

**UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

**Examining the effectiveness of foster child grant in South Africa:  
A case study of Richmond**

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## Declaration

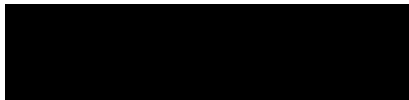
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Dear Lord, thank you for your love, grace, blessings, and wisdom. Lord, I am where I am because of You, and your love helped me get through this study. Even when things did not seem promising, you gave me the courage to keep going. Thank You.

## Abstract

The intention of this case study was to examine the effectiveness of the foster child grant in the Richmond area of South Africa. Social workers who administer the “foster child grant” are study participants. The foster child grant was initially meant to help kids who had been taken from their biological families and placed in alternative care because of either their vulnerability, neglect, or abuse. The case study of Richmond area was to examine the effectiveness of the foster child grant in South Africa.

The study used a mixed-methods approach to research. The Richmond Service Office's social workers who are directly involved in the management of the foster child grant provided information through in-depth semi-structured interviews. The study also employed secondary data from the Central Foster Child Register Annexe D of Richmond Service Office. Total purpose sampling, a non-probability sampling method, was utilized in the study. Based on the research 18 social workers who are directly involved in the management of the foster child grant in Richmond service office were chosen for the study. Out of 18 social workers in Richmond Service Office only 13 social workers availed themselves for the study.

The study's outcomes discovered that the grant is adequate for meeting the Richmond area beneficiaries' needs for food, clothes, and education. The following suggestions were provided by social workers who are directly involved in the administration of foster child grants in the Richmond area: regularly check on academic investments and Richmond Children's court's compliance with application of “Section 186 of the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005”. According to research conducted in the Richmond area, foster parents can be as young as 21 or as old as 93, and the youngest foster children is 2 years old. The most foster parents in the Richmond area are generally female.

Based on the study's outcomes, the grant is adequate for beneficiaries in the Richmond area, but it may be increased to cover some additional expenses like savings plans, which are necessary to ensure that these kids have a bright future.

**Keywords:** foster child grant; foster parent; foster care placement and social security.

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## Acronyms

ACRWC:	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CSG:	Child Support Grant
CSG-TP:	Child Support Grant Top-Up
DoJ & CD:	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
DSD:	Department of Social Development
FCG:	Foster child grant
GEAR:	Growth, Employment and Redistribution
ILO:	International Labour Organization
NFSP:	National Food Security Programme
NPO:	Non-profit organization
SA:	South Africa
SASSA:	South African Social Security Agency
SW:	Social Worker

# **Chapter One**

## **Introduction**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The children's grant which is subjected to investigation in this study is "foster child grant" (FCG) in South Africa. The perceptions held by social workers involved with the administration of the "foster child grant" will be used in examining the effectiveness of the grant. The primary analysis was facilitated in the Richmond area, within Richmond Local Municipality, in KwaZulu-Natal. Section 27 of the Constitution of South Africa (1996), states that "South Africa's social policy aims to correct the socio-economic inequalities associated with the apartheid era, by ensuring that everyone has the right to have access to (a) health care services, including reproductive health care; (b) sufficient food and water; and (c) social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependents, appropriate social assistance". The Constitution of South Africa (1996) under the section of the Bill of Rights serves as the cornerstone for a wider range of social policy goals, such as universal access to housing, healthcare, education and social security.

According to the SASSA (2020), as of December 2020, 18,265,487 South Africans have profited from the social security structure. The recipients of the foster child grant constitute 1.58% of the population making use of South Africa's social security scheme (SASSA, 2020). According to SASSA (2020), the KwaZulu-Natal province ranks second based on the number of recipients of the foster child grant, with 54 914 FCG recipients.

This chapter covers, the background, problem statement, aims of the study, objectives of the study, and questions of the study. It further covers the research methodology, the theoretical framework of the study and the ethical considerations of the study.

### **1.2 Background to the Study**

According to the Section 27 (1)(c) of the Constitution South Africa (1996:11) "people who cannot support themselves and their families have the right to receive social assistance." The "foster child grant" was eventually created to provide social support to foster children who had been given to foster parents by the order of Children's Court (Lund, 2008). During the apartheid regime, the

white population was protected by political privilege, economic power, and a series of education, housing, and family policies that helped the poor (Lund, 2008).

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the national social assistance system gradually expanded to cover all citizens, reaching the level of racial discrimination (Lund, 2008). In addition, Lund (2008) believes that, under the apartheid regime, social welfare in South Africa included two major sectors: social services and social security. In this regard, the government and the voluntary welfare sector collaborated to provide social services (Lund, 2008). In year 1997, the revised Welfare Laws Amendment Act, 1997 No. 106 of 1997 finally realized the supervision and uniform equal treatment of social assistance throughout South Africa (Lund 2008). Furthermore, Lund (2008:13) states that the “Social Welfare White Paper proposes a new direction for development work, whilst remaining committed to the keeping up with social assistance as a means of poverty reduction initiative”.

### **1.3 History of Social Security**

SASSA (2017/18: 3) outlines that the “Foster Child Grant is mandated by the Department of Social Development and administered by the South African Social Security Agency”. In South Africa, social security is mandated by the Social Assistance Act No. 13 of 2004 and administered by the SASSA. Moreover, the Social Assistance Act offers social subsidies, which involve the direct transfer of funds to designated groups that face the challenges of vulnerability and also extreme poverty (Government of South Africa, 2004). The social security structure in South Africa offers seven different categories of grants, which is awarded to vulnerable children, disabled people and senior citizens (SASSA, 2017/18).

### **1.4 Problem Statement**

Socio-economic conditions are usually measured by factors such as education, income, wealth, employment, and occupation – all of which have a significant impact on maintaining ones’ health (Assari, Nikahd, Malekahmadi, Lankarani & Zamanian, 2016). In addition, various socio-economic factors are incompatible due to their specific impact on an individual’s health (Assari et al., 2016).

The population of Richmond Local Municipality is around 65 793 people, with 16 440 households (Stats SA, 2011). In this municipality, a total of 31 080 people are recipients of social security grants (SASSA, 2021), with 47% of the Richmond community being recipients of social grants. In this respect, a total monthly expenditure of R 24 287 841.00 is directed towards the social security subsidy of the Richmond Local Municipality (SASSA, 2021).

Based on the situation detailed above, and the background of the Richmond Local Municipality, the social assistance provided through social subsidies has become an important pillar for addressing extreme poverty in this region. In theory, the social subsidy system can alleviate food shortages, as well as mitigate the problem of restricted admission to education and healthcare (SASSA, 2017/2018). However, what remains to be established is the extent to which the FCG ensures sufficient access to food, healthcare and educational opportunities. This requires an empirical examination of the influence of social security on ensuring that communities in Richmond have access to adequate food, education and health services. The “Social Assistance Act”, which has been implemented since 2004, puts forward a rational need to subject its impact on the community to empirical investigation.

### **1.5 Aims of the Study**

The main aim of this study is to examine the effectiveness of the foster child grant through a case study of the Richmond Local Municipality, in South Africa.

### **1.6 Objectives of the Study**

- To explore the effectiveness of the “foster child grant” in the Richmond Local Municipality.
- To explore the extent to which beneficiaries of the foster child grant benefit from the grant.
- To examine the socio-economic standing of the beneficiaries of the foster child grant.
- To explore social workers’ perceptions of the foster child grant, and their recommendations on how to improve it.

### **1.7 Questions of the Study**

- How does the foster child grant benefit its beneficiaries?

- Does the foster child grant contribute to the socio-economic profile of its beneficiaries?
- How can the administration of the foster child grant be improved?
- What are social workers' perceptions of the management of the foster child grant?

## **1.8 Research Methodology**

This study will employ a mixed methods approach to research. The mixed methods research is rapidly gaining popularity in the social sciences because it allows for the exploration of complex and multifaceted phenomena, from a variety of perspectives (Gambrel & Butler, 2013). Furthermore, Gambrel and Butler (2013) point out that the advantage of mixed methods research is its capability to permit the researcher to interpret narratives and normalize data. Newman, Benz and Ridenour (1998) point out that qualitative and quantitative research originate from naturalistic and positivist philosophies, respectively. This study employed total purposive sampling, which is a non-probability sampling technique. The study population investigated was determined by the judgement of the researcher. All the social workers in the Richmond Service Office, who are directly participating in the administration of the foster child grant, were invited to be part of the study.

## **1.9 Theoretical Framework**

The study will use the Basic Needs Approach (BNA) to explain the socio-economic impact of social assistance in community livelihoods. The actual content of the BNA includes meeting certain nutritional standards, and the provision of health and education services. From a simple point of view, it sternly points out that development should be linked to the elimination of absolute scarcity, which is a top priority. Moreover, this approach advocates for healthcare, higher levels of education, and food security, which all improve quality of life.

## **1.10 Theory used to Strengthen the Study**

The foundation of this research is the Basic Needs Approach, which is sometimes referred to as “the development method”, of the BNA development model. The International Labour Organization (1976) proposed the BNA model as a method of measuring poverty (Denton, 1990). Further, Emmerij (2010) outlines that the purpose of the BNA is to focus specifically on human-centred development. The BNA model emphasizes improving the quantity and quality of

community living standards. In addition, “the NBA advocates for the enhancement of standard of life through healthcare, increased literacy, and food security” (Denton, 1990:2).

