

123,000 kids in NYS are in their grandparent's care.



Thousands of older adults or other family members in New York are full-time caregivers for children or grandchildren. This is often called “kinship care.”

You do **not** have to be a parent or a foster parent to get food benefits for children in your care.

Federal nutrition programs help children get the food they need to succeed. Kids who participate are healthier, have more nutritious diets, and do better in school.

If you are a kinship caregiver in NYS, you or the child in your care may qualify for one or more of these federal nutrition programs:



SNAP

SNAP provides monthly benefits on an Electronic Benefit Card (EBT) to spend at local grocery stores and farmers' markets. Visit **FoodHelpNY.org** to learn more about SNAP and find your local Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) coordinator. NOEP coordinators help you apply for SNAP and tell you about other ways to get help. NOEP services are free and confidential.

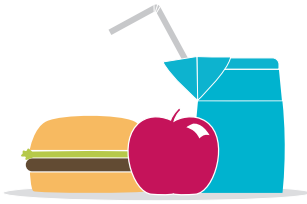


Scan to Chat with Wanda and see if you are eligible!

WIC

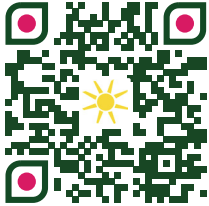
If you are a primary caregiver to a child under 5, you may be eligible for WIC to get healthy food, nutrition education, and more for your child. Benefits are given on an eWIC card that works like a debit card, and WIC offices offer services remotely. It's easier than ever to apply and participate! Visit **WICHelpNY.org** or scan the QR code to “Chat with Wanda,” WIC's 24/7 virtual assistant, to see if you may be eligible and get connected with a WIC office. Or call the Growing Up Healthy Hotline at 1-800-522-5006 and ask about WIC.





School Meals

If you are eligible for SNAP, your children who go to school automatically qualify for free school meals. Your child's school can help if you have questions.



Scan to find a summer meals spot near you!

Summer Meals

The Summer Food Service Program provides free meals and snacks to children and teens ages 18 and under when school is not in session. There is no need to sign up. Just show up!

Text “food” to 304-304, call 1-866-348-6479 or visit SummerMealsNY.org to find a summer meals spot at kid-friendly and fun places near you.

More Ways to Get Help:

NYS Kinship Navigator

Call the NYS Kinship Navigator at 877-454-6463. A Kinship Specialist is available Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. or visit nysnavigator.org. The Navigator provides free information on financial assistance, legal information and referrals, and other issues that caregivers face when raising children in the absence of their biological parents.

NY Connects

NY Connects provides free, unbiased information about long-term services and support in New York State for people of all ages. Call 1-800-342-9871 for more information about programs and services in your area.



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