Thank you for opening your home and your heart to a child or children whose parents cannot care for them. This resource guide is provided to you by DePelchin Children’s Center, an accredited foster care and adoption agency serving children and families in Texas. DePelchin believes that every child deserves to be safe and healthy. Our programs include:

- Foster Care and Adoption
- Individual and Family Counseling
- Parenting Programs
- School-Based Programs

The purpose of this resource guide is to help kinship caregivers – grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, and other extended family members and friends who are caring for children and youth whose biological parents are not able to. This guide helps caregivers to find resources and support for food, housing, childcare, education, and other areas of need.

Please note that this guide is not comprehensive and should be used as a starting point for families searching for resources. The information in this guide is also subject to change at any time. It is important to contact the organizations directly for updated, accurate information.

If you need support beyond what is provided in this manual, please contact DePelchin Children’s Center - (713) 730-2335.
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CHILDCARE

Help with Cost

Texas Workforce Commission – Child Care Management Services (CCMS)

SERVICES: The Child Care Management Services (CCMS) program of the Texas Workforce Commission helps eligible parents with the cost of childcare.

LOCATION(S): Multiple locations. Find your local Workforce Solutions office by zip code on the TWC website: https://www.twc.texas.gov/directory-workforce-solutions-offices-services

CONTACT: To see if you are eligible and to find out how to apply for financial aid, please contact your local TWC office.

Finding Childcare

Texas Child Care Availability Portal

SERVICES: Online search tool to help find daycares and childcare in Texas. This also includes quality certification through Texas Rising Star, addresses, available seats by age, and links to their Child Care Regulation safety and health inspection reports and history.

CONTACT: https://find.frontlinechildcare.texas.gov/parent/quick-search

DFPS Texas Day Care Search

SERVICES: Online search tool to help caregivers find a childcare provider in Texas.

CONTACT: http://www.txchildcaresearch.org/
EDUCATION

General Resources

Head Start Program
SERVICES: Head Start promotes the growth and development of children ages 3 to 5 years old from low-income families. Early Head Start provides learning and development services for families with children up to age 3.
CONTACT: For more information, visit the Texas Head Start Association’s website: www.txhsa.org.

Texas Education Agency
SERVICES: The Texas Education Agency oversees and provides resources to public school districts, including special education services and other federal programs to help students with special needs. Caregivers can also find information about how to find a school and how to enroll children in school.
CONTACT: For more information, visit https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/general-information

Texas School Guide
SERVICES: Interactive online guide to finding and comparing schools in Texas. Maps, school ratings, statistics and tools for parents comparing and searching for public and charter schools.
CONTACT: http://texasschoolguide.org

Back-to-School Drives

Salvation Army
LOCATION: Multiple locations.
CONTACT: https://www.salvationarmyhouston.org/get-help
ENRICHMENT AND ENTERTAINMENT

Family Fun

**Children’s Museum Houston**

SERVICES: Hands-on, interactive, family-friendly museum. Children under 1 year old have free admission. Free Family Night is every Thursday evening. Reservations may be required.

LOCATION: 1500 Binz St, Houston, TX 77004

CONTACT: [http://www.cmhouston.org/](http://www.cmhouston.org/)

**Harris County Public Library**

SERVICES: HCPL provides free events and activities for children, including Story Time and a Summer Reading Program. Some library branches also provide computer classes, English language classes, and other free educational classes for adults.

LOCATION: Multiple locations across Houston. Virtual programming also provided.

CONTACT: [http://www.hcpl.net/](http://www.hcpl.net/)

**Houston Museum of Natural Science**

SERVICES: Family-friendly museum with permanent exhibits including space science, paleontology, and Texas wildlife. Thursday evenings are free.

LOCATION: 5555 Hermann Park Dr, Houston, TX, 77030

CONTACT: [https://www.hmns.org/](https://www.hmns.org/)

Holiday Gift Drives

**Catholic Charities**

LOCATION: 2900 Louisiana St, Houston, TX 77006

CONTACT: [https://catholiccharities.org/sybrequest/](https://catholiccharities.org/sybrequest/)
FINANCIAL AND CASH ASSISTANCE

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

SERVICES: TANF provides monthly financial assistance to qualifying families so they can better care for children. This program also helps children who don’t have parental support or care. Children who are eligible for TANF are also eligible for Medicaid health care assistance.

