Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program

The Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program provides support and services to children who are being cared for by grandmother, aunt, uncle or other extended family members because their parents are not able to raise them. The University of Tennessee Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities is the lead agency for a network of community-based, comprehensive, coordinated service delivery systems that serve kinship families.

Eligibility Guidelines for Participation in the Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program:

A. The relative caregiver must have primary care and control of the child through informal family arrangements or through legal custody or guardianship.

B. The child(ren) must be under age 18; or under age 19 and due to complete high school or any equivalent vocational/technical training before age 19.

C. The relative caregiver and spouse must take part in an in-home assessment. The caregiver must agree to accept support services.

D. The caregiver must be able to provide a safe home for related children and be committed to providing that home as long as is necessary and appropriate. The child(ren) must reside in the home with the relative caregiver, and this must be the child’s primary residence.

E. The relative caregiver must be related to the child(ren) by blood, marriage or adoption, and able to prove the relationship.

F. In order to receive emergency financial or start-up assistance from RCP, the relative caregiver family must not be in receipt of any type of kinship payment or subsidy (i.e., Foster Care Board Payment, Families First Kinship Care Payment or Subsidized Guardianship), and the household income cannot exceed twice the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

G. All families served through the Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program must physically and legally reside in Memphis or Shelby County.

For more information, contact:
The University of Tennessee
Health Science Center
Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities
711 Jefferson Avenue
Memphis, TN 38105
Phone: (901) 448-3133
Fax: (901) 448-3534
Email: bwashin6@uthsc.edu

This program is funded by the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services.