The Maslow hierarchy of needs and the basic need approach model are both related (Emeriji, 2010). “Maslow’s hierarchy of needs organizes the following five categories of human needs, from bottom to top, in the form of a pyramid: physiological needs, safety needs, need for love and belonging, need for self-esteem, need for self-realization and need for self-transcendence” (Emeriji, 2010:6). The BNA is more closely related to the physiological and safety requirements assumed by Maslow's hierarchy of needs (Emeriji, 2010). In the early 70s, the BNA model emphasized "minimum demand", which was directly related to Maslow's shelter, clothing, and food demand levels (Denton, 1990). “The relationship between the basic need approach model and Maslow’s hierarchy depends on human needs; both methods place human needs at the core of social change” (Denton, 1990:17). The basic need approach believes that development plans should be transformed into the improvement of human conditions.

Over the years, the basic need approach model has been developed to embrace variables such as: medical-care, education, energy access, and social assistance (Emeriji, 2010). Emeriji (2010) further points out that the development of basic need approach has an impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are also recognized as human growth goals. The framework of the Sustainable Development Goals is based on the BNA, with a focus on food access, medical aid, and universal primary education (Emeriji, 2010). Moreover, Stewart (1985) believes that the Basic Needs Approach of development is a method that prioritizes the basic needs of all people. In this regard, the actual content of BNA must “always include meeting certain nutritional standards as well as general provisions for health and education services” (Stewart, 1985:4). McGregor (2014) also believed that human needs are the same for all peoples; they are universal and constant through all human cultures, and across historical time periods. Regardless of the culture, fundamental human needs are the same; it is what people can do to satisfy the need that is culturally determined, not the needs themselves (McGregor, 2014).

### 1.11 Significance of the Study

Since 1994, SA’s social assistance scheme has been greatly improved. The formulation of the “Social Assistance Act” and the launch of SASSA’s social grants have played a vital part in the state’s ability to provide social grants. Improvements in this respect include shortening the waiting time for social grants, as even SASSA offices in rural areas can ensure a one-day turnaround time in order to process social grants. However, what is not yet clear is the effect of social assistance on the lives of individuals, and on the entire community (Shahidi, Ramraj & Sod-Erdene, 2019). This study seeks to address this gap, by examining social workers’ perceptions of the FCG.

### 1.12 Ethical Considerations

According to Bless et al. (2006:140), “research ethics is the moral obligation to obey right and wrong, and strike a balance between freedom of scientific inquiry and protection of the welfare of participants”. Furthermore, Bless et al. (2006:140) out line that “when choosing to participate in research, participants have several fundamental rights, including the right to privacy and the right to be free from physical and psychological harm”. Additionally, the fundamental ethical rule for doing research is that participants' interests won't be harmed by participating in any study endeavor (Bless et al., 2006). “The Ethics Committee of the University of KwaZulu- Natal has granted this study its ethical clearance” (the ethical clearance protocol number is HSSREC/00004874/2022- Please see appendix E for the certificate).

The “gatekeeper’s” letter attained from the Head of Department of Social Development. Each respondent was given enough information about the study before the start of the data collection phase of the project, allowing him or her to make a well-informed and voluntary decision to participate in the study. This was done to protect human dignity.

### 1.13 Outline of the Study

Structurally, the study has followed a standard dissertation framework, as follows:

Table 1.1: Outline of the Dissertation

<b>Chapters</b>	<b>Content</b>
Chapter One	“An outline of the study is provided in this chapter. The research's focus on the connection between social security and the social economy is

	highlighted in this chapter's introduction to the study". "The context of the study, the problem statement, the research purpose, a summary of the methodology and the conceptual framework".
Chapter Two	Chapter two delivers a discussion of social policy, and social security of the community. An overview of the social security legal framework is included in this discussion.
Chapter Three	This chapter gives a general summary of the research approach that was used for this study. The chapter also discusses the methodology used in this study, including the sample procedures, data gathering methods, research instruments and ethical issues.
Chapter Four	Fourth chapter delivers a discussion and analysis of the findings of the study.
Chapter Five	The fifth chapter delivers a general summary of the study and discusses it. The chapter also provides conclusions and makes recommendations based on the study's findings.

Table 1.1 outline the standard dissertation framework that is employed in this study.

## **Chapter Two**

### **Literature Review**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

The research questions supporting this study will be used as a context and focus through which the relevant literature will be reviewed, prepared, summarized, synthesized and presented. Back then, the alternative placement system served 550 000 children, most of whom were orphans living with their relatives (DSD, 2022:3). In addition, social workers and the courts were unable to meet the demand for new applications as well as those of the two-yearly review and Children's Court order extensions required for each foster care placement (DSD, 2022). As a result, more than 120 000 children lost their foster child benefits between 2010 and 2011, and the high number of cases in foster care overwhelmed SWs; this limited the time available to SWs for the awarding of protective services to abused and neglected children. Following consultations, the Department proposed the Child Support Grant Top-Up (CSG-TP), which was approved by Cabinet in 2015, as a first step towards the resolution of this crisis (DSD, 2022). The proposal was that the CSG-TP would replace the utilization of the FCG for orphans in the care of their extended families, unless the child needed protective services (DSD, 2022). Furthermore, the DSD (2022:3) states that the "purpose of the CSG-TP is to increase the amount of money of CSGs for orphan guardian by relatives and orphans themselves".

The proposal was seen as an important part of a comprehensive legal solution for the ongoing crises. It would allow relatives who are responsible for the care of orphans to access social benefits by going directly to SASSA, without first having to go through the various processes related to SW investigations, reports and/or court orders (DSD, 2022). In addition, the DSD (2022) states that the grant amount needs to be higher than the CSG, so as to avoid a substantial setback for orphans who are currently eligible for a higher FCG; this would make the grant more affordable and allow it to reach more orphans. The CSG Top-Up program reduce the high-value foster child workload of SW's by reducing the amount of new applications, and the number of extensions every two years, thereby freeing these SW's up to offer all children who require social services with opportune protection and care (DSD, 2022). In 2018, "the Minister of Social Development introduced the Social Assistance Amendment Bill to Parliament; this bill would provide the legislative framework for the CSG-TP" (DSD, 2022:4). The Minister of Social Development then

issued draft regulations, in 2021, to introduce additional payments related to the CSG; these payments are specifically allocated to the care of orphans who are in the care of their relatives or living in child headed households (DSD, 2022).

## **2.2 Definitions and Concepts of Social Security**

Haarman (2000:22) points out that, “when discussing social security, it is important to realize the phrase has multiple interpretations that based on the country, context, and ideological context of the researcher; moreover, the term may refer to different programs and historically, the term was invented by the United States in the first Social Security Act of 1935”. The question of the different uses of the “social security” term arises at the practical level, as well as that of theoretical discourse (Haarman, 2000). On the other hand, others regard only the monetary benefits provided by the state as “social security”, others see regulated services by public enterprises and non-governmental organizations (NGO) as part of the system of social security (Haarman, 2000).

The International Labour Organization (ILO) (1984) attempts to adjust this condition by providing the following definition of “social security”, as relevant to the international context. The ILO (1984:25) defines “social security as based on a contingency approach; that is, it establishes that the task of social security is to provide protection against lifecycle emergencies that result in a decrease, or loss, of income. Figure 2.1, illustrates the three-tier system of a “social security” structure.

