

KinCare

300 INTRODUCTION

The KinCare program provides support to relative caregivers who are caring for a related minor child after the family has come to the attention of a child welfare agency. The child must be living with the relative caretaker through a safety plan, diversion/voluntary kin placement, or another child welfare agency involved arrangement that does not result in foster care placement. It is designed to help families manage unexpected expenses and ease the financial burden that can arise when assuming caregiving responsibilities.

No adult parent of the child(ren) may reside in the home. An interview is not required. A child welfare agency is responsible for referring the household to the KinCare program through direct submission of the KinCare application.

301 FACTORS OF ELIGIBILITY

301.1 Application

An approved KinCare application certifies a household for twelve (12) months of support. KinCare applications shall only be distributed to the child welfare agencies and are not for distribution to the general public.

KinCare applications will only be accepted when submitted by one of the following three (3) agencies:

- Clark County Department of Family Services
- State of Nevada Division of Child and Family Services
- Washoe County Department of Family Services

301.2 Redetermination

Eligibility for KinCare must be redetermined every twelve (12) months to ensure ongoing compliance with program requirements. During each redetermination, staff must review all eligibility factors, including:

- Household composition
- Income
- Any changes that may affect eligibility or benefit level
- Child(ren) remain with relative caretaker, when children have been removed from their parents due to substance misuse

301.3 Household/Assistance Unit Determination

The household size is determined by including the relative adult caretaker, their spouse/domestic partner, their minor child(ren), and the minor child(ren) for whom assistance is being applied. The assistance unit includes only the child(ren) for whom assistance is being applied for due to living with the relative caretaker as part of a safety plan, diversion/voluntary kin placement, or other child welfare–involved arrangement that does not result in foster care placement.

Note: When a minor parent is living in the home due to child welfare involvement, both the minor parent and their child may be included in the KinCare assistance unit if all other factors of eligibility are met.

If a caretaker is applying for KinCare and the child is currently on an open TANF case, the child may remain on the TANF case and be absent from the TANF home for up to 180 days if the absence is due to Child Welfare Agency involvement and a reunification plan has been established.
(refer to manual section A-326.2)

- If no reunification plan is in place by day 75, the TANF case must be scheduled for termination, ensuring adverse action is completed by the last day of the month in which the 90th day falls.
- If a reunification plan is established, the parent has 180 days for the child to return home. After 180 days of the child's absence, TANF must be terminated.

Once the TANF case is terminated, KinCare may be pursued.

301.4 Residency

The household/assistance unit must live in Nevada to be eligible for benefits. A permanent dwelling or fixed residence is required. If the household does not have a fixed residence, a separate Nevada mailing address must be provided to receive correspondence.

301.5 Age of Caretaker

A caretaker may be 18 years of age or older if the minor child is living with them due to child welfare involvement.

301.6 Income Eligibility Tests

Income is any type of payment that is a gain or benefit to a household. When determining eligibility, the type of income determines whether it is counted or exempt.

An income test of 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is applied to required household members.

The 300% income test includes the caretaker, their spouse/domestic partner, their minor child(ren), and the relative child(ren) for whom assistance is being requested.

Apply the 300% FPL income test to all required household members and compare to the income limits for the appropriate household size. Although KinCare is not a TANF program, income eligibility for KinCare must be determined using the current TANF income guidelines outlined in Section A-700 and budgeting calculations in A-600 of the Eligibility and Payments Manual. Staff must reference these guidelines when assessing household income to ensure consistency with established TANF standards.

- Earned income disregards and work expenses are not applied.
- Any separate TANF assistance received by the caretaker household is exempt.

If the total countable gross earned and unearned income for the household exceeds the 300% FPL threshold for the household size, the assistance unit is ineligible. If the total countable gross income is below the 300% FPL limit, only the income and resources of the child applying for KinCare is considered in determining ongoing eligibility and payment allowance.

If KinCare applicant child has SSI income, TANF, or a foster care subsidy then the child is not eligible to receive KinCare. All other income is determined by using the income test of 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

301.6.2 Changes

Changes are situations that occur in a household which may affect eligibility of KinCare. Caretakers are required to report all changes to household circumstances which must be reported by the 5th of the following month the change occurs.

KinCare should be terminated, waiving adverse action timeframes, when any of the following changes occur:

- Child begins to receive a foster care subsidy
- Child Welfare Agency changes caretaker
- Child returns to parental care

301.6.3 KinCare Needs Standard and Payment Allowances

Household size and the 300% poverty threshold are determined by the total number of individuals residing in the caretaker's household, including the caretaker, the caretaker's spouse, the caretaker's children, and any minor child(ren) living in the home due to child welfare involvement. The payment allowance for the household is based on the number of children living in the home due to child welfare involvement. Monthly payment allowances are not prorated based on the application date. Eligible children will receive the full monthly allowance regardless of when the application is submitted.

301.6.4

KinCare Needs Chart

Household Size	300% of Poverty (Eff. 04/1/2026)	KinCare Payment Allowance (Eff. 11/1/2025)
1	\$3,990	1 child: \$430
2	\$5,410	2 children: \$860
3	\$6,830	3 children: \$1,290
4	\$8,250	4 children: \$1,720
5	\$9,670	5 children: \$2,150
6	\$11,090	6 children: \$2,580
7	\$12,510	7 children: \$3,010
8	\$13,930	8 children: \$3,440
Each Add'l	\$1,420	\$430 additional per child