



KINSHIP CARE PROGRAM

When parents are unable to care for their children, kinship caregivers are increasingly being asked to raise their grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great-grandchildren and siblings. In NYC, over 84,000 kinship caregivers have assumed full time responsibility for 250,000 relative children (US Census 2000). These Kinship families often have diverse and complex needs.

The Jewish Board of Family Services responded by establishing the Kinship Care Program (KCP). Designed to promote family stability, the program provides emotional support, case management, advocacy and information about financial, educational and medical benefits, as well as referrals for legal assistance. Its services are free. They are available at our Brooklyn location, through home visits, and in schools and community centers. Our professional staff supports these families in a culturally sensitive way. NYC-wide help is also available by phone for information and referral to local programs. Support groups and phone-based resources are offered in English and Spanish.

The KCP offers:

- Case management for:
 - Financial entitlements such as TANF funds/Public Assistance, Food Stamps, Social Security benefits
 - Medicaid, Medicare and health insurance options
- Weekly support groups for caregivers and for youth
- Short-term parent and youth counseling
- Parent education
- Educational advocacy and activities supporting school engagement
- Referral for legal assistance for permanency planning
- Informational forums for caregivers and for youth

The KCP program is supported by the NYS OCFS Kinship Caregiver Program, the Brookdale Foundation Relatives As Parents Program and UJA Federation of New York.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- *According to the US Census, 2000*
There are almost 84,000 households in NYC alone where a relative caregiver is responsible for raising a grandchild, niece or nephew.
- *According to the US Census, 2005*
Brooklyn has more kin caregiving families than any other borough in NYC.
- *According to the American Journal of Pediatrics, 2008*
Children being raised by kin have better outcomes than those in traditional foster care.
- The Kinship Care Program helps families stabilize and succeed.

TO LEARN MORE

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