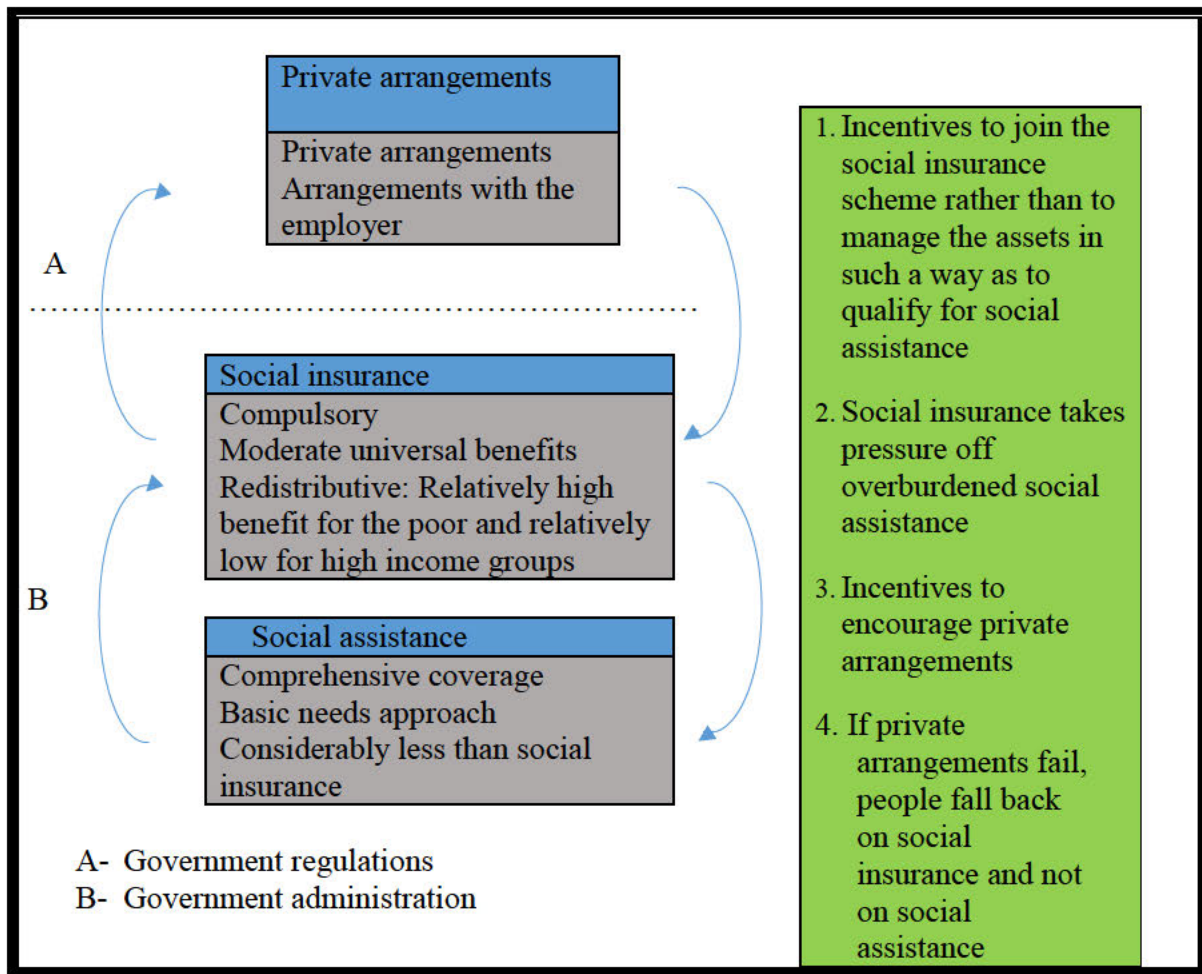


Figure 2.1: The ILO Three-Tier Model of a Social Security Scheme

Source: Haarman (2000:24)

This three-tier system is designed to fully cover the population. Moreover, social assistance is designed to offer a “safety net” for those who are not benefiting from any other system (ILO, 1984). Furthermore, ILO (1984) states that the benefits provided should be regulated by a basic needs approach; however, it should be significantly lower than those guided by social insurance schemes. The rationale behind this is that relatively low levels of benefits should be an incentive for people to enter social insurance – which is considered the norm – rather than relying on social assistance (ILO, 1984). “Social insurance, the main pillar of the system, is mandatory; it distributes modest universal benefits according to a redistributive system and the government is the administrator of the two systems, that is, the social assistance and social insurance schemes” (Haarman, 2000:24).

### **2.2.1 Social Security and Basic Needs Approach**

According to Watson (2014), dissatisfaction with purely monetary measures of poverty led to the development of the basic needs approach (BNA) during the 1970s and its main foundation is a consequentialist ethic that argues that a good society is one in which all people will be able to meet their basic needs. An individual is said to be poor if she or he is unable to meet her or his basic needs, in general the basic needs approach is more concerned with poverty experienced in the present than with long-run growth and more concerned with inequality in the distribution of growth's benefits than its absolute speed. The original Maslow's hierarchy identified five levels of needs, ordered from the physiological and safety and security needs which are necessary for existence to the social, esteem, and self-actualizing needs requisite for human growth and development (Watson, 2014). In addition, Watson (2014) outline that there are three primary methods for measuring poverty that may significantly overlap the BNA, these methods are the monetary, capabilities, and human rights approaches.

The concept of social security is informed by the basic needs approach to development and the human rights framework. As the world is evolving, shaped by global trends such as digitalization, automation and globalization, as well as socio-demographic changes, social protection systems will need to adapt to changing contexts and demands (Behrendt & Nguyen, 2018). The basic needs approach is concerned with particular goods and services directed at particular, identified human beings. Human experience is controlled by needs and behaviours to satisfy needs, general theory of behaviour includes Maslow's influential statement about human needs (Matias, Dominski & Marks, 2020). The basic needs approach spells out in considerable detail human needs in terms of health, food, education, water, shelter, transport, simple household goods, as well as nonmaterial needs like participation, cultural identity, and a sense of purpose in life and work, which interact with the material needs (Matias et al, 2020).

Gaps in social protection provision, coupled with growing levels of informality, insecurity and inequality and weakened labour institutions, risk putting existing social protection systems and the implicit social contract under increasing strain (Behrendt & Nguyen, 2018). When the capabilities and potentials of individuals are given opportunities to flourish they will gain economic security. Households with livelihoods that can generate an income and surpluses are generally economically secured than when households are in a state of vulnerability. Therefore security act as an agent for

empowerment for when society has potential for economic security it can allow its members to access human development oriented rights such as the right to education which has potential to shift and alter social stratifications and class arrangements.

### **2.3 History of Social Security in South Africa**

The apartheid regime created a welfare state for White people, with all the functions needed to protect them from numerous possibilities through social security (Van der Berg, 2002). Van der Berg (2002) further notes that, over time, the provision of social security eventually extended to other groups, but it remained unequal across racial lines until the 1980s. The Child Protection Act of 1913, which mandated child support payments, served as the foundation for the country of South Africa's first social assistance programme (Pauw & Mcube, 2007). However, these funds rarely reached African parents, and were not provided to Africans in rural areas (Pauw & Mcube, 2007). Furthermore, Pauw and Mcube (2007:13) point out “in 1994, the newly nominated ANC government was faced with the problem of creating a social security system that could provide full coverage to the entire society”. In February 1996, the Lund Child and Family Support Committee met due to concerns over the financial viability of providing African people with state maintenance grants, which were then only available to non-Africans (Pauw & Mcube, 2007).

According to the Social Assistance Act No.13 of 2004, the national government is in charge of social security benefits. “Section 15 of Social Assistance Act No. 13 of 2004 state that the National Department of Social Development oversees the functioning of the recently founded South African Social Security Agent (SASSA) and establishes the criteria for those who qualify for social assistance grants, serving as a regulatory body in this regard”.

### **2.4 Understanding Social Welfare**

To be able to contextualize and conceptualize major issues related to the objective of this study, “social welfare” and “social security” must be defined. The relevant literature contains numerous definitions of these terms. According to Patel (2008) social policy, is any action taken to enhance the wellbeing of individuals by giving out assistance services or more general policies that have the influence on households. Patel (2008:81) argues that social welfare policy is “an integrated

system of social services, benefits, programs and social justice and social functioning in a caring and enabling environment”.

Only White South Africans had access to social assistance during the apartheid regime (Patel, 2008). According to Patel (2008), Black people were not part of the social welfare system since social welfare policies were adapted from the Western European model. For instance, the “Old Age Pensions Act of 1928” excluded Black South Africans and Asians from receiving pensions, but it allocated to White and Colored individuals (Dinbabo, 2011). Social growth and social equity are also part of social welfare (Patel, 2008).

The democratically elected South African government created an improved social development strategy after apartheid (Patel, 2008). In order to fulfil the constitutional responsibility of all citizens to advance social and economic fairness, democracy, human dignity, and freedom a thorough consultative process was launched in 1994 (Patel, 2008). “The White Paper on Developmental Social Welfare of 1997 aims to create a caring society that upholds civil rights, meets basic human needs, enables individuals to achieve their goals, fosters the growth of human skills and self-reliance, and secures full participation in society” (Patel, 2008:71). Building human capability is a vital element of the White Paper, despite the fact that achieving social equality is of utmost importance, because doing so reduces reliance and empowers people to become self-sufficient (Patel, 2008).

To fulfil their needs socioeconomic demands and raise their level of living, families are encouraged and given the tools they need through the social development approach to welfare (Patel, 2008). “Pro-poor policies that support socially prohibited persons to participate in developmental activities to achieve social and economic justice” (Patel, 2008:73). The growth of social welfare is investment- as well as people-focused (Dinbabo, 2011). Beneficiaries are able to make investments due to the aid they get, opening up new revenue streams. Furthermore, Dinbabo (2011) state that these approaches are developmental because they give people a way to grow as people. These approaches are also founded on the interests of society as a whole, particularly those who are entitled to benefits, as they are people-centered (Dinbabo, 2011).

## **2.5 African Perspectives on Social Welfare**

Despite having different perspectives on social welfare, several African nations have social welfare systems in place (Omilola & Kaniki, 2014). Omilola and Kaniki (2014) note that social welfare is crucial in tackling Ethiopia's problems with food security. The Ethiopian Government's "National Food Security Programme" (NFSP) has made this process easier (Omilola & Kaniki, 2014). The NFSP created school feeding programs and provides food for children who are undernourished (Omilola & Kaniki, 2014).

The Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), a social transfer program included in the NFSP, intends to reduce Ethiopia's long-term reliance on food aid by substituting long-term provision such as cash transfers and household packages for food aid (Omilola & Kaniki, 2014). The nation's social welfare program, is appropriate for people of all ages however, physically fit adults can only benefit from it if they can show some evidence of employment (Omilola & Kaniki, 2014).

Omilola and Kaniki (2014) argue that the social assistance system in Kenya, is relatively comparable to that in South Africa. The state is required to offer suitable benefits to people who are unable to sustain themselves and their families, and the right to social security is explicitly established (Omilola & Kaniki, 2014). In this regard, the goal is to guarantee that beneficiaries have a respectable quality of life, it should be noted, and however, the government's assessment of the grants' value depends on how recipients spend their grant money (Omilola & Kaniki, 2014). Social safety nets may not always fix socioeconomic issues on their own; in fact, recipients' usage of benefits may sometimes impede development, which supports the notion that social safety nets are not feasible (Omilola & Kaniki, 2014).

