

Notice to Guardians Kinship & Family Respite Grants

As a court-appointed guardian, *you may be eligible to receive money* from the Kinship Fund and Family Respite Fund Programs.

Please see the guidelines for each fund listed below

The ***Kinship Fund*** makes grants to guardians in the amount of \$500 per child per year, up to a maximum \$2,000 per family. Grants must be used for the child or children for the following purposes:

- Health (eyeglasses, dental care, hearing improvement treatment)
- Enrichment (school field trips, clubs, or sports fees, purchase of sports equipment, educational classes or tutoring, purchase of art supplies, materials for creative tasks, books)
- Development (clothing for social functions that mark developmental milestones, photographs or other memorabilia)
- Basic needs (school clothes and supplies, coats, hats, mittens, boots, sneakers or closely related items)

The ***Respite Fund*** makes grants up to \$2,000 per year to guardians for respite. Guardians may use respite grants for the following purposes for children under their care:

- Housing (rent, mortgage interest, property taxes, maintenance, insurance)
- Food (groceries, school meals, restaurants)
- Transportation (public transportation and car purchase and financing costs, insurance, gasoline, maintenance)
- Clothing and personal care items
- Education (tuition, books, supplies, uniforms, lessons, driver education classes)
- Child care (day care tuition, baby-sitting, summer camp, vacations, entertainment, recreational equipment, reading material)
- Spending allowances

To be eligible for a Kinship or Family Respite Fund Grant, a guardian must meet all of the following requirements:

- Is serving as a guardian for a minor child as the result of an appointment by the Probate Court or Superior Court Juvenile Matters;
- Qualifies at the time of the grant application for a Probate Court fee waiver or is determined by a Probate Judge to be in need;
- Is not receiving benefits or subsidies from DCF; and
- Has submitted a grant application together with all required documentation.

Grant amounts are determined by a probate judge and may vary depending upon available funding.

A guardian may apply for grants in multiple years, provided that all eligibility requirements continue to be met.

Applications are available at the clerk's office of the Probate Court