

# What are the benefits?

## DSS Support

Regular contact with the Department of Social Services ensures special needs and concerns can be addressed quickly.

DSS can also provide support for any step of the licensing process.

## Other Available Benefits

- Board Payments
- Medicaid
- SC Vouchers for Child Care

Contact your Regional Kinship Coordinator for an application and eligibility information.

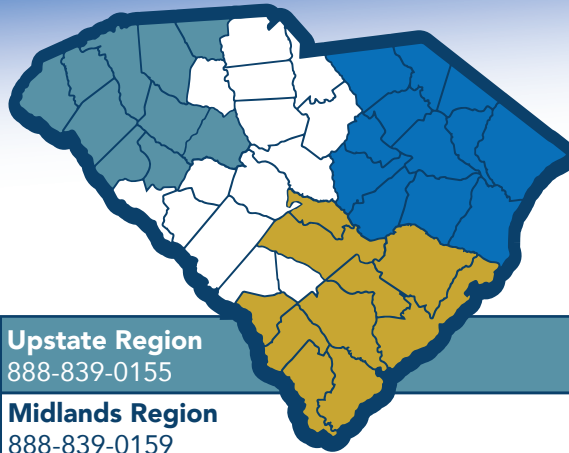


# Coordinators

Looking for help navigating your role as a Kinship Caregiver or Kinship Foster Parent?

## SCDSS Kinship Care

**Coordinators** are here to help! They can provide information about local resources that can support you and your kin. Each SCDSS region has a Kinship Care Coordinator available to answer your questions. Contact the Coordinator in your region today!



**Upstate Region**  
888-839-0155

**Midlands Region**  
888-839-0159  
888-839-0157

**Pee Dee Region**  
888-854-4317

**Low Country Region**  
888-854-4277

**Competence • Courage  
Compassion**

# KINSHIP foster CARE

[dss.sc.gov/kinshipcare](http://dss.sc.gov/kinshipcare)

**Becoming a licensed  
Kinship Foster Parent  
for your kin**



**DSS** SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT of SOCIAL SERVICES

# What is Kinship Foster Care?

Kinship Foster Care becomes an option when a child has been removed from an unsafe home into the custody of the DSS foster care program.

Kinship Foster Care is a licensing process that brings more support to a kinship caregiver and the children they care for. This licensure allows the Department of Social Services to place children with capable relative caregivers.

When a kin caregiver meets licensing requirements, they will receive additional supports such as training and financial resources. Kinship Foster Care is a more supportive experience for those helping children to be safe, stable, and well.

In a kin-centered home, children have the best chance to heal from trauma and thrive.



## Who is eligible?

- A Kinship Foster Parent may be a grandparent, aunt, uncle, neighbor, family friend, godparent, or another person who has strong emotional bonds with the child. These are people who express a willingness to care for a child who has been or will be placed into the custody of DSS.
- Kin can be blood-related or be “fictive kin.” Fictive kin are people emotionally significant to the child but are not related to them by blood.
- Foster parents must be 21+ years old, except in special circumstances.

## Our Mission

Serve South Carolina by promoting safety, permanency and well-being of children and vulnerable adults, helping individuals achieve stability and strengthening families.

This mission is accomplished through the core principles of competence, courage and compassion.

## Getting licensed

What does it take to become a licensed Kinship Foster Parent? These are a few of the requirements you can expect:

### Background Checks

This includes fingerprinting, review of child abuse records and the sex offender registry, and other criminal history. Adults living in your home must have a record free from child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and other violent offenses.

### Home Inspection

Your home must pass safety and health inspections from a state fire marshal.

### Medical Disclosure

A doctor’s statement must show that you are able to care for the child.

### Financial Report

Applicants must report household income and expenses.

### Training

You may be required to attend training to ensure you are prepared to meet the child’s needs.

If you’d like to learn more or begin the licensure process, please contact your Regional Kinship Care Coordinator.