Omilola and Kaniki (2014) argue that the Kenyan "National Social Protection Policy" was implemented in year 2011 with the purpose of ensuring that every Kenyan lives with dignity and realizes their full potential for personal social and economic advancement. Kenyan policies aim to empower citizens rather than simply feed them, in order to be competent to utilize their skills to grow and raise their standard of living (Omilola & Kaniki, 2014). Furthermore, Devereux (2013) adds that social pensions in Namibia support extended families and reinforce the social function of grandparents in raising minor children. They lessen financial stress and the pressure of taking

care of a family in some ways, and research from South Africa indicates that pensions are good for the health of young children (Duflo, 2003).

## 2.6 Foster Care in Europe

European countries, as well as Canada and Australia, are well known for having the most innovative methods for caring for kids who do not have parents (Laklija, 2011). However, foster care policies have, evolved differently across Europe: while the Scandinavian region is a proponent, the EU-Mediterranean region and its newest members are more traditional and have less established foster care policies than Eastern Europe (Laklija, 2011). They differ in terms of practical solutions for various foster care issues as well as historical and political roots, social policies, and therefore the care of children without parental care (Laklija, 2011).

“The main features of foster childcare in Western European states are the quite lesser quantity of children placed in alternative foster care institutions, the well-developed foster care system, and the wide range of other alternative forms of childcare” (Laklija, 2011:1). However, even in these aspects, there exist a number of differences between countries; these differences depend primarily on their socioeconomic policies. For example, liberal democracies have economic potential but they lack government policies to support adoptive parents (Laklija, 2011). Practice has shown that the most advanced countries in the West have handed foster care over to informal mechanisms in society; in this respect, the role of the government is negligible (Laklija, 2011). There are also significant regional differences regarding the rights of adoptive parents, which results in a decreased capacity for foster care at the local level (Laklija, 2011). Furthermore, Laklija (2011) identified various types of foster care in Europe, which should accommodate the different demands of kids and their families. Table 2.1, provides a summary of the various categories of foster care in Europe.

Table 2.1: Types of Foster Care in Europe

Type of Foster Care	Foster Care Description
Kinship foster care	Refers to a circumstance in which the child's adult relatives take on the responsibility of childcare. This is the oldest kind of care for children without proper parental care because it is customary in many cultures for the kid's godparents, extended family, or

	other family members to whom the child has been close since an early age to take on the role of caring for the child.
Traditional foster care	Refers to the giving of care to a kid who does not receive enough parental care and whose psychosocial development does noticeably differ from the growth and development of children their own age.
Specialised foster care	Refers to specially trained foster parents who contact and work with the foster child daily using various therapeutic approaches, methods, and strategies. This kind of foster care entails providing attention to kids who have severe emotional, mental, physical, and/or behavioral issues.
Professional foster care	Describes the provision of foster care as a stand-alone, independent profession. Caregivers are expected to meet certain criteria for this sort of foster care, including training in additional specialized child services and knowledge in one of the "welfare" disciplines.
Crisis foster care	Refers to the provision of short-term care for a child in a crisis scenario, until the crisis is gone and/or the child has recovered.
Respite foster care	Describes the provision of foster care, which often consists of brief stays for children with disabilities in foster families who have specific needs. For a short while, this sort of care relieves biological families of the demanding daily tasks of psychological and physical care.
Back-up families	Refers to families who offer social support to an extended family in trying times or situations that could shortly endanger the family's ability to operate.
Private foster care	Refers to the provision of foster care, which enables biological parents to be independently locate a foster family for the placement of their child. This kind of foster care is provided with the caveat that, depending on the length of the placement, parents

	may be forced to alert competent social care authorities in some countries.
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*Source: Laklija (2011)*

The practice of fostering children in Europe is very diverse, which has led to the establishment of variety types of foster care (Laklija, 2011).

## **2.7 Challenges Faced by Social Welfare in South Africa**

In order to execute policies effectively, underlying issues must be sufficiently taken care of. Dinbabo (2011) notes that the objectives and goals of social policies are infrequently stated and that they are open to various interpretations by various groups, endangering the achievement of their objectives. Furthermore, Dinbabo (2011) emphasizes that ambiguous policies frequently result from a lack of knowledge of contemporary problems. Another difficulty is a lack of coordination.

Leibbrandt, Lilenstein, Shenker, and Woolard (2013) argue that the social grants are frequently criticized for offering only temporary respite from acute poverty. Research on social grants, according to Booysen (2004), shows that even after 100% grant use, a sizeable section of South Africa's population will remain disadvantaged. Therefore, while social grants provide some assistance, they have significant drawbacks (Leibbrandt et al., 2013). Leibbrandt et al. (2013) point out that social welfare reduces people's motivation to seek work. In households with a subsidized income, household members may be less likely to find employment because they have some means of subsistence (Leibbrandt et al., 2013). Social subsidies may thereby encourage dependency and impede efforts to reduce poverty because they are insufficient to help individuals escape it.

## **2.8 Current Social Assistance Programmes in South Africa**

A complete system of social security has been established in South Africa (World Bank, 2021). The state offers a variety of grants, including child support grants, foster child grants, disability payments, and old age pensions (World Bank, 2021). Transfers of social assistance are intended to offer economic support to vulnerable and underprivileged groups who are eligible, particularly the elderly, the disabled, and children (World Bank, 2021). The planning system in South Africa is efficient, focused, and has significantly benefited the poorest households (World Bank, 2021).

Systems of social assistance are effective at lowering inequality and poverty (World Bank, 2021). Additionally, World Bank (2021) pointed out that cash handover programmes have a favorable and important influence on a number of outcomes, such as food security, educational, health, labour supply, and livelihoods. The grant system also creates effective beneficiary identification systems, such as registration, payment, and grievance resolution procedures, which can scale up quickly in times of emergency like the COVID-19 pandemic (World Bank, 2021). Furthermore, World Bank (2021) explains that robust social protection programmes in South Africa can help vulnerable people be protected and ensure that their basic needs are met, particularly through a pandemic when already scarce financial capital are put under strain.

## **2.9 South African Government Spending on Social Assistance**

“Accounting for 3.3% of GDP and 15.4% of total government spending, the cost of South Africa’s social assistance system is relatively high compared to the average of other upper middle-income countries” (World Bank 2021:1). Furthermore, World Bank (2021:1) outline that “with 51% of its spending going to the Older Persons Grant, South Africa spends five times more than its peers on social pensions, social pensions are leveraged to compensate for the poor coverage of the system of contributory pensions in South Africa”. Moreover, World Bank (2022:1) argue that “likewise, with 38% of spending going to Child Support Grants and other targeted grants such as the Care Dependency Grant and the Foster Child Grant, South Africa’s provision of social grants aims to respond to diverse household needs”.

The system has been a crucial policy response in the post-apartheid period given the high unemployment rates and restricted access to unemployment insurance for those not in formal employment (World Bank, 2021). In order to reduce inequality, the system combines progressive taxation with pro-poor social spending (World Bank, 2021). “South Africa’s strong and effective social protection programs have helped protect vulnerable people and ensured that they can meet their basic needs, especially during the pandemic when limited fiscal resources are under pressure” (World Bank, 2021:1). Table 2.2, illustrates grant distribution in South Africa.

Table 2.2: Grant Distribution in South Africa

<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>October 2021(R )</b>	<b>April 2022 (R )</b>	<b>October 2022 (R )</b>
Old age grant (below 75 years)	1 890.00	1 980.00	1 990.00

Old age grant (Above 75 years)	1 910.00	2 000.00	2 010.00
War veterans' grant	1 890.00	1 980.00	1 990.00
Disability grant	1 890.00	1 980.00	1 990.00
Care dependency grant	1 890.00	1 980.00	1 990.00
Foster Child Grant	1 050.00	R 1 070.00	No increment
Child Support Grant	460.00	R 480.00	No increment
Grant in Aid	460.00	R 480.00	No increment

Source: World Bank (2021)

In South Africa, 38% of grant-related spending goes to social supports that are specifically for children's benefits. Moreover, South Africa's distribution of social subsidies attempts to meet a variety of household requirements (World Bank 2021).

## 2.10 Categories of Social Securities in South Africa

SASSA (2019/20) explained that social assistance is provided in different forms of grants. The study facilitated at Richmond area focusses on one type of social security, that is, the "foster child grant". Table 2.3, illustrates the categories of grants available in South Africa.

Table 2.3: Types of Grants in South Africa

Grant Type	Grant Description
Foster Child Grant	This grant is offered to caregiver of minor children who have a court order indicating that they are foster children. The child must continue to live with the foster parent while the social security benefit is being provided, and both the applicant and the child must be citizens of South Africa.
Old-age pension	Either male or female senior citizens who are 60 years of age or older are eligible for this grant.
Disability Grant	This grant is granted to those between the ages of 18 and 59 who have recently received a medical disability assessment. Applicants and their spouses must pass the income means test, just like for other SASSA grants. If one has a physical or mental impairment that renders them incapable of working for

	more than six months, they may be eligible to apply for an SASSA disability payment. Additionally, if a person's condition persists for more than 12 months, they may be eligible for a permanent disability grant, or if it lasts between six and twelve months, they may be eligible for a temporary disability grant.
Child Support Grant	A caregiver/extended family member who looks for a child or up to six children as from 0 to 18 years is eligible to receive this grant. The caregiver can be the child or children's mother, father, grandmother, relative, or friend. The caregiver needs to be older than 16 years.
Child dependency grant	“This child dependency grant is intended for those who offer full-time, specialized care for children who have severe disabilities”. Parents, foster parents, and caretakers selected by a court.
Grant-in-aid	This is a supplementary funding for beneficiaries of an old age pension, a grant for veterans, or a grant for disabilities. This grant entails of R350 per month to cover the cost of a caregiver. Only another grant can be used to administer the grant-in-aid.
“War veterans’ grant”	“This grant is offered to veterans of the Second World War or the Korean War who are over 60, are listed as disabled, and served in either conflict”. The payment levels and means test thresholds are identical to those for grants for elderly people.
Social relief in distress	“This is a short-term aid SASSA grant for those who are in extreme need, or who are unable to provide for their families' or their own fundamental requirements”. It is received for a maximum of three months, with the possibility of an additional three-month extension in special circumstances.