CONTACT: For more information, visit https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/financial/cash/tanf-cash-help

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

SERVICES: The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) helps low- to moderate-income workers and families get a tax break. If you qualify, you can use the credit to reduce the taxes you owe – and maybe increase your refund.

CONTACT: For more information, visit https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-eitc

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SERVICES: Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provides assistance for grandparents and other relatives raising children who are blind or disabled. Managed by the U.S. Social Security Administration, SSI provides a cash benefit to the child.

CONTACT: For more information, contact a Social Security representative at (800) 772-1213 or go to https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)

SERVICES: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is also known as food stamps. SNAP helps low-income families buy nutritious food from grocery stores.

CONTACT: For more information, visit https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/food/snap-food-benefits
Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

SERVICES: The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program can help grandparents and other relatives buy nutritious food for the children in their care. WIC offers food assistance and nutritional screening to low-income pregnant women, women with infants 11 months or younger, and children younger than 5.

CONTACT: Apply for WIC at 800-942-3678 or at a local WIC office: https://texaswic.org/

Houston Food Bank

SERVICES: Houston Food Bank distributes food and other essentials to those in need. In addition, Houston Food Bank provides programs and services including nutrition education, job training, health management, and help in securing state-funded assistance.

LOCATION: 535 Portwall St, Houston, TX 77029 (Main Campus). Multiple partner locations around Houston.

CONTACT: Call the helpline at 832-369-9390 or find a food pantry near you at https://www.houstonfoodbank.org/find-help/agency-locator/

FOSTER PARENT LICENSE

Arms Wide Adoption Services

SERVICES: Comprehensive services for kinship families, including support with documentation and requirements for foster licensing. Many Kinship families choose to become licensed foster families to receive services and financial assistance that are not available through a standard kinship care placement.

CONTACT: For more information, call 800-460-6298 or visit https://www.armswideadoption.org/kinship-care/
HEALTH

Primary Medical

Medicaid/Insurance for Children

SERVICES: Children in Texas without medical insurance may qualify for Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Eligibility for either program depends on family income. Children must be under the age of 18 (with exceptions for children with disabilities) and residents of Texas.

CONTACT: Visit the Texas Health and Human Services website for more information and to apply for coverage.

Easter Seals of Greater Houston

SERVICES: Services for children and teens with disabilities, including Early Childhood Intervention (ECI).

LOCATION: 4888 Loop Central Drive, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77081 (main campus). Multiple outreach locations around Houston.

CONTACT: Call 713-838-9050

Early Childhood Intervention Services

SERVICES: State funded program for families with children, from birth to age 3 years old with disabilities and developmental delays. ECI screens and provides therapy services in home.

LOCATION: In-home services

CONTACT: Visit https://citysearch.hhsc.state.tx.us/ or call 877-787-8999, select a language, then select Option 3.

Mental Health Needs

DePelchin Children’s Center

SERVICES: DePelchin Children’s Center offers free individual and family counseling in addition to parenting support through its Family and Youth Success (FAYS) Program. This program is currently only available to residents of Harris, Fort Bend
and Waller counties. DePelchin’s Families COUNT program provides free office-based or telehealth counseling to children ages 3-17 and their caregivers.

**LOCATION:** 4950 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77007 (Main Campus).

**CONTACT:** To schedule an appointment with a FAYS therapist, call (713) 664-3459 in Harris County or (281) 261-1341 in Fort Bend and Waller Counties. FAYS services are of no cost and are provided in both English and Spanish.

**Family Houston**

**SERVICES:** Counseling services for kids ages 3 and up, adults and families. Accepts all insurance and has sliding scale fees for uninsured.

**LOCATION:** 4625 Lillian St, Houston, TX 77006

**CONTACT:** Call 713-861-4849

**The Council on Recovery**

**SERVICES:** Outpatient provider of treatment for alcoholism, substance abuse, and co-occurring mental health disorders. Offers counseling for adults, adolescents, and children. Accepts insurance and has sliding scales for uninsured.

**LOCATION:** 303 Jackson Hill St, Houston, TX 77007

**CONTACT:** Call 713-942-4100 or complete a contact form online: https://www.councilonrecovery.org/contact-us/

**National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)**

**SERVICES:** Provides education classes and support groups for individuals living with mental illnesses and for their family members.

**LOCATION:** 9401 Southwest Fwy, Houston, TX 77074 (Main Campus). Local chapters around Houston and virtual services provided.

