



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

# Benefits information Portal



**The Benefits Information Portal**

Supporting Minnesota's Children through Adoption and Kinship Care

A Northstar Initiative\*

# The goals

- Create a simple process for reimbursements
- Decrease the amount of questions regarding the reimbursement process
- Decrease the amount of paper documents handled by staff
- Increase the level of customer service for adoptive families



# What we have done

- Created an external facing website for families with:
  - Clear, simple documents
  - Instructions for the reimbursement process
  - Other general adoption assistance information
  - Link to MMB
  - Links to other useful sites
- Included information for families who will be receiving Northstar adoption and kinship assistance



# Where we are at

- Testing the site for accessibility, plain language, QA and business staff reviewing site, overall usability.
- RRP has been published and submissions due on the 22<sup>nd</sup> .
- Ongoing and extensive conversations with the infrastructure team



# Where we need to go

- Allow users of the BiP to enroll.
- Allow users of the BiP to securely submit any type of permanency support document.
- Deploy a business application for the permanency support team to complete paperless reimbursements for families.



# Let's take a look

Welcome to BiP | The Benefits Information Portal

Benefits for Permanent Families ▾

Reimbursement Info ▾

Links ▾



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**What is Northstar<sup>+</sup>**  
and how is it impacting the lives  
of Minnesota children seeking permanency?

[Read about it...](#)

## Welcome!

Over 4,500 Minnesota  
families are growing  
strong through kinship  
and adoption.

BiP, the Benefits Information Portal, is Minnesota's  
online source for reimbursement programs designed to  
support families achieving permanency through kinship  
or adoption.

# Three Assistance Programs

## Which one is right for your child?

Children may qualify for reimbursements under one of Minnesota's three programs.

AVAILABLE NOW

### Legacy Adoption Assistance

Your child may qualify for reimbursements under the [Legacy Adoption Assistance program](#), if the adoption was completed prior to January 1, 2015 *and...*

Your child remains with the same caregiver without any changes in legal status, *and...*  
Your child has an Adoption Assistance Agreement.

Children in this program may be eligible to receive reimbursements for:

- Child Care
- Camp Attendance
- Home Modifications
- Non-recurring Expenses
- Vehicle Modifications

[How to Apply](#)

BEGINS JANUARY 1, 2015

### Northstar Adoption Assistance

Your child may qualify for reimbursements under the [Northstar Adoption Assistance program](#), if the adoption was completed on or after January 1, 2015 *and...*

Your child has an Adoption Assistance Agreement.

Children in this program may be eligible to receive reimbursements for:

- Home Modifications
- Non-recurring Expenses
- Vehicle Modifications

BEGINS JANUARY 1, 2015

### Northstar Kinship Assistance

Your child may qualify for reimbursements under the [Northstar Kinship Assistance program](#), if the transfer of permanent legal and physical custody was completed on or after January 1, 2015 *and...*

Your child has a Northstar Kinship Agreement.

Children in this program may be eligible to receive reimbursements for:

- Non-recurring Expenses



# Eligible Expenses

Each assistance program offers a variety of reimbursement options.

## Have Kinship or Adoption-related Costs?

Eligible expenses - up to \$2000 one-time/per child - may include, but not be limited to:

- Agency adoption fees (including health and psychological expenses, if not covered by your health insurance)
- Agency Fees for Supervision of the Adoptive Placement
- Court Costs
- Attorney Fees
- Replacement Birth Certificate Fees
- Transportation, Food, Lodging for the Child
- Other Related Expenses

[Non-recurring Expense Reimbursement Instructions](#)

## Attending Camp?

Expenses must be pre-approved:

- Reimbursement will cover up to 14 days of camp, per fiscal year.
- Must be accredited by the American Camp Association as a camp designated for special needs.

Visit [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org) to find an accredited program near you.

[Camp Reimbursement Instructions](#)

## Need Child Care?

Expenses must be pre-approved:

- Available for children age 12 and younger
- May be available for children ages 13-14, who have been determined to require skilled adult supervision. (Some restrictions apply.)

[Child Care Reimbursement Instructions](#)



## Require Respite Care?



Expenses must be pre-approved:

- Apply for respite care within your county of residence.
- Available for children age 12 and younger
- May be available for children ages 13-14, who have been determined to require skilled adult supervision.
- Some restrictions apply.

[Respite Care Reimbursement Instructions](#)

## Need Vehicle Modifications?



Expenses must be pre-approved:

- Door-widening
- Lifting Devices
- Wheelchair Securing Devices
- Adapted Seats
- Handrails and Grab Bars
- Door Handle Replacements

[Vehicle Modification Reimbursement Instructions](#)

## Need Accessibility at Home?



Expenses must be pre-approved:

- Lifting Devices
- Wheelchair Securing Devices
- Adapted Seats
- Handrails and Grab Bars
- Door Handle Replacements
- Air Conditioning as required due to child's medical condition

[Home Modification Reimbursement Instructions](#)



# Questions?