Source: SASSA (2022)

The focused organization SASSA is in charge of certifying that the state pays the appropriate grant to the appropriate recipient at a place that is most convenient to that recipient (Dhludhlu & Lombard, 2017). A conceptual framework for developmental social work is described by Midgley (2010) in Dhludhlu and Lombard (2017) as incorporating similar themes, such as empowering clients, utilizing strengths, and capacity building. In addition, “from a holistic perspective, social workers should practice within several major organizing themes which include basic needs and problem-solving, social justice, human rights and social development” (Dhludhlu & Lombard, 2017:180).

## 2.11 Foster Child Grant

Foster child grants are part of the country’s social security offerings, as outlined in Section 27(1)(c) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (RSA, 1996). Everyone has the right to social security, including whether they are unable to support themselves and their families (RSA, 1996). DSD (2022) outlines that, in 2021, the Minister for Social Development issued draft regulations that introduced additional payments related to the “child support grant” for orphans who are in the custody of extended families. In addition, DSD (2022) further states that regulations define who is eligible for top-ups, as well as the kind of proof they need to provide to SASSA in this regard. Table 2.4, illustrates South Africa’s FCG implementation plan.

Table 2.4: Foster Child Grant Implementation in South Africa

Description	Primary Means of Verification
How to qualify for FCG in SA?	South African, a refugee, or a permanent resident. Foster child and foster parent must reside in SA. Foster parents must be appointed officially to care for the child, and this arrangement must be maintained. The minor must be under the age of 18.
What will you receive?	R 1 070
Means of payments	At a given pay location on a specific day, in cash. Deposit made electronically into your bank or Postbank account. Via an organization serving as the grant's administrator.

When can we review your grant?	When the pertinent court order expires, the grant will be reassessed. At present, the relevant court order expires in two years.
When may your grant be suspended?	An adjustment of your conditions following the conclusion of a review. If you don't help when your grant is being reviewed. When you defraud someone or present a false identity. If the decision to approve your grant was incorrect.
When will your grant lapsed/terminated?	In the event that the beneficiary dies. If three consecutive months pass without a claim for the grant. When the recipient is not present in the nation. If you are no longer caring for the child as a foster parent. If the recipient is no longer considered a refugee.

Source: South African Government (undated) <https://www.gov.za> [Accessed on 31 May 2022]

Social Amendment Act No. 16 of 2020, and the final regulations, was gazetted in March 2022 to enable implementation to start on 1 April 2022 (DSD, 2022). The Minister also gazetted the value of the Top-Up via notice in the Government Gazette by the end of March 2022 (DSD, 2022). According to Parliament (2019:1), “foster care is the main key elements of the South African alternative care system”. Moreover, Parliament (2019:1) outline that “SASSA, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ & CD), the Department of Health, the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Basic Education, Non-Governmental Organisations and community members are critical role players in foster care programmes”.

**2.11.1 What Does the Law say about the Foster Child Grant?**

Hall and Proudlock (2011) argue that neither the government nor the law explicitly define who is eligible to receive the FCG. The Children's Act No.38 of 2005, which became fully active on the April 2010, has elements that clash with the FCG's goals (Hall & Proudlock, 2011). Different courts have interpreted this differently, and others granted foster children status to orphans who are already in the care of relatives (Hall & Proudlock, 2011). Table 2.5, describes and compares child support and foster child support.

Table 2.5: Child Support Grant versus Foster Child Grant

	<b>Child Support Grant</b>	<b>Foster Child Grant</b>
Purpose	Reduction of poverty (To prove poverty, an applicant must pass a means test)	Alternative care/child safety (Applicant need not be in need; no means test)
Responsible institution/s	SASSA	South African Social Security Agency, Department of Social Development, and Department of Justice & Constitutional Development
Administration	One-time application handled by administrative personnel. The processing time for applications is three business days.	Once the responsible SW conducted the investigation, compiled a report and court inquiry, an SASSA application is made; a court order for an extension is required after every further two years, necessitating more social worker reports.
Beneficiary	Principal caregiver (Sometimes not the biological parent)	Principal caregiver Undoubtedly not the biological parent
Grant amount in 2022	R 480.00 per month	R 1070.00 per month

*Source: Author adapted from Hall and Proudlock (2011) and SASSA (2022)*

The Child Support Grant's primary objective is to ensure that the primary caregivers of children, up to 18 years, living in extreme poverty could access financial assistance to supplement household income (DSD, 2022). The Foster Child Grant primarily served to provide financial support to the foster parent for the care of a child, up to 21 years for those in secondary schooling or tertiary education (DSD, 2022). The objective of foster child grant is not primary poverty alleviation but to ensure that the children who needed care and protection are well taken care of by the State

(DSD, 2022). The Foster Child Grant is a payment from the government of South Africa, to a foster parent by a valid court order of a child under the age of 18. The grant is for foster parents who need financial assistance to help take care of a foster child or children.

Hall and Proudlock (2011:2) argue that “several magistrates declined to grant foster child status to orphans who were already in the care of extended family, claiming that the child did not lack the visible means of support as required by Section 150(1)(a) of the Children's Act”. Moreover, Hall and Proudlock (2011:2) pointed out that “base on the Children’s Act No. 38 of 2005, children qualify for the foster child grant: if a child is abandoned or orphaned, and there is no apparent means of support, the child is in need of care and protection”.

### **2.11.2 How Foster Child status differs from Adoption status**

An adoption is an international framework for extensive placement, from temporary placement to permanent placement (Parliament, 2019). The FCG is a means of giving children who cannot live with their parents a family life (Parliament, 2019). “Court orders can order the placement of children in foster homes, where foster parents are required to care for the children” (Parliament, 2019:1). Adoptive parents can be distant relatives or strangers; they may volunteer or, as is frequently the case, be sought out by organizations that support children and families (Parliament, 2019). Additionally, Parliament (2019:1) states that “these people frequently go through an assessment procedure and might be required to take part in a structured orientation session”. In South Australia, extended family members are frequently grandparents who have either abandoned or lost their children (Parliament, 2019). These kids might also be put in non-profit organizations' cluster foster homes (Parliament, 2019).

Section 167(1) of the Children's Act No.38 of 2005 states that children who are placed in foster care are also placed in alternative care, such as in the custody of a children and youth centre under this Act or pursuant to a court order under the Criminal Procedure Act No. 51 of 1977. Ordinarily, the purpose of moving a child into foster care is to reunite them with their biological family; however, this objective may be modified to adoption if it is determined to be in the child's best interests (Parliament, 2019). Furthermore, Parliament (2019), state that whereas fostering a child is a temporary solution, adoption is a long-term one. There are two most common ways a family can go through adoption being domestic infant adoption and foster care adoption. Each of these

types has its own set of advantages, disadvantages, and necessary steps to complete the process (Parliament, 2019). “Foster adoption is a type of adoption in which a child is brought into a family to be cared for with the intention that they will eventually be adopted by foster parents and become legally free” (Parliament, 2019:2).

### **2.11.3 The Rights of Foster Children**

Section 28(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996), defines a child as a person under the age of 18 years. Foster children have the same rights as any other child in the country mandated by Section 28 of the Constitution of South Africa of 1996 focusses on human rights, and provides a systematic outline of children’s rights. The following extract from Section 28 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) protects children from being victimized and exploited. Section 28 (1) of the Constitution of South Africa (1996) states that every child has the right

- To family care or parental care, or to appropriate alternative care when removed from the family environment (Section 28 (1) of the Constitution of South Africa, 1996)
- To basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care services and social services (Section 28 (1) of the Constitution of South Africa, 1996)
- To be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation (Section 28 (1) of the Constitution of South Africa, 1996)
- To be protected from exploitative labour practices (Section 28 (1) of the Constitution of South Africa, 1996)
- Not to be required to perform work or provide services that, are inappropriate for a person of that child’s age; or place at risk the child’s well-being, education, physical or mental health or spiritual, moral or social development (Section 28 (1) of the Constitution of South Africa, 1996)

### **2.11.4 Responsibilities of Foster Parents in providing for the Needs of Beneficiaries**

Section 188 (1) of the Children’s Act No. 38 of 2005 states that, by order of the Children’s Court, the foster parents have a responsibility to provide a safe and stable home for the children in their care. Hendricks (2021) argues that the lack of agreement among social service experts regarding the function of foster parents has made it difficult to understand this function. Hendricks (2021) argues that welfare groups do not impose a standard definition of parenting. Hendricks (2021) goes

on to discuss the necessity of clear guidelines for the obligations of caregivers in order to enhance the recruitment, upskilling, and protection of foster families as well as to guarantee the highest standard of child care.

