



## Relative Caregiver Program

**The Relative Caregiver Program (RCP)** is an option available for relatives to care for non-custodial children who require out-of-home care. Children and relative caregivers receive supportive services geared toward self-sufficiency and stability to ensure the child is able to stay within the family instead of entering foster care. The family does not receive a monthly stipend through the program, but rather has access to several other opportunities to support them.

**Who is eligible for RCP services?:** The relative caregiver must be related to the child by blood, marriage or adoption. The relative caregiver must have primary care and control of the child through informal family arrangements or through legal custody or guardianship. The birth parent(s) must not reside in the caregiver's home. Once RCP and the caregiver meet, there will also be financial eligibility determined to be enrolled to the program.

### **RCP agencies deliver the following core services:**

- ◆ Information and Referral – for counseling or any other local services needed
- ◆ Caregiver Support Group – to give caregivers a space to grow as a relative caregiver
- ◆ Groups for Children and Teens – for children seeking an outlet
- ◆ Education and Informational Workshops
- ◆ Respite & Enrichment Services – such as games and events that are no cost to the caregiver
- ◆ Family Advocacy – short-term Case Management with caregiver, child, birth parent
- ◆ Emergency Financial and/or Start-up Assistance – such as replacement mattresses, clothing, assistance with buying school supplies, etc.

### **Other types of assistance:**

- ◆ Information about applying for TANF, SNAP, Child Only Grant
- ◆ Aid to enroll the child into a new school or information to share with the current school.
- ◆ Support in locating birth certificates, social security cards, and insurance cards

### **What's next?**

A Family Advocate from the Relative Caregiver Program will be available to meet once you take the step to call the RCP that covers your county in which you live. The sooner you call the Relative Caregiver Program the more likely you are to have clarity about how to proceed as a new caregiver.

### Upper Cumberland

Upper Cumberland Development District

Vickie Reels

931-476-4123    [vreels@ucdd.org](mailto:vreels@ucdd.org)

1225 South Willow Ave., Cookeville, TN 38506

#### **Counties Covered:**

Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, Dekalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putman, Smith, Van Buren, Warren, White

### Shelby Region

UT Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities

Laura Teresa English

901-448-3926    [tdjones@uthsc.edu](mailto:tdjones@uthsc.edu)

University of Tennessee Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities, Memphis, TN, 38105

#### **County Covered:**

Shelby

### Northwest and Southwest Regions

Carl Perkins Center

Beth Wilson

731-772-8378 OR 731-225-8026

[bwilson@carlperkinscenter.org](mailto:bwilson@carlperkinscenter.org)

130 Boyd Ave., Brownsville, TN, 38012

#### **Counties Covered:**

Benton, Carrol, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion, Weakley, Chester, Decatur, Fayette, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Tipton

### Tennessee Valley

Southeast TN Area Agency on Aging and Disability

Theresa Jorgensen

1-866-735-8752    [tjorgensen@sedev.org](mailto:tjorgensen@sedev.org)

1000 Riverfront Pkwy., Chattanooga, TN, 37402

#### **Counties Covered:**

Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Franklin, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie

### Davidson Region:

Family and Children's Services

Emily Nourse OR Joel Alex

(615) 340-9729 OR (615) 340-9725

[enourse@fcsnashville.org](mailto:enourse@fcsnashville.org)

2400 Clifton Avenue Nashville, TN 37209

#### **County Covered:**

Davidson

### Mid-Cumberland Region

New Vision Inc.

Kennatta Harris

(615) 445-8711    [kharrisnewvision@gmail.com](mailto:kharrisnewvision@gmail.com)

5211 Linbar Drive, Suite 500, Nashville, TN, 37211

#### **Counties Covered:**

Cheatham, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, Wilson, Dickson, Humphreys, Houston, Stewart.

### South Central Region

The Center for Family Development

Sue Fletcher

(931) 684-4676 ext. 206    [sue@mytcfcd.org](mailto:sue@mytcfcd.org)

310 Colloredo Blvd. Suite B, Shelbyville, TN 37160

#### **Counties Covered:**

Bedford, Coffee, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, Maury, Moore, Perry, Wayne

### East, Smoky, Knox, Northeast Region

Omni Community Health

Dusty Cantrell    (865) 755-3290

[dcantrell@omnicommunityhealth.com](mailto:dcantrell@omnicommunityhealth.com)

1324 Lawnville Road, Kingston, TN, 37763

#### **Counties Covered:**

Anderson, Campbell, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roan, Scott, Union, Knox, Blount, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Sevier, Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington