregivers of relative children face many challenges. It is important for caregivers to focus on parenting, but also to remember to take care of their own needs. We may be able to cover some of the expenses associated with activities, such as virtual camps, for eligible families through the [Kinship Care Respite Program](#).

The program provides temporary rest and relief from everyday caregiving by

Economic Impact Payments: New IRS Tool

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) continues to look for ways to help people who were unable to provide their information in time to receive Economic Impact Payments for their children. As part of that effort, the IRS announced that it will reopen the registration period for federal beneficiaries who didn't receive the \$500 per child payments earlier this year.

The IRS urges certain federal benefit

assisting caregivers with payment for an activity for their child to attend. You may be eligible if you are a kinship caregiver age 55 and older who provides full-time care to a relative child and you reside in Clinton, Eaton, Ingham and Washtenaw counties. Activities may include:

- Child care
- Camps, including virtual or online
- Sports camp
- Summer class
- Extra-curricular activities
- After-school care/activities

Please contact the Kinship Care Resource Center at 1-800-535-1218 or kinship@msu.edu to apply.

In Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties, the program is funded by the Federal Older Americans Act grant provided to the Tri-County Office on Aging. The Area Agency on Aging Region 1-B provides funding support for Washtenaw County.

Caregiver Parenting Resource: Voting in 2020

Along with the many differences being faced this year, this year's election will also be different. Be sure you have all the information you need to participate in the upcoming election. [Check out the Michigan Voter Information Center.](#)

Want to talk with your kids about civic engagement and voting? The [iCivics website](#) has [games](#) and other resources for learning and engaging students in civics.

recipients to use the IRS.gov [Non-Filers tool](#) through Sept. 30 to enter information on their qualifying children to receive the supplemental \$500 payments.

[Read more from the IRS.](#)

Washtenaw County: Educational Technology Support

With the support and partnership of the Area Agency on Aging Region 1-B, funds are available to provide the following educational supports for eligible kinship families, where caregivers are 55 or older and are residents of Washtenaw County:

- Online educational programming fees
- Workbooks or other supplies for schooling at home
- Chromebooks, tablets, or laptops

If you believe that you or a family you know might be eligible, contact us at 1-800-535-1218. Please share this information with kinship families in Washtenaw County.

Kinship Care in the News

A special report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging examines challenges grandparents and other kinship providers face, as well as the extent of current support that is offered.

[Read the report, *HHS Could Enhance Support for Grandparents and Other Relative Caregivers.*](#)

1-800-535-1218
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www.kinship.msu.edu



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