**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

* “TANF Cash Assistance” is a cash benefit that children placed with you by DCS may be eligible to receive.
* In situations where DCS has placed a child with you, eligibility rules are different than when DCS isn’t involved
	+ There is no state Cash Assistance time limit
	+ Only the child’s income is counted when financial eligibility is determined

This means that more children in DCS cases are eligible for this Cash Assistance Program.

After you complete the required application form, the Family Assistance Administration and the DCS work together to quickly make eligibility determinations for the children listed on your application.

* The kinship caregiver must complete Application For Assistance (FA-001) and give the completed form to the DCS Specialist
	+ On page 3 of the FA-001, list all persons who are living in your home. Person 1 is the “Head of Household”
	+ For the children who are in placement, in “relationship to main contact” on page 3, write down the child’s relationship (for example, “grandchild” or “niece/nephew”) AND also write down “Unlicensed Foster Care.”
	+ Request “Cash Assistance” ONLY for the children who are in placement with you by checking the box for that child in the “Applying for cash assistance?” section on page 3.
	+ Complete each section of the application with the “$” beside it to the best of your ability, but be sure to complete:
		- the top part of page 1 (“Contact Information”)
		- page 3
		- the signature page (page 16)
* FAA will call you to schedule the interview within 5 calendar days of their receipt of your application and complete packet from your DCS Specialist. You may request and receive a telephone interview.
* FAA determines if you are eligible within 20 calendar days of their receipt of your application and complete packet.
* You will receive a letter stating you are approved or denied to receive cash benefits. If denied, the letter will say why. If denied give a copy of the letter to your DCS Specialist.
* **SSI:** Children eligible for or who are already receiving SSI disability payments are ineligible for Cash Assistance. If the child in placement is an SSI recipient, please inform your DCS Specialist for assistance in becoming an Authorized Payee for this benefit.

**Maximum Cash Assistance Amount**

