The support, love and guidance relative caregivers provide to a child in their home will have a lasting impact on the life of that child, their family and the community.

Relative Placement Specialist

The Foster Care Navigators provide relative caregivers who are becoming licensed foster parents or are currently licensed foster parents with an experienced foster parent who specializes in relative placements. The Navigator will help guide them through the licensing process, answer questions, assist with resources and act as a liaison between the family fostering and the agency throughout the State of Michigan.

CONTACT US TODAY AT:
1.855.MICHKIDS
www.fcnp.org

The Foster Care Navigator program is operated by Orchards Children’s Services and funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
Five Steps to Becoming a Licensed Foster Parent who is a Relative Caregiver

1. Contact a Foster Care Navigator at 1.855.MICHKIDS www.fcnp.org

2. Attend an Orientation
   The comprehensive orientation will not only review guidelines, but will also illustrate what you can expect as a foster parent. Agency representatives will be happy to answer all your questions during the orientation.

3. Complete the Application
   After orientation, the agency will provide you with a licensing application packet, which in general will include the Licensing Record Clearance Request BCAL-1326 form used for fingerprinting, licensing application, medical clearance forms and other agency specific paperwork.

4. Participate in a Home Evaluation
   The agency will meet with your family several times for on-site home visits and interviews. After you attend orientation and submit your application, your agency will schedule your first home visit.

5. Attend Free Training
   Agencies will help you secure Parent Resources for Information Development and Education (PRIDE) training, which offers valuable information related to becoming a licensed foster parent. Licensed foster parents need to complete 12 hours of PRIDE training. Once you are licensed, you have 18 months to complete an additional 12 hours of PRIDE training.

The Navigator – Relative Specialist will support you through each step toward becoming a licensed foster parent who is a relative caregiver! In that role, some of your responsibilities will be:

- Provide the child with safe, nurturing care.
- Use non-physical, age-appropriate discipline.
- Assist the foster care worker to ensure that the child receives regular medical, dental, therapy, and other required services.
- Enroll the child in school.
- Follow all court orders and facilitate the case plan for the child.
- Report child’s progress and concerns and be available for scheduled home visits by the foster care worker.
- Attend court hearings and family case reviews when required, to provide input.
- If able, provide transportation and support visits with the child’s parents and siblings.
- Keep all information about the child’s case confidential. The foster care worker will advise what information may be shared with professionals working with the child.

As members of the fostering community, the Foster Care Navigator – Relative Specialist has a unique skills set designed to assist you by providing the following services:

- Connecting you with resources within your own community.
- Emotional and concrete support to address challenges you may face while on the path to becoming a foster parent.
- At times, acting as a liaison between you and the licensing agency.
- Connecting you with a support group within your own community.
- The Navigator – Relative Specialist will work for you to assure progress towards becoming a licensed foster parent happens.