

Financial Resources

Grandparents raising grandchildren may be eligible for financial resources to help support your parenting role. Financial services may be dependent on the custody status, the age of the caregiver, or the child's specific needs.

Temporary Assistance to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)

Child Only-Grants

If you are the guardian of your grandchild through Probate and Family Court, you are entitled to apply for a TAFDC child-only grant through the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). You will need to apply in person at your local DTA Office (check out www.mass.gov/org/department-of-transitional-assistance/locations).

To complete the application, please bring the following items:

- Guardianship paperwork from the Probate and Family Court or other documentation indicating your daily care and control of your grandchild
- Proof of relationship with the child (birth certificate, court papers)
- Proof of immunization record of the child
- Proof of living arrangement (can be self-declared).

Eligibility is based on your grandchild's income, not yours. Applicants will need to consent to allow DTA to work with the Department of Revenue (DOR) regarding any potential child support action from absent parent(s).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

You can apply at the DTA office. Eligibility is based on your income.

Card to Culture program

Recipients of the TAFDC child-only grant can use the Card to Culture EBT card at various cultural venues for discounted admission.

To learn more, visit www.mass.gov/info-details/ebt-card-to-culture-oragnizations.

Child Care Vouchers

Working grandparents/relative caregivers who receive the TAFDC child-only grant, are eligible for a childcare voucher. Contact DTA Central Office at 1-800-445-6604 or visit.

You may also be eligible for child care vouchers through the Department of Early Education and Care.

To apply, visit www.mass211.org.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

If your grandchild is under five years old, he/she is eligible for WIC, a nutrition program that provides healthy foods, nutrition education, and other services, free of charge. If you receive WIC, you may also be eligible for discounts on other resources. Call 1-800-942-1007 for more information about WIC and to find an office near you.

Social Security Survivor/Disability Benefit

If either biological parent is deceased, the child may be eligible for survivor benefits through Social Security. If your grandchild has a medical or mental health disability, they may qualify for disability through Social Security. Visit <https://www.ssa.gov/planners/survivors/howtoapply.html> to learn more.

MassHealth

Your grandchild may be eligible for MassHealth/Medicaid and other related health benefits programs. For more information visit www.mass.gov/MassHealth or call MassHealth Service Center 1-800-841-2900.

Aging Service Access Points (ASAP)

ASAPs provide information and referral services for individuals and caregivers over the age of 55 years old, including grandparents raising grandchildren. Be sure to ask about the Family Caregiver Support Program for potential financial assistance, such as camperships.

Visit www.800AGEINFO.com for information

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE: Kinship Navigator is a program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that assists all kinship caregivers (grandparents and other relatives) with accessing services for themselves and the children they are raising. For more information, please contact Jennifer.s.kitchenham@state.ma.us or 844-924-4546, or visit www.mass.gov/kinship-navigator

The Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren was established in 2008 to serve as a resource to the Commonwealth on issues affecting grandparents raising grandchildren and other relative grandchildren. The Commission works to provide information, resources, and support to the thousands of Massachusetts grandparents and relative caregivers by hosting community workshops, trainings, an annual conference, and maintaining an up to date website full of resources for caregivers. To receive newsletters from the Commission, or for more information, contact the Commission at www.massgrg.com. You can also contact the Director of the Commission at 617-748-2454 or e-mail colleen.pritoni@state.ma.us.