When it comes to balancing the responsibilities of the family and the institution, foster parents play a special and crucial role (Hendricks, 2021). Foster parents perform the duties entrusted to them by the welfare system and assist their kids in navigating attachment, separation, and uncertainty (Hendricks, 2021). Hendricks (2021) also notes that foster parents are crucial in the process of caring for and nurturing children, and that adoptive parents play a significant influence in determining how children develop. According to Hendricks (2021:106), “foster parents should give unquestioning support and maintain family stability in order to promote the child's emotional, physical, and mental development, also foster parents play an important role in providing care, support, and supervision to help the overall development of the children in their care”. In addition, Hendricks (2021) further notes that adoptive parents significantly affect and contribute to the provision of home care because of their complex histories, which can occasionally result in troublesome and demanding behaviours.

### **2.11.5 Institutional Challenges in the Implementation of Foster Care**

The lapsed foster care orders resulted in the litigation of the Department of Social Development by Centre for Child Law against. The Department of Social Development was instructed by the North Gauteng High Court to extend lapsed foster care orders (Parliament, 2019). There is ongoing lapse of court orders on a monthly basis due to the challenges between the key Departments in the administration of foster child grant. Parliament (2019) state that the backlog of the foster care orders is complicated by the fact that these orders have to be renewed every two years according to section 159 of the Children's Act (No. 38 of 2005). Furthermore, Parliament (2019) outline that the backlog of these orders had been hindered by the fact that social workers simultaneously had to deal with the North Gauteng High Court order as well as the orders issued in terms of the Children's Act. For these key departments to address this challenges faced by foster child grant, the Department of Social Development drafted a policy on Child Care and Protection Policy which is aimed at amending the Children's Act (Parliament, 2019). In addition, to address the challenges faced by administration of foster child grant, extensions of children reaching the age of 18 years was introduced (Parliament, 2019). Parliament (2019) outline three key institutions in the

implementation of the “foster care grant”. The difficulties that the three key parties who have a substantial impact on how “foster care” is implemented is demonstrated in Table 2.6.

Table 2.6: Institutional Challenges in the Implementation of Foster Care

Department of Social Development	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development	South African Social Security Agency
Shortage of resources to carry out the Act	Resources are insufficient to meet the demand for placement opportunities for foster children.	Insufficiency of an effective ICT systems of tracked and traced through information management systems. (this causes disagreements over the precise numbers because the SASSA database's figures don't always match the manually recorded figures kept by the DSD)
Insufficient oversight of foster placements	Scheduling issues and criminal cases being given priority over children's court matters	Foster child orders misplaced in some SASSA offices
	Lack of consistency in how the Act is applied and how presiding officers issue court orders	Foster parent's not approaching SASSA to submit the extension orders
	“Unavailability of office accommodations in some DoJ and CD offices, social workers must submit reports one month before an order expires rather than the four months required by the Act”	Children who are not South Africans lack documentation.

*Source: Parliament (2019:6)*

“In 2010, the total of 299 076 foster child orders lapsed, which led to a lawsuit being filed by the Children’s Law Centre against the Department of Social Development. Subsequently, on 2 June 2011, the North Gauteng High Court issued an order directing the department to administratively extend the foster child order until 31 December 2014” (Parliament, 2019:7). In addition, Parliament (2019) noted that, on 12 December 2014, the court order of the “North Gauteng High Court” was extended until 31 December 2017.

The backlog of foster child orders, which must be renewed every two years in addition to the administrative extension necessary for children’s over the age of 18, is made more difficult by “Section 159 of the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005” (Parliament, 2019). The North Gauteng High Court had 39 102 orders altogether as of September 2017 (Parliament, 2019). “In keeping with the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005, as of November 2017, there were 49 534 foster children’s orders that needed extensions from the Children's Court through 31 December 2017” (Parliament, 2019:7). Additionally, Parliament (2019) noted that the DSD has created a policy on childcare and protection in order to solve this situation. The committee determined that the Minister should ask National Treasury for additional funding to overcome the challenges with the foster care system (Parliament, 2019). To prevent court intervention, the Department should give law changes pertaining to the foster care system top priority (Parliament, 2019).

## **2.12 Legislation and Policy Framework for the “Foster Child Grant”**

“South Africa’s legislative framework generally protects children and their rights ever since South Africa adopted the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) in 2000, significant advancements have been made in this area” (Constitution of South Africa, 1996:11). “Section 28(1) of the South African Constitution (1996) states that: every child has the right to: access to family or parental or appropriate alternative care away from the family environment, access to essential nutrition, shelter, basic health care and social services”(RSA, 1996). Under Chapter 12 of the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005, the Children's Court may also order foster care as a type of placement. Table 2.7, outline the legislation of foster child grant

Table 2.7: Legislation of foster child grant

<p>The Constitution of Republic of South Africa, 1996</p>	<p>Section 28(1) of the South African Constitution (1996) every child has the right to social security, including the right to be unable to support themselves and their families.</p> <p>Chapter 2, section 27 of the Bill of Rights expressly states that everyone has a right to social security.</p>
<p>Children's Act No. 38 of 2005</p>	<p>Children's Court may also order foster care as a type of placement. "Section 180 (3) (a-c) of Children's Act No 35 of 2005 allows the Children's Court placements are the numerous sorts (a) with a stranger; (b) with a relative who is not the child's parent or legal guardian; (c) in a certified cluster foster care". Section 181 (a-c) states that the purpose of foster care is to:</p> <p>Protect and nurture children by providing a safe, healthy environment with positive support,</p> <p>Promote the goals of permanency planning, promoting family reunification, or connecting children to other safe and nurturing family relationships intended to last a lifetime, and</p> <p>Respect the individual and family by demonstrating a respect for cultural, ethnic and community diversity.</p>
<p>White paper for Social Welfare (1997)</p>	<p>The spheres of "social security" are poverty alleviation, poverty prevention, income distribution, and social compensation.</p>

Social Assistance Act No. 13 of 2004	“Foster Child Grant is mandated by the Department of Social Development and administered by the South African Social Security Agency”. Section 9(b) states that a person is entitled to social assistance if she or he is, owing to a physical or mental disability.
South African Social Security Agency, Act No. 9 of 2004	“SASSA is mandated by the South African Social Security Agency Act No. 9 of 2004. The major goals are to ensure effective and efficient social assistance administration, management, and payment as well as to plan for future social security administration and payment, including the provision of services relevant to it and to matters related to it”

*Source: Author compiled from SASSA (2010), SASSA (2017/18), White Paper for Social Welfare (1997) and Constitution of Republic of South Africa (1996)*

The research focused on the following South Africa's legislative framework guiding the foster care system: The Constitution of Republic of South Africa of 1996, Children's Act No. 38 of 2005, White paper for Social Welfare of 1997, Social Assistance Act No. 13 of 2004 and the South African Social Security Agency, Act No. 9 of 2004

**The Constitution of Republic of South Africa, 1996**

The Department of Social Development derives its core mandate from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Section 27 (1) (c) of the Constitution provides for the right of access to appropriate social assistance to those unable support themselves and their dependents. In addition, Section 28 (1) of the Constitution sets out the rights of children with regard to appropriate care (basic nutrition, shelter, health care services and social services) and detention. Schedule 4 of the Constitution further identifies welfare services, population development and disaster management as functional areas of concurrent national and provincial legislative competence.

### **Children's Act No. 38 of 2005**

According to Parliament (2019) foster care is a statutory intervention programme legislated in section 180 of the Children's Act No 38 of 2005. This Act stipulates that a child should be placed in foster care as a result of a court order of a Children's Court or as a transfer from alternative care as ordered by a provincial head of social development. Section 180 (3)(a - c) stipulates different types of foster care placements as follows: with a person who is not a family member of the child, with a family member who is not the parent or guardian of the child; or in a registered cluster foster care (Parliament, 2019).

### **White paper for Social Welfare (1997)**

The White Paper aims to promote the integration of population issues in development planning with the view to achieving sustainable human development. The Department of Social Development is responsible for monitoring population trends and for supporting national, provincial and local spheres of government through capacity building, research and information dissemination on population issues.

### **Social Assistance Act No. 13 of 2004**

The Act provides for the rendering of social assistance to persons, national councils and welfare organizations. The Act was amended in 1994 to further regulate the making of grants and financial awards to certain persons and bodies. In 1997 the Welfare Laws Amendment Act, 1997 amended the Social Assistance Act, 1992 in order to provide for uniformity of, equality of access to, and effective regulation, of social assistance throughout the Republic, to introduce the child-support grant, to do away with capitation grants, to abolish maintenance grants subject to the phasing out of existing maintenance grants over a period not exceeding three years, to provide for the delegation of certain powers, and to extend the application of the provisions of the Act to all areas in the Republic.

### **South African Social Security Agency, Act No. 9 of 2004**

The Act intends to provide for the establishment of the South African Social Security Agency as an agent for the administration and payment of social assistance. In addition, it provides for the prospective administration and payment of social security by the Agency and the provision of services related thereto; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

### **2.13 The Role of the Social Worker in the Implementation of the Foster Care Grant**

The FCG is authorized by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996), under Act No. 35 of 2005. Furthermore, the DSD (2012) states that social workers are the main role players in implementing the FCG; more specifically, they are required to perform certain tasks in this respect. In addition, SWs should submit a court report, in court, as an expert witness (DSD, 2012). The role of the SW as an expert witness is to advise the court and to provide an opinion guided by an expert knowledge base, objectives, investigation and theory (DSD, 2012). Moreover, the role of the SW is to consult a variety of sources, use written and oral sources of information, evaluate and interpret facts, draw conclusions based on expertise and experience, submit reports to the court, and provide clear replies and responses in between cross-examination (DSD, 2012).