**CONTACT:** Visit http://namigreaterhouston.org
HOUSING

Housing Choice Voucher Program

SERVICES: The Housing Choice Voucher Program (formerly Section 8), provides rental assistance to low-income families, seniors, and persons with disabilities to rent apartments.

CONTACT: Call the customer services hotline, 713-260-0600, or visit the Houston Housing Authority website.

Homebuyer Assistance Program

SERVICES: The City of Houston offers two programs to assist homebuyers: the Homebuyer Assistance Program, and the Harvey Homebuyer Assistance Program. The City offers up to $30,000 to income-qualified Houstonians who are first-time homebuyers, who have not owned a home in the last three years, or are replacing a home that was damaged by Hurricane Harvey.

CONTACT: Call 832-393-0550 or visit the City of Houston Homebuyer Assistance page.

Harris County Housing and Community Resource Center

SERVICES: The Harris County Housing and Community Resource Center is a one-stop shop for finding apartments and properties to rent, opportunities for first time home buyers, financial assistance, emergency shelter, and a variety of other services.

CONTACT: For direct assistance from a Resource Navigator, call 832-927-4955 or email HRC@csd.hctx.net.

Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program

SERVICES: The Houston-Harris Rental Assistance Program is available to renters within Harris County or the City of Houston who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, who are experiencing housing instability, and whose household income is at or below 80% of Area Median Family Income.
CONTRACT: For questions, call the hotline at 832-402-7568 or apply online at https://houstonharrishelp.org/.

LEGAL SERVICES

Lone Star Legal Aid

SERVICES: Advocacy and legal services for low income individuals.
LOCATION: 500 Jefferson St, 17th Floor, Houston, 77002
CONTACT: Call (800) 733-8394 or apply online

AVDA (Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse)

SERVICES: Counseling services, legal advocacy, help for survivors of domestic violence.
LOCATION: 12300 Parc Crest Drive, Suite 140, Stafford, 77477
CONTACT: Call (281) 207-2312 or email contact@avda-tx.org

Houston Volunteer Lawyers

SERVICES: Free legal help to eligible low-income residents in Houston, specializing in family, housing, wills, veterans’ issues, taxes, and other non-criminal issues.
LOCATION: 1111 Bagby, Ste FLB 300, Houston, TX 77002
CONTACT: Call (713) 228-0735 or visit their website to complete a questionnaire

PARENTING SUPPORT

24/7 Dad

SERVICES: Educational coaching program for fathers and father figures in group settings. Programs are free and open to all.
LOCATION: Workshops may be held virtually, in the community, or at DePelchin’s main campus – 4950 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77007
CONTACT: Contact Joshua Williams, Project Supervisor, at jwilliams@depelchin.org or by calling 713-245-9859.
**Triple P Parenting Help**

SERVICES: Low cost and free parenting programs available to residents of Harris County, Galveston County, and surrounding counties.

LOCATION: Workshops may be held virtually or at DePelchin’s main campus – 4950 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77007.

CONTACT: To learn more about this program and to register, call (713) 802-7777.

**PEER SUPPORT**

**MCH Family Outreach - GAP Program**

SERVICES: The Grandparents as Parents (GAP) Program provides services to grandparents and other relatives who care for children in the absence of parents. Caregiver Empowerment Groups offer emotional support and advice on ways to deal with common problems many grandparents and caregivers face when raising children.

CONTACT: For more information, call 713-682-8911.

**DFPS Kinship Facebook Page**

SERVICES: Facebook page run by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) that shares information and resources, and fosters connection among kinship caregivers, including statewide virtual support groups.

CONTACT: [https://www.facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers](https://www.facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers)

**GENERAL HELP**

**2-1-1**

SERVICES: No matter where you live in Texas, you can call 2-1-1 and find information about resources in your local community, whether you need help finding food or housing, childcare, crisis counseling or substance abuse treatment. 2-1-1 Texas is a program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.
CONTACT:  Dial 2-1-1, or 877-541-7905.

FindHelp.Org

SERVICES: Use findhelp.org to find food assistance, help paying bills, and other free or reduced cost programs by your zip code. This website connects people seeking help with verified social care providers that serve them.

CONTACT: http://findhelp.org

United Way - Referral Search

SERVICES: United Way Greater Houston is a nonprofit organization that helps families meet their basic needs, like food and housing, and establish a pathway to a better future through things like education and job training.

CONTACT: Find the help you need by topic and by zip code or city in their resource directory: http://referral.unitedwayhouston.org/Search.aspx