



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 102
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004
202.724.8028

ZACHARY PARKER

Ward 5 Councilmember
Chair, Committee on Youth Affairs

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Health
Human Services
Transportation and the Environment

October 4, 2025

Nyasha Smith, Secretary
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today, I am proud to introduce the Increasing Support for Grandparents and Close Relative Caregivers Amendment Act of 2025. Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation. This legislation is co-introduced by Councilmembers Charles Allen, Anita Bonds, Janeese Lewis-George, Robert White, Jr., and Brooke Pinto.

One in 11 of all children, and one in five Black children, will live within a kinship family sometime during their childhood.¹ This holds true in the District of Columbia, where more than 22,000 young people are living with grandparents and other relatives in kinship care. Throughout this year's performance and budget oversight season, I heard clearly from grandparents and relative caregivers that rising living costs, especially due to inflation, have left many of them struggling to make ends meet. While these caregivers step up to keep their families together when a child cannot remain with their parents, the District provides limited resources to support them in this endeavor.

The current variable rate of the Grandparent and Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy is between \$15.79 and \$27.92. These subsidy rates pale in comparison to foster subsidies offered in the District, Maryland, and Virginia despite these kin-carers fulfilling the same roles. Furthermore, kin-carers report that children who turn 18 yet remain in high school are cut off from crucial benefits before they graduate, leaving a stopgap that is difficult to fill.

¹ The Annie E. Casey Foundation. "Stepping up for Kids: What Government and Communities Should do to Support Kinship Families." 2012.

This legislation therefore accomplishes two important things:

- extends eligibility for Grandparent and Close Relative Caregiver subsidies from age 18 to age 21, aligning with other subsidies and based on feedback with kinship caregivers; and
- increases the Grandparent and Close Relative Caregiver subsidies to the maximum allowable amount (\$27.92), adjusted for inflation in future years.

Last year, I was proud to introduce legislation alongside Councilmember Janeese Lewis-George to expand eligibility to 300% of the poverty level. This bill is intended to further boost benefits for these dedicated kin-carers and make the subsidy rates and allocations as transparent as possible.

I look forward to promoting this legislation with my colleagues to better provide for grandparents and close relative caregivers and optimize the futures of CFSA-involved youth.

Please do not hesitate to contact my Committee Director, Thomas Franco, at tfranco@dccouncil.gov or my Legislative Assistant, Allison Bailey, at abailey@dccouncil.gov with any questions or concerns.

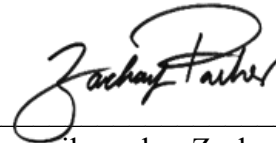
Signed,



Zachary Parker
Councilmember, Ward 5
Chair, Committee on Youth Affairs
Council of the District of Columbia

1 

2
3 Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Zachary Parker

4
5 

6
7 Councilmember Janeese Lewis-George



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

8
9
10 

11 Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Brooke Pinto

12
13
14
15 A BILL

16
17
18
19 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

20
21
22
23
24 To amend The Grandparent Caregivers Pilot Programs Establishment Act of 2005 to increase the
25 rate of subsidy provided to grandparent and closes relative caregivers, to annually adjust
26 the subsidy for inflation, and to allow for the grandparent caregiver subsidy to be granted
27 until the child reaches age 21; To amend The Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy Pilot
28 Program Establishment Amendment Act of 2019 to allow for the close relative caregiver
29 subsidy to be granted until the child reaches age 21.

30
31 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
32 act may be cited as the “Increasing Support for Grandparent and Close Relative Caregivers
33 Amendment Act of 2025”.

34 Sec. 2. The Grandparent Caregivers Pilot Programs Establishment Act of 2005, effective
35 March 8, 2006 (D.C. Law 16-69; D.C. Official Code § 4-251.01 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(a) Section 103(d) (D.C. Official Code § 4-251.03(d)) is amended by striking the phrase “may continue until the child reaches 18 years of age” and inserting the phrase “may continue until the child reaches 21 years of age” in its place.

(b) Section 104(b) (D.C. Official Code § 4-251.04(b)) is amended by striking the phrase “the Mayor shall establish by rule the amount of a subsidy a grandparent or relative caregiver is eligible to receive under this subchapter, provided, that the subsidy shall be at least 66%, but no more than 105%,” and inserting the phrase “the Mayor shall establish by rule the amount of a subsidy a grandparent or relative caregiver is eligible to receive under this subchapter, provided that the subsidy shall be no less than the amount of \$27.92 in Fiscal Year 2027 and adjusted for inflation annually thereafter.”

Sec. 3. Section 103 of The Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy Pilot Program Establishment Amendment Act of 2019, effective November 26, 2019 (D.C. Law 23-32; D.C. Official Code §4-251.21 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Subsection (e) (D.C. Official Code §4–251.23) is amended by striking the phrase “may continue until the child reaches 18 years of age” and inserting the phrase “may continue until the child reaches 21 years of age” in its place.

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

Sec. 5. Effective date.

This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as

59 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
60 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
61 Columbia Register.