According to Fortune (2016), the FCG's ambiguous intent results in wealth disparity as well as a lack of time for social workers and the Children's Court to offer adequate care and protection for children who actually need it, since they would be occupied with processing foster care placement petitions. Moreover, Fortune (2016) pointed out that another aspect of inequality is the diminished ability to support kids who are in grave danger of losing their lives or their health. Only 13773 social workers were registered in South Africa in 2011; 6 198 of them, it is thought, provided direct benefit services (Fortune, 2016). In accordance with the Children's Act Conducting Services, the Children's Act Costing estimated that by 2010/2011, the system would have needed 16 504 social workers, assisted by 14 648 social support professionals (Fortune, 2016).

### **2.14 Role of Social Security in Socio-economic of Vulnerable Individuals in Society**

According to Mackett (2020), the government has a social protection function that includes a strategy for reducing poverty and a substantial social assistance program run by the DSD. These non-contributory, tax-funded handouts protect the most vulnerable members of society (Mackett, 2020). Additionally, Mackett (2020) highlighted that Ethiopia has the second-largest social protection programme on the African continent, trailing only the South African programme in size. Social Security programmes, especially for those in the bottom quintile, are a significant source of income for little-income households (Mackett, 2020). Furthermore, Mackett (2020) research demonstrates that the implementation of social transfer programs has had a beneficial effect on poverty reduction, despite worries about the sustainability of these payments.

Leila (2022:1) argues that “since South Africa's post-apartheid constitution was formed in 1996, the nation has made considerable steps toward understanding the right to social security and lowering poverty and inequity”. Two-thirds of households receive social assistance, and social insurance attributable to policies, as well as the legislative and administrative framework that allows for this covers 60% of the workforce (Leila, 2022). In addition, Leila (2022) also notes that South Africa has gone above and beyond many other nations in enhancing social protection for development, making it a model for upper-middle income nations.

Leila (2022:2) states that “in order to lessen the effects of the pandemic of the COVID-19, a new short-term social hardship assistance grant was recently implemented”. Furthermore, Leila (2022) also notes that the number of people receiving COVID-19 social hardship aid climbed from 5.3 million in 2020 to 10 million in 2022.

Hendricks (2021) found that “social grants” in South Africa significantly reduce poverty, especially amongst little-income households. Despite the small gains, “foster child grants effectively cushion poor households from shocks, including the worst effects of the 2009/10 global recession” (Hendricks, 2021:106). Social transfers, including foster child grants, create potential financial benefits; for example, they improve beneficiaries’ ability to lessen recipients' susceptibility to shocks and assist them in coping with potential dangers and insecurities (Hendricks, 2021).

Providing social grants often has positive outcomes in terms of improving the lives of disadvantaged and poor people (Hendricks, 2021). Additionally, Hendricks (2021) discovered that the FCG improves children's access to healthcare facilities, nutrition, education, and other fundamental human rights while having a favourable impact on their development. Hendricks (2021) also emphasizes how grants may assist the labour force as adoptive parents invest in the education of their kids, which would ultimately enhance employment opportunities for foster kids and sustain the economy once placements are lifted.

### **2.15 South African Children Wellbeing**

According to the South African Government (2021), many children in South Africa live without parental support, which undermines their rights to security and maintenance. Furthermore, some,

if not most, are raised by one parent, which is most often the mother (Government of South Africa, 2021). Parental absence can negatively impact children and adolescents, who are often at greater risk of behavioral challenges (Government of South Africa, 2021). Furthermore, the South African government (2021) states that the negative impact of social and economic factors is prevalent in households without parents. Regardless of separation or divorce, regardless of who has custody of the child, and unless the court decides otherwise both parents are solely responsible for raising the child (RSA, 2021).

## **2.16 Conclusion**

This literature review demonstrated the importance of administering foster child grants for children in need. The proper management and administration for foster child grant can lessen the poverty faced by orphans in South Africa. The “social security” community relies on social grants; as social security is some families’ sole source of income. In most cases, the grant is adequate to meet the basic needs of the beneficiary, if caregivers are trying to meet the basic needs of the child. The grant authorized by the DSD and administered by SASSA.

The spheres of “social security” are poverty alleviation, poverty prevention, income distribution, and social compensation. Foster child grant in South Africa is mandated by the Department of Social Development and administered by the South African Social Security Agency. Social Assistance offers social subsidies, which involve the direct transfer of funds to designated groups that face the challenges of vulnerability and extreme poverty. The social security structure in South Africa offers seven different categories of grants, which is awarded to vulnerable children, disabled people and senior citizens. The main features of foster childcare in Western European is quite lesser quantity of children placed in alternative foster care institutions, the well-developed foster care system, and the wide range of other alternative forms of childcare. Providing social grants often has positive outcomes in terms of improving the lives of disadvantaged and poor people. This chapter leads to chapter three that offers a detailed research methodology employed by this study, which is mixed methods approach.

## Chapter Three

### Research Methodology

#### 3.1 Introduction

This study will employ a mixed methods approach to research. “The mixed methods research is rapidly gaining popularity in the social sciences because it allows for the exploration of complex and multifaceted phenomena, from a variety of perspectives” (Gambrel & Butler, 2013:163). Furthermore, Gambrel and Butler (2013) point out that the advantage of mixed methods research is its capability to permit the researcher to interpret narratives and standardised data.

Newman, Benz & Ridenour (1998) point out that qualitative and quantitative research originate from naturalistic and positivist philosophies, respectively. Furthermore, Newman et al. (1998:3) “argue that the use of a qualitative, naturalistic approach to observing and interpreting reality aims to develop a theory that would explain what is experienced”. While when the quantitative methods are employed the researcher starts with a theory and then tests for the confirmation or non-confirmation of that theory (Newman et al., 1998).

Qualitative research uses in-depth personal interviews and techniques involve conducting in-depth personal interviews with a lesser population of research participants in an effort to explore their perceptions of a particular idea, plan, or situation (Creswell, 1998). Qualitative research involves direct, one-on-one and face-to-face contact with individual participants (Burkhold, Cox, Crawford & Hitchcock, 2019). Furthermore, qualitative research uses a naturalistic and holistic one-to-one approach to understanding phenomena in real-world settings (Eriksson & McConnell, 2011).

Quantitative research methods, is a research strategy that emphasizes quantification in the collection and analysis of data (Rahman, 2020). Moreover, quantitative research denotes quantifiable data and performing statistical, mathematical, or computational techniques (Rahman, 2020). Furthermore, this research method attempts to investigate the answers to the questions starting with how many, how much, to what extent, the method lays heavy stress on measuring something or variables existed in the social world (Rahman, 2020). In addition, Rahman (2020:105) state that the “quantitative research methods seek regularities in human lives, by separating the social world into empirical components called variables which can be represented

numerically as frequencies or rate, whose associations with each other can be explored by statistical techniques, and accessed through researcher-introduced stimuli and systematic measurement.” Moreover, the quantitative findings are likely to be generalized to a whole population or a sub-population because it involves the larger sample which is randomly selected. Then, quantitative research is to be based on the positivist paradigm of measuring variables (Rahman, 2020).

Furthermore, before beginning with the data analysis phase of their research, the researcher needs to gather data from the sample population using questionnaires, after which some further preliminary steps need to be, completed (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016). These preliminary steps are coding the questionnaire, data coding, data input, data editing and data conversion (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016).

Bless, Higson-Smith and Kagge (2006), pointed out that the research is categorised into quantitative and qualitative paradigms. They further propose that “quantitative research relies on measurement to compare and analyse different variables, while qualitative research uses qualified words or descriptions to record various aspects of the world” (Bless et al., 2006:44). The current study employs a mixed methods research paradigm. After collecting quantitative and qualitative data from the corresponding samples, some preliminary steps were completed prior to the analysis of the data, to guarantee that the data was accurate, complete and suitable for further analysis (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016). After collecting the data required for this study of the foster child grant, through interviews, the researcher performed the preliminary steps of transcript editing, coding, typing and editing codes, prior to the data analysis (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016).

### **3.2 Study Site**

For this study, the designated site is Richmond Local Municipality. Richmond (KZ227) falls under category B municipality consisting of seven constituencies. It is located in the southern part of the UMgungundlovu District Municipality (DC22), approximately 38 kilometers south of Pietermaritzburg, the provincial capital of KwaZulu-Natal. Figure 3.1, below shows the study site.

