

COMPARISON CHART FOR CAREGIVERS

CAREGIVERS	TEMPORARY CARE		PERMANENT CARE		
	Unlicensed Kinship Foster Care	Licensed Foster Care (kin or foster parent)	Legal Custody	Guardianship	Adoption
Is financial assistance available from social services?	Ask your social services worker	Yes, monthly foster care payments	Ask your social services worker	Yes, monthly KinGAP payments for those who qualify	Yes, monthly Adoption Assistance payments for those who qualify
How long will I receive financial assistance?	Ask your social services worker	Until the child turns 18 or permanently leaves the home	Ask your social services worker	Until the child is 18 or 21, depending on the youth's age when guardianship is achieved	Until the child is 18 or 21, depending on the youth's age when adoption is achieved
What expenses are there for me (out of pocket)?	All expenses related to care of the child	All expenses related to care of the child; however a monthly foster care payment is available	All expenses related to care of the child	All expenses related to care of the child; however a monthly guardianship assistance payment is available for those who qualify	All expenses related to care of the child; however a monthly adoption assistance payment is available for those who qualify
Will a social worker visit me?	Yes	Yes	No	Court determines if visits continue	No
How do I learn about services if I need them?	Contact the social services agency	Contact the social services agency	Contact the social services agency	Contact the social services agency	Contact the social services agency
What additional supports are available?					
Health Care/Insurance	Medicaid	Medicaid	Medicaid	Medicaid	Medicaid
Independent Living Services (LINKS program)	Yes; for children 13 and older the LINKS program is available through social services	Yes; for children 13 and older the LINKS program is available through social services	Yes; for children 13 and older the LINKS program is available through social services	Yes; for children 13 and older the LINKS program is available through social services	Yes; for children 13 and older the LINKS program is available through social services
Post-Secondary Education Financial Aid (NC REACH: financial aid for undergraduates in NC public universities or community colleges) available to youth who have aged out of foster care at age 18 or those who were adopted from foster care on or after their 12th birthday)	Visit website for more information: www.fc2program.org/north-carolina	Visit website for more information: www.fc2program.org/north-carolina	No	No	Visit website for more information: www.fc2program.org/north-carolina

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Post Secondary Education Financial Aid (Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV) provides funding for school related expenses for youth who were in foster care on or after their 17th birthday or were adopted from foster care after their 16th birthday or entered into a guardianship placement from foster care on or after their 16th birthday)	Visit website for more information: www.fc2program.org/north-carolina	Visit website for more information: www.fc2program.org/north-carolina	No	Visit website for more information: www.fc2program.org/north-carolina	Visit website for more information: www.fc2program.org/north-carolina
Eligibility for Free School Meals	Yes	Yes	Need-based; apply through the child's school	Need-based; apply through the child's school	Need-based; apply through the child's school
Food Stamps	Need-based; apply through social services	Need-based; apply through social services	Need-based; apply through social services	Need-based; apply through social services	Need-based; apply through social services
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Contact the social services agency	Contact the social services agency	Contact the social services agency	Contact the social services agency	Contact the social services agency
Home Energy Assistance	Contact the social services agency	Contact the social services agency	Contact the social services agency	Contact the social services agency	Contact the social services agency
Tax Credits	Contact an accountant	Contact an accountant	Contact an accountant	Contact an accountant	for more information about adoption tax credits visit: www.nacac.org/help/adoption-tax-credit/