***Are there other services?***

The child may be eligible for Medical Assistance and Child Care funding. Eligibility for these programs is determined by W-2 Economic Support programs. To apply, call the Northern Income Maintenance Consortium at

1-888-794-5722 and ask about Medical Assistance and/or Child Care.

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***How do I apply for Kinship Care?***

Call the Lincoln County Department of Social Services at:

(715) 536-6200 – Ext. 1328

Ask to speak with

 Brenda Rasmussen

**Kinship Care Coordinator.**

**Lincoln County Department**

**of**

**Social Services**



**607 N. Sales Street, Ste. 202**

**Merrill, WI 54452**

**715-536-6200**

***Kinship***

***Care***

***Program***

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**Lincoln County**

**Department**

**of**

**Social Services**

**Children & Family Services Unit**

***What is Kinship Care?***

**Kinship Care** is the care of a minor child by a legal relative.

**Kinship Care** funding is a $244 monthly payment per child that can be applied for through the Lincoln County Department of Social Services.

***How does it work?***

The caretaker relative fills out an application to apply for the monthly payment. The Program Coordinator then does an assessment to determine if the criteria mandated by the State of Wisconsin is met. The assessment process includes:

A criminal background check on any adult in the home or anyone employed in the home who will have regular contact with the child.

A home visit is conducted by the Program Coordinator to assure that the living situation is safe for the child.

A records check to determine if the applicant or any member of the household has a past history of

referrals to Child Protective Services.

(continued . . . )

Applicants must provide information for the referral of the child's parents to the Child Support Agency as an attempt will be made to recoup the cost of the **Kinship Care** funding.

The Program Coordinator must attempt to contact the child’s natural parents to be sure they know of and approve the child’s living arrangements, unless it is a Court-ordered placement.

**Relatives with Court-ordered placement of the child approved for Kinship Care funding must proceed with taking the necessary steps to become a licensed level 1 foster home.**

Lincoln County receives an allocation from the State of Wisconsin to fund the **Kinship Care Program**.

Depending on availability of dollars, there may be a waiting list for funding for approved non-court ordered cases.

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***Are there exceptions?***

No **Kinship Care** payments can

be made if:

The child receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

The natural parent(s) reside in the home. (\*Some exceptions may be granted and are evaluated on a

case-by-case basis.)

The criminal background check results do not meet State requirements.

The child resides with someone not identified as a legal relative.

The jurisdictional and need criteria are not met as defined by Wisconsin State Statutes.