

Extended Family Support Program Overview



The Extended Family Support Program provides short term services to relative caregiver families that are not involved in the formal child welfare system. The goal of EFSP is to:

- Assist relative caregivers to obtain private guardianship of the child.
- Assist relative caregivers to obtain the child-only grant and/or other services.
- Assist school aged children to enroll in the relative caregiver's school district.
- Assist the relative caregiver with obtaining basic goods and services needed to maintain a stable home for the child.
- Link relative caregivers to community resources to meet other needs.

Contacts



Extended Family Support Program Provider

Agency _____
Address _____

City _____
Phone _____

Extended Family Support Program Worker

Agency _____
Address _____

City _____
Phone _____

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

312.814.6800

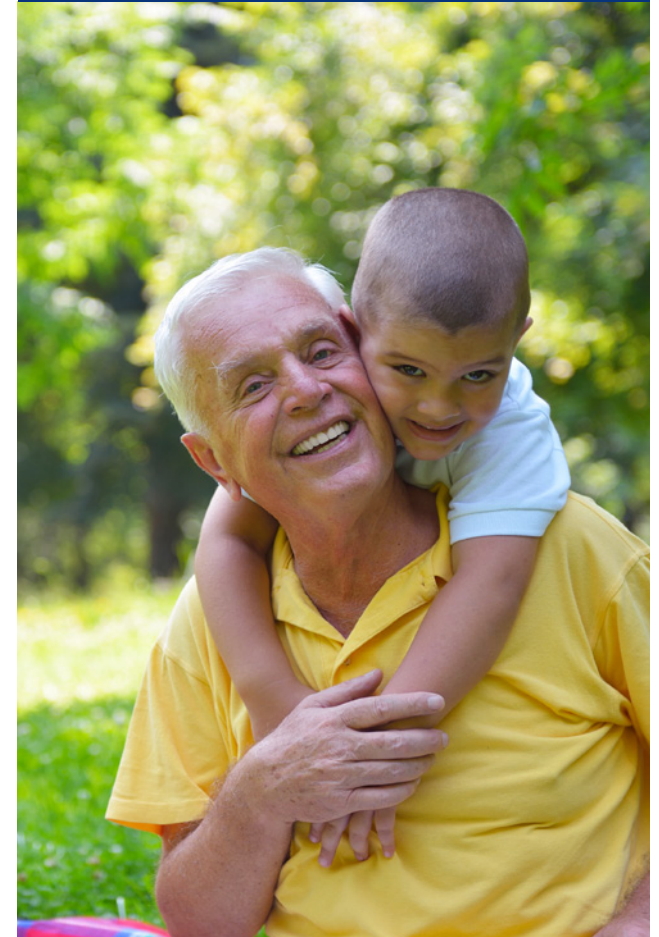
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Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois
DCFS #296 – Nov 2015 – 2000 copies
CFS 1050-98 – 11/2015

Extended Family Support Program

"THANK YOU FOR STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE"



Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

Services to Obtain Guardianship

Services Provided

Services Not Provided



The Extended Family Support Program (EFSP) can assist a relative caregiver who wants to obtain guardianship through probate court of a relative's child living in the home of the caregiver. This includes:

- Educating and helping the caregiver negotiate the probate court system.
- Assisting caregivers to obtain required documents.
- Arranging for legal counsel in counties where legal counsel is necessary.



The EFSP caseworkers will meet with the relative caregiver monthly until guardianship has been obtained or until other services have been provided. During this time, the EFSP worker will provide other services to stabilize the relative family, including:

- Provide crisis intervention and short term interventions to address issues in the family.
- Assist eligible families to obtain TANF benefits, subsidized daycare and other benefits that are available to the caregiver.
- Advocate with local schools to enroll the caregiver's child in their school district.
- Coordinate family meetings and mediation.
- Refer to and advocate for needed services such as: financial employment and/or housing counseling, legal services, medical and mental health services, parenting counseling and training, special education and vocational training.
- Referral for cash assistance and in-kind assistance to help meet the basic needs of the family.

Cash Assistance

EFSP has a limited cash assistance program to assist relative caregivers to meet the basic needs of their relative's child. Cash assistance may be used to:

- Obtain legal counsel for probate court in counties where legal counsel is necessary.
- Pay for court fees and court-required documents by the court.
- Obtain basic goods and services needed to ensure that the family is stable.



When deciding whether to obtain services offered by EFSP, it is important to know what services the program does not provide.

While the EFSP worker can assist the relative caregiver obtain a child only grant through the Illinois Department of Human Services, DCFS will not provide a monthly stipend to the relative.

In Addition, EFSP Does Not:

- Assist caregivers when either the caregiver or the child has an open DCFS case.
- Assist caregivers living outside of Illinois.
- Assist with guardianship when a biological parent objects (the program provides other services if the biological parent objects to guardianship).
- Assist caregivers when a biological parent lives with the relative caregiver and is able to care for the child themselves.

