

# Kinship care in New Brunswick

1st Edition



Information and support  
for people caring for, or  
considering caring for, a  
child or youth they have a  
close relationship with.

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

This guide is designed to support kinship care providers, and your feedback helps us make it better.

Please share your thoughts, suggestions, or questions anytime by visiting [socialsupportsnb.ca/feedback](https://socialsupportsnb.ca/feedback) or scanning the QR code below.



This guide was last updated March 2026



# Financial supports

*Financial supports available for kinship care providers to help with the costs of caring for a child or youth.*

The Department of Social Development offers financial supports to help you meet the child or youth's needs. In this section you'll find information on expenses that may be covered and how the process works.

If you have questions about what is covered or how to access financial supports, speak with your child or youth's social worker. They will help explain what is available and guide you in submitting any required paperwork.

## Health cards

The child or youth in your care will receive a health card to access essential medical services and supports.

### ***How does the child or youth get a health card?***

The child or youth's social worker will automatically submit a request for a health card, you don't need to do anything.

### ***What does the health card cover?***

**Medical needs and services covered by the health card include:**

- **Prescriptions:** Visit the [New Brunswick Drug Plan Formulary](#) (or search online for 'New Brunswick Drug Plan Formulary') to see which medications are eligible.
- **Dental care:** Routine exams, x-rays, extractions, and some preventative treatments such as sealants and fluoride.
- **Vision care:** Yearly eye exams, lenses, and frames.

Additional support for services such as counselling, therapy, or developmental assessments may also be available based on the child or youth's needs. Talk to your social worker for more information.

### ***How does the health card work?***

Simply show the health card at the pharmacy when filling a prescription. The pharmacy will save the information for future visits, just like how private insurance cards, such as Blue Cross, are processed.

### ***Can the child or youth be added to a private insurance plan?***

Children or youth in kinship care usually cannot be added to a family's private insurance plan unless the caregiver has legal guardianship or adopts the child or youth. For more information, contact your insurance provider. They can help you understand what coverage might be available for your family's situation.

 *Myth-busting kinship care*

**What you might have heard...**

The financial support provided for kinship care providers will help meet all my household expenses?

**The truth is...**

Being a kinship care provider should not result in financial sacrifice. However, the financial supports are for the care and support of the child/youth and not as a way to 'make money'.

**What you might have heard...**

Kinship care providers are not foster parents and don't receive similar supports or services.

**The truth is...**

While kinship care providers' needs are unique, they can access the same financial supports, services, and resources as foster parents.





## Monthly financial support

### When do payments start?

You are eligible for monthly payments **starting from the date the child or youth begins living with you.** This is typically the same date you are authorized to start caring for the child or youth.

Because payments are issued on a set day each month, there may be a short wait before your first payment. Your first payment will include any amounts owed from the date the child or youth moved in.

Support is available for immediate or emergency expenses, such as food, clothing, transportation, or babysitting, if needed while you wait. Speak with your social worker if you have additional expenses not listed here.

### Monthly payments rates

The following tables show the monthly payment rates for Kinship Care Providers, (effective January 2026). If the child or youth needs extra support beyond the regular rate, please talk to your social worker.

Payment rates may change over time. Visit the Social Supports NB website [Kinship Care page](http://www.socialsupportsnb.ca/kinship) (www.socialsupportsnb.ca/kinship) for the latest updates.

*For more information about the types of kinship care arrangements listed in the following tables, refer to the [Legal information and decision-making section](#) of this guide.*

Kinship services & support after kinship services		0-4 YEARS	5-10 YEARS	11+ YEARS
Lodging		\$150.00	\$151.00	\$154.00
Food		\$185.00	\$218.00	\$271.00
Clothing / personal care		\$98.00	\$117.00	\$157.00
Transportation		\$51.00	\$51.00	\$51.00
Babysitting		\$65.00	\$65.00	\$65.00
Diapers / wipes /formula		\$185.00	---	---
Daycare lunches / snacks		\$140.00	---	---
School lunches		---	\$140.00	\$140.00
Recreation / special occasions		\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
Fee for service		\$439.00	\$439.00	\$439.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,348</b>	<b>\$1,216</b>	<b>\$1,312</b>

Children and youth in the minister's care living with kin		0-4 YEARS	5-10 YEARS	11+ YEARS
Lodging		\$150.00	\$151.00	\$154.00
Food		\$185.00	\$218.00	\$271.00
Clothing / personal care		\$98.00	\$117.00	\$157.00
Transportation		\$51.00	\$51.00	\$51.00
Babysitting		\$65.00	\$65.00	\$65.00
Diapers / wipes / formula		\$185.00	---	---
Daycare lunches / snacks		\$140.00	---	---
School lunches		---	\$140.00	\$140.00
Recreation / special occasions		\$35.00	\$42.00	\$51.00
Fee for service		\$439.00	\$439.00	\$439.00
Canada Child Benefit		\$176.00	\$176.00	\$176.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,524</b>	<b>\$1,399</b>	<b>\$1,504</b>

