

# Resources for Foster, Pre-Adoptive, and Kinship Families

## Financial Support

### Activities, Experiences, and Essentials

#### Rise Above

**What?** Funds activities and experiences for children in foster care. Examples include musical instrument rentals and purchases; karate, dance, music and other lessons; team sports fees, and uniforms and equipment; Quincenera's; Prom clothes, tickets and photos

**How?** Foster Parents, social workers, clinicians, other supports, or youth themselves, can complete our online application after receiving approval from the child's DCF social worker.



#### Wonderfund

**What?** The Wonderfund works to provide children involved with the MA Department of Children & Families the opportunities, experiences, and essentials that every child deserves. Examples include athletic fees, tutoring, camps, instrument rentals, and more.

**How?** Speak with child's social worker about receiving a Wonderfund access card



#### One Simple Wish

**What?** Every year One Simple Wish grants over 35,000 wishes for children. Wishes can be for almost any item or service between \$5-\$500 and there is no limit to the number of wishes that can be submitted per person.

**Who?** Individuals in foster care, individuals who aged out of foster care, children being raised by kin, children or young adults facing homelessness or dealing with domestic violence, children in crisis, recently reunified families, and families who have open cases with social services are eligible

**How?** Contact your current or former caseworker or a local social service agency, church, or nonprofit and ask them to submit a wish for you.



### Beds and Bedding

#### Hope to Dream

**What?** We provide each child with a twin mattress, bed frame, bedding and pillow. We believe every child needs restorative sleep to live a healthier and more productive life.

**How?** To nominate a child, you must be a school social worker, case manager, a church leader or come from another charitable organization.

Eligibility requirements:

- Underserved children must be between ages 3 and 16 and not currently have a bed of their own.
- Families of the child must be from low-income, live in poverty or transitioning from homelessness.



#### Sleep in Heavenly Peace

**What?** A non-profit dedicated to building beds for children in need

**How?** You can apply for a bed in one of two ways:

1. As a Bed Recipient: To qualify as a bed recipient, you must be the legal guardian of the child or children ages 3-17 years old receiving the bed. Please submit the online SHP Application Form.
2. As a Referral: Referring a family for a bed is a big responsibility. Generally, it is through referrals that we find the families who need our beds the most. If you're a referral, please submit the online SHP Application Form.



### Food

#### WIC (Woman, Infants, and Children)

**What?** WIC provides young children (under 5 years old) and their guardians with nutrition counseling, food, and referrals to health services.

**How?** You can apply by phone by calling (800) 942-1007 or contact your child's social worker for support



## Child Care

### CCFA (Child Care Financial Assistance Programs)

**What?** Helps Massachusetts families pay for child care and out-of-school time programs

**How?** If your child has an active case with DCF, talk to your social worker about receiving a child care referral. If approved by DCF, DCF will send the referral to the family access administrator for you.



### mSPCC | Kid's net

**What:** Resources for foster, pre adoptive, and kinship families including

- Respite: overnight care for children in foster care. Parents are entitled to 10 nights of respite per year.
- Short-Term Child Care: Planned, short-term, day and evening care provided in licensed childcare homes or reimbursement of a DCF approved caretaker is available to allow foster, pre-adoptive and kinship families to attend to foster care-related or personal business; provide a break from parenting; and to meet other needs that impact the overall stability of the family.
- Babysitting: Babysitting is available for up to 10 hours per month. Foster parents should work with their Family Resource Worker to ensure their desired caregiver is approved in the DCF system.

**How:** Contact area DCF office to arrange care. Or for more information contact: [kidsnet@mSPCC.org](mailto:kidsnet@mSPCC.org) or (781) 861-0890



## Transition Age Youth

### FOCUS

**What?** FOCUS connects young adults ages 18-30 with lived foster care experience to resources, peers, and volunteers who help them meet their goals, navigate adulthood, and experience success and independence.

- ⇒ 1:1 Mentoring & Coaching
- ⇒ Life skills coaching
- ⇒ 1:1 Financial Literacy & Matched Savings
- ⇒ Referrals
- ⇒ Emergency Financial Assistance

**How?** If interested, the young adult should call/text Mukesh Baral at (413) 923-1813 or email [mukesh@friendsofchildreninc.org](mailto:mukesh@friendsofchildreninc.org)



## General Resources and Support Networks

### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

**What?** The Commission's primary purpose is to serve as a resource to the Commonwealth on issues affecting grandparents and all relatives raising grandchildren. They offer legal services, financial resources, tip sheets, support services, support groups, and more.

**How?** Contact [massgrg@mass.gov](mailto:massgrg@mass.gov) or 617 748 2454 for more information. You can also connect with a Kinship navigator by emailing [kinshipnavigator@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:kinshipnavigator@massmail.state.ma.us) or calling 844-924-4546



### All Our Kids

**What?** Whether you're caring for your first child or your 31st, AOK offers personal connections, the comprehensive resources, and the savvy support you need to make this journey a joyful one.

**How?** Visit the AOK Foster Care Resource and Support Hub to access the specific support you need.



# Resource Guide for Parents Impacted by the Child Welfare System

## START Here

### Family Resource Centers

**What?** Family Resource Centers offer evidence-based parent education groups, information and referral, case management, and other opportunities for children and families in need.

- Afterschool/summer/recreational activities
- Childcare information
- Continuing education for caregiver
- DCF involvement/support
- Domestic violence services
- Family hardship/financial issues
- Health/behavioral health access
- Immigration-related needs
- Job/employment issues
- Legal assistance
- Parenting support/education
- Services for youth:
  - Child is having difficulty engaging in school
  - Child is having difficulty following rules
  - Child has run away
  - Child is court-involved
  - Child is involved with other state agency
- SNAP/Benefits application assistance
- Substance use concerns
- Teen/young adult activities
- Transportation



**How?** Visit [frcma.org](http://frcma.org) to find a center near you. Providers can email referral form to [wfrc@youinc.org](mailto:wfrc@youinc.org) or call 508-796-1411.

### Here are some resources that the Family Resource Center can help you access:

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#### SNAP

**What?** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is a federal government program that provides food-purchasing assistance for low- and no-income people to help them maintain adequate nutrition and health

**How?** Call (877) 382-2363 to check eligibility and apply.



#### WCAC (Worcester Community Action Council)

**What?** WCAC creates financial support and opportunities through programs such as energy assistance, early education and care, financial empowerment, positive youth development, and career pathways.

**How?** Contact (508) 754-1176 for more information



#### Parents Helping Parents

**What?** We connect parents with parents in both virtual and community support groups to share challenges, express frustrations, and ask questions. All services are free, anonymous, confidential, and accessible.

Parent Stress Line available 24/7: 1-800-632-8188

**How?** Call 617-926-5008 for more information



## **If your child has had DCF involvement, these resources might be helpful:**

### **Rise Magazine**

**What?** Rise magazine is written by parents who have faced the child welfare system in their own lives. Through personal essays and reporting, parents illuminate every aspect of the child welfare experience from parents' perspectives.

**How?** Subscribe and learn more at [www.risemagazine.org](http://www.risemagazine.org)



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