

## Kinship Quarterly Strengthening Families

### January 2022

New Year, New Start.

Did you know....

There is a grant out there called  
**Kinship Support Services (KSS).**

This grant can help each kinship family with  
up to \$1000, to help with licensing to-dos.

Ask your Kinship Development Worker about  
it. This grant is only for children in CPS care  
that are placed in a kinship home.

The grant ends 8/31/2022.


### Licensing from a Kinship Caregiver's Prospective

How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time...

Thinking about getting licensed to be a kinship foster home for children in your care? Making the decision to get licensed can feel a bit like eating an elephant. Like any important goal, finishing big things can be compared to eating an elephant! Deciding to become licensed to take care of the children in the State's care that are placed within a kinship home has many benefits for the child as well as the caregiver.

But, where do you start? How do you "eat" the big "elephant" to become a licensed provider? Your first step is to select an agency to get licensed. Your Kinship Development Worker will give you a list of resources to connect you to local child-placing agencies. After you select one, you will be given a list, or your elephant to eat, which are items that must be completed before you can hang that license up on your fridge (or wherever you choose). That list can be scary at first because it's a lot of things to follow the State's, many, many safety measures. These are put into place to make sure children are safe.

Mark Twain said, "the secret of getting ahead is getting started." That's really all you need to do to eat your elephant. Take one bite today...do one thing on the list. Then, take another bite and another, and before you know it, you will have eaten your elephant. Most importantly, you will have been given a valuable opportunity to provide a safe and loving home to your kin, no matter how short or long the stay.



"The secret to  
getting ahead is  
getting started."

- Mark Twain

## ECI Article

### *About WIC*

Have you ever wondered what the pink WIC labels are at the grocery store? WIC stands for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, and it's a nutrition program for pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women and families with children younger than 5. If an item has a pink WIC label, it is one of the many healthy foods offered by Texas WIC. While WIC is best known for providing healthy foods, the program offers so much more. Families can receive counseling with nutritionists and dietitians, breastfeeding support, attend classes and get referrals to other services in their area.

### *How to refer to Texas WIC*

TexasWIC.org and BreastmilkCounts.com both have resources online and available to all families at no cost.

Just visit [texaswic.org/apply](https://texaswic.org/apply) and start your application online.

## CANS Telehealth

Did you know that the Child Adolescent Needs and Strength (CANS) assessment is available via telehealth for all children 3-17 years of age?

While an in-person, face-to-face assessment is the best, we know that things occur that can happen that make this hard. CANS is available via telehealth for these situations. STAR Health Member Services can assist with finding providers and even setting up the appointment for you.

Star Health Member services can be contacted at: 1 (866) 912-6283. You can also look up a CANS provider in the child's area on the [Superior/STAR Health website](#) and call them directly to schedule. CANS providers lists are links titled "STAR Health Certified CANS Providers," with one list each for Central, East, North and South Texas.

**NOTE:** Telehealth providers are identified on the website.

As a reminder, children ages 3-17 years of age must have a CANS assessment within 30 days of coming into care, and annually while they remain in conservatorship. The annual re-assessment must occur within 30 days after the anniversary of the last CANS assessment.

## Resources

- **Superior/STAR Health**  
<https://www.fostercaretx.com/for-members/find-a-provider.html>
- **Parenting Tips**  
<https://www.getparentingtips.com>
- **Housing/Utility Assistance Programs**  
[www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/get\\_help\\_paying\\_rent.html](http://www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/get_help_paying_rent.html)
- **Your Texas Benefits**  
[www.yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home](http://www.yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home)
- **2-1-1 Texas**  
[www.211texas.org/](http://www.211texas.org/)
- **Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Program Locator**  
[www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention\\_and\\_Early\\_Intervention/Programs\\_Available\\_In\\_Your\\_County/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp)
- **Kinship Manual**  
[www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child\\_Protection/Kinship\\_Care/documents/KinshipManual.pdf](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Kinship_Care/documents/KinshipManual.pdf)
- **Texas Kinship Caregivers Facebook Page**  
[m.facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers](https://m.facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers)
- **Kinship Care**  
[www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child\\_Protection/Kinship\\_Care/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Kinship_Care/default.asp)

**Kinship Support Groups** are an important part of The Kinship Program. If you want more information about support groups in your area, please ask your Kinship Development Worker. If you want to be more involved in support groups, consider becoming a Kinship Advocate on the Kinship Collaboration Group. For more information on kinship support groups or becoming an advocate, please contact **Stephen Martinez at (512) 960-9254**.

“When you help someone, you help everyone.” — May Parker