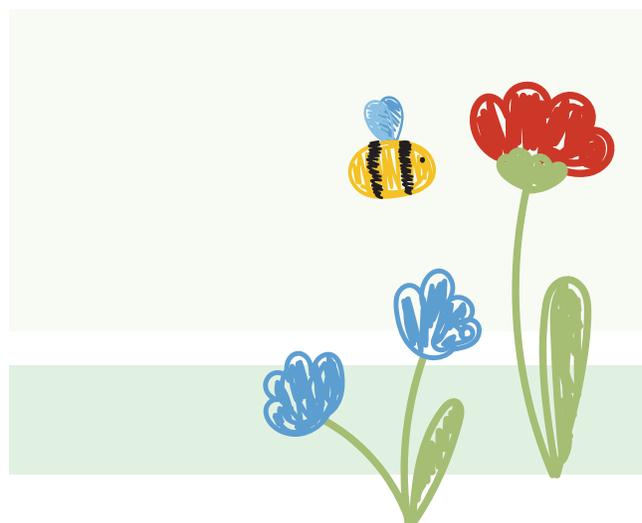
Kinship care seasonal allowances		0-4 YEARS	5-10 YEARS	11+ YEARS
Spring clothing		\$88.00	\$98.00	\$140.00
Fall clothing		\$71.00	\$96.00	\$130.00
Winter clothing		\$136.00	\$180.00	\$210.00
School supplies		\$0.00	\$161.00	\$211.00
Christmas		\$143.00	\$153.00	\$163.00
Birthday		\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00

### When and how are payments made?

Monthly payments are made by direct deposit on the third Monday of every month. If that falls on a holiday, payments will be processed the following business day.

### How much money will I receive?

You will receive a monthly amount based on the age of the child or youth. This support is meant to help with living expenses, such as food and clothing.





## Canada Child Benefit (CCB)

If you're a kinship care provider in New Brunswick, you may qualify for the Canada Child Benefit (CCB). The benefit is a monthly payment to help with the cost of raising children under the age of 18.

### **Who needs to apply for the CCB?**

If you are caring for a child or youth through kinship services, support after kinship services, or as their legal guardian, you will need to apply for the CCB. If the child or youth's parent is currently receiving the benefit, their payments will stop, and the funds will go to you instead. If the child or youth returns to their parent, the parent will need to reapply for the benefit.

### **How much can you receive?**

If you are eligible, the amount you receive is based on your income.

For example, if your [adjusted family net income](#) (AFNI) is under \$32,797, you get the maximum amount for each child or youth:

- **under 6 years of age:** \$6,997 per year (\$583.08 per month)
- **6 to 17 years of age:** \$5,903 per year (\$491.91 per month)

Payments gradually start decreasing when the adjusted family net income is over \$32,797.

### **How to apply**

For more information and to apply, visit the [Government of Canada's website](#) (or search online for 'CCB').

Your child or youth's social worker can provide a letter to confirm your caregiving arrangement as needed. You can also use their [Child and family benefits calculator](#) to estimate how much money you could receive based on your income.

### **When does Social Development apply for the CCB?**

If the child or youth you are caring for is in the legal care of the government (Minister), the Department of Social Development will apply for the CCB. In this case, part of the benefit is included in your monthly payment, while the rest is used by the Department of Social Development to cover costs related to the care and support of the child or youth.

*For more information about the different types of kinship care arrangements, refer to the [Legal information and decision-making section](#) of this guide.*

## Additional financial supports

You, the child or youth's social worker, and the child/youth will work together to create a plan that meets their specific needs. This plan may include financial support for additional services or unique needs beyond the monthly amount.

### Examples of additional expenses that may be covered include:

- **Essentials:** For example, bedroom furniture, clothing, or school supplies.
- **Childcare costs:** For example, babysitting, daycare, and after-school program fees.
- **Extracurricular activities:** For example, camps, sports teams, art classes, or music lessons.
- **Help during a crisis or challenging situation:** For example, family conflict mediation, parenting advice, or developmental support.
- **Services for the child or youth:** For example, counselling or developmental assessments.
- **Supports for caregivers and families:** For example, counselling or family therapy.
- **Medical needs:** For example, prescriptions or dental care (for more details, see the "Health card" section below).

Financial support for additional needs is assessed on a case-by-case basis. Talk to your social worker if you think there are other supports or services you may need.



### Stories and experiences from our kinship community:

When asked, many kinship care providers in New Brunswick shared that they didn't know counselling services were available for them or the child or youth in their care. If you think **counselling or other professional services** could help, talk to your social worker to learn more about the options available to support your family.

*"I had no idea counselling was something we could access-it would have helped sooner."*

### How do I get paid for additional expenses?

If you're approved for additional financial supports, your social worker will guide you through the process to claim approved expenses.

#### Here's how it works:

- All additional expenses must be approved by the child or youth's social worker in advance.
- You'll use a template invoice provided by your social worker to record each type of expense (for example, babysitting, transportation, etc.).
- Save and attach receipts for each expense.
- Submit the completed invoice by the end of the month for review and approval by your social worker.