



# Help for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

**The Texas Health and Human Services Commission offers several benefit programs to help grandparents. These programs help with the basic needs of grandchildren living in their home.**

## **TANF cash help**

Monthly Temporary Assistance for Needy Families payments help families pay for food, clothing, housing, utilities, and other basic needs.

Depending on the amount of money a grandparent gets (income) and the value of the things they own (resources or assets), the grandparent might be able to get a one-time TANF payment for grandparents, plus either:

- Monthly TANF payments for the grandchild only, or
- Monthly TANF payments for both the grandparent and grandchild.

Grandparents don't need to have custody or guardianship of the child to apply for these benefits. However, they must be related to the child and be caring for the child in their home.

## **TANF payments for the grandchild only**

Grandparents might be able to get TANF payments for their grandchild without a review of the grandparents' income and resources. Income the child gets from sources such as child support and survivors' benefits will be reviewed.

## **TANF payments for the grandchild and grandparent**

Grandparents might be able to get TANF for themselves and their grandchild if the grandparents' monthly income and resource amounts along with the child's meet program rules.

## **One-time TANF for Grandparents**

Along with one of the types of TANF payments listed above, a grandparent might be able to get a one-time cash payment of \$1,000. This payment can be given to a grandparent only one time -- no matter how many grandchildren live in their home or if another grandchild moves in.

## **SNAP food benefits**

SNAP food benefits help families with low incomes buy healthy food. Grandparents, along with their grandchildren who live with them, might get SNAP if the money they get (income) and the value of the things they own (resources or assets) meet program rules. The monthly SNAP payment amounts are based on the number of people living in the home.

## **Medicaid**

Medicaid is a health-care benefit program for children, people 65 and older and people with disabilities. Grandparents and grandchildren might get Medicaid if their income and resource amounts meet program rules. Some of the services Medicaid can cover include:

- Doctor's visits
- Drugs ordered by a doctor
- Hospital care
- Dental care
- Vaccines
- Lab tests and X-rays
- Glasses
- Mental health care

## **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**

CHIP is a health-care benefit program for children age 18 and younger. It's for children in families who can't get Medicaid and don't have health insurance. Some of the services CHIP can cover include:

- Doctor's visits
- Drugs ordered by a doctor
- Hospital care
- Dental care
- Vaccines
- Lab tests and X-rays
- Glasses
- Mental health care

## Other services in your area

You can find other services in your area by calling 2-1-1 or 1-877-541-7905 (after you pick a language, press 1). You also can search for services by going to [211Texas.org](http://211Texas.org). Services might include:

- Food pantries
- Senior services
- After-school programs
- Tax help
- Housing
- Child care
- Help paying your rent or utilities
- Help paying for drugs ordered by your doctor

## How do I apply for benefits?

- Online: [YourTexasBenefits.com](http://YourTexasBenefits.com)
- **At a benefits office:** To find a HHSC benefits office near you, go to [YourTexasBenefits.com](http://YourTexasBenefits.com) or call 2-1-1 (after you pick a language, press 1).
- **Paper form (H1010):** To get a form, you can either:
  - (1) call toll- free 2- 1- 1 or 1- 877- 541- 7905 (after you pick a language, press 2), or
  - (2) visit an HHSC benefits office.

## How Can I Get Help to Apply?

- Call 2-1-1 or 1-877-541-7905 (after you pick a language, press 1),
- Go online to [YourTexasBenefits.com](http://YourTexasBenefits.com) to find your local office, or
- Go online to [211texas.org/211](http://211texas.org/211) to find a community-based organization.

## Questions about benefits?

- You can go online to [YourTexasBenefits.com](http://YourTexasBenefits.com). If you create an account at [yourtexasbenefits.com](http://yourtexasbenefits.com), you can view your benefits online, or
- You can call 2-1-1 or 1-877-541-7905 (after you pick a language, press 2). You can call 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday Central Time.