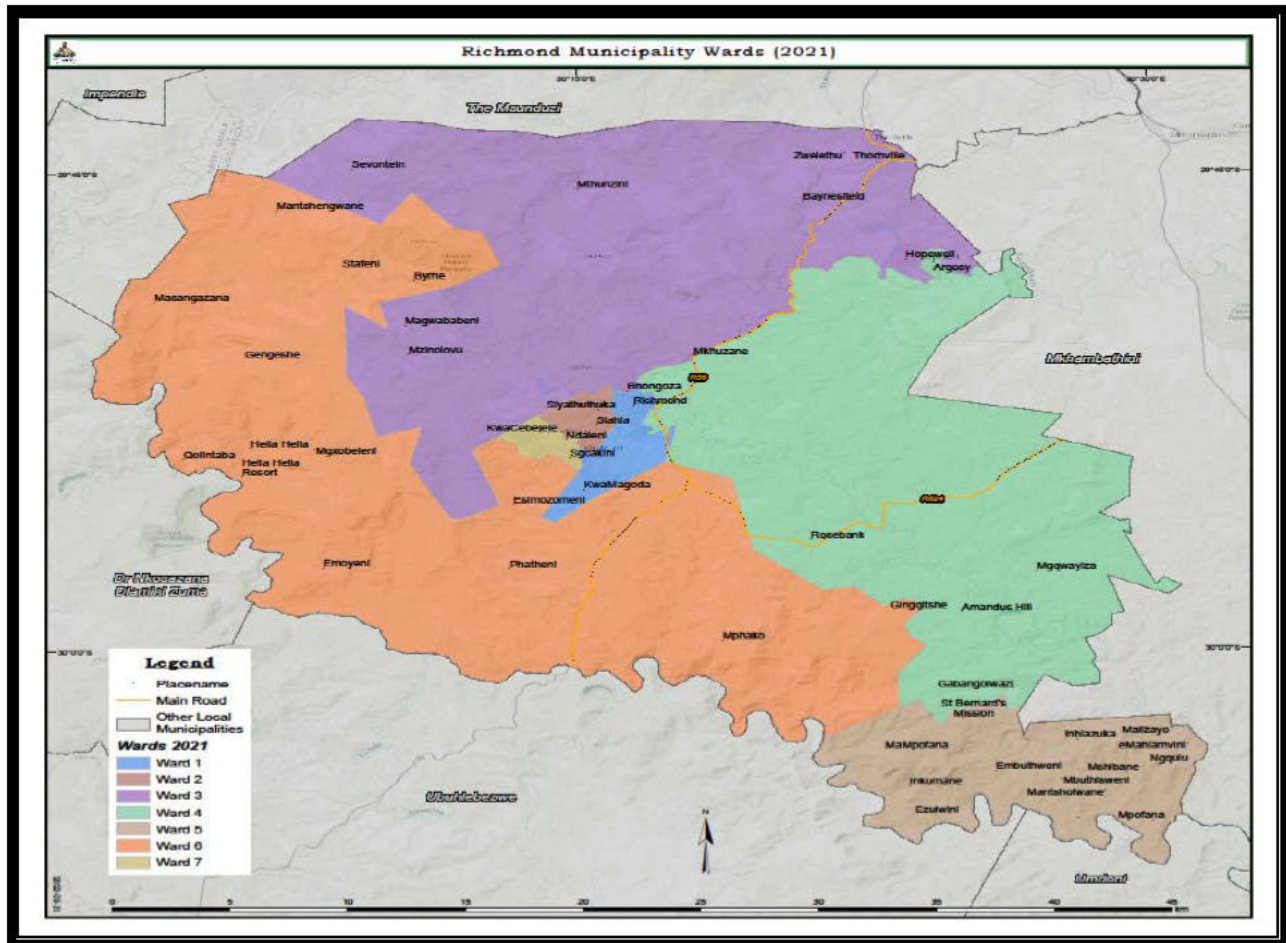


Figure 3.1: Map of Richmond Local Municipality

Source: Richmond Municipality (2021/2022:12)

### 3.3 Target Population

Out of the target population of 18 social workers in Richmond Service Office, only 13 social workers availed themselves for the study to be interviewed. According to Sekaran and Bougie (2016:240) “target population as the complete group of people, events or things of interest that the researcher desires to examine”. The entire target population for this study is all social workers involved in administering foster child grants to beneficiaries in the Richmond Local Municipality.

### 3.4 Sampling Method and Sample Size

This study employed total purposive sampling, which is a non-probability sampling technique. The study population was determined by the judgement of the researcher. All the social workers

in the Richmond Service Office, who are directly participating in the administration of the “foster child grant”, were invited to be part of the study. The number of SW is ideal for the total purposive sampling technique, since the total population is comprised of 18 social workers.

Etikan, Musa and Alkassim (2016) recognise that a sample is a population or part of the universe; however, they indicate that by population, many tend to consider only people. “Population does not necessarily refer to the number of people, but it can also refer to the total amount of things or cases that are the object of study” (Etikan et al., 2016:1). Additionally, randomization is not crucial in non-probability sampling when choosing a sample from an interested population (Etikan et al., 2016). “Non-probability sampling is a strategy for gathering samples in which not every unit or member of the population has an equal chance of being included in the study” (Etikan et al., 2016:2).

Etikan et al. (2016) also point out that occasionally leaving out specific cases from sampling is comparable to having a puzzle with evident pieces missing. Total population sampling is the optimal sampling technique in this situation (Etikan et al., 2016). Total population sampling is a method that draws data from the complete population that satisfies the requirements for a current study (Etikan et al., 2016). Total population sampling is more frequently employed when there are not many cases being looked into (Etikan et al., 2016).

The total number of social workers that involved in the management of the “foster child grants” in the Richmond Local Municipality are 18. The study utilized the available database of foster child grant beneficiaries kept by the Department of Social Development; this database is called the Central Forster Child Register Annexe D. Furthermore, Sekaran and Bougie (2016:237) explain “sampling as a process that includes selecting a part of the population to represent the entire population, but the sample size is the selection of the entire unit to participate in the study.” Figure 3.2, below, illustrates the relationship between the sample and the population.

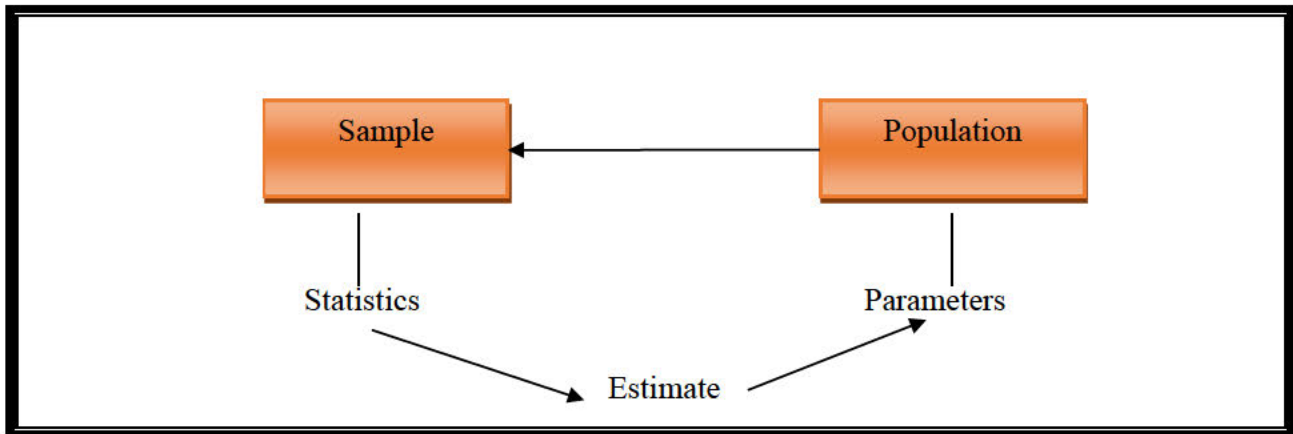


Figure 3.2: Relationship between Sample and Population

Source: Sekaran and Bougie (2016:238)

Sekaran and Bougie (2016:244), argues that the “research sampling, is the process of choosing a sufficient number of the right components from a population”. Probability sampling, which can be unconstrained or restricted, is a sampling technique in which every component of the population has a known, non-zero chance of being chosen as an object in the sample (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016). Moreover, Sharp, Mobley, Hammond, Withington, Drew, Stringfield and Stipanovic (2012:34) point out that “sample selection is one of the most important stages in mixed methods research”. Furthermore, Sharp et al., (2012) explain instances in which it is challenging to generate a representative sample using only one approach and the benefits of employing mixed methods sampling strategies.

### 3.5 Data Collection

According to Kabir (2016), data is divided into two categories, namely qualitative and quantitative. Additionally, “data collection is the procedure for gathering and analyzing information on variables in a predetermined and organized manner so that people can respond to stated research questions, test hypotheses, and assess the outcomes” (Kabir, 2016:208). This study employed the semi structured interview as its data collection tool, for the collection of primary data for analysis by the researcher (see the interview questions in appendix B) and secondary data are gathered from the Richmond Central Forster Child Register Annexe D.

Kabir (2016) notes that interview questions are the most frequently utilized in survey method in research. The interview questions are an open- or closed-ended list of questions, to which the

participant can respond by phone, email, or on-site in public areas (Kabir, 2016). As previously stated, this study uses the interview questions as a data collection tool. Bowen (2009:27) state that “document analysis is a systematic procedure for reviewing or evaluating both printed and electronic material documents.” The Central Foster Child Register Annex D and interviews used for data collection during the study period. Moreover, the researcher distributed documents to, and collected documents from, the study participants.

For the actual interview questions that were used during the data collation at Richmond, please see the attached appendix B. All the questions were open-ended questions. The interview questions that were used during conducting a study at Richmond was useful, it offered the researcher much deeper information about foster care beneficiaries and social workers insight about foster care management in Richmond. According to Wolff (2021:12), “the advantages of open-ended questions are that they gather opinions and thoughts from respondents, offering much deeper, more thorough, often subjective information and offer the researchers rich, qualitative data”.

According to Wolff (2021) open-ended questions they gather opinions and thoughts from respondents, offering much deeper, more thorough, often subjective information. The possible responses to open-ended questions are endless, meaning there is no limit to your data collection possibilities, different respondents may approach the questions from vastly different angles, and conversational responses in the words of individual customers allows you to understand them more fully (Wolff, 2021). In addition, Wolff (2021) outline that one of the biggest benefits of open-ended questions is the potential for wholly new information and participant’s insights. There is no limit to possible responses, you’re likely to receive information and real opinions you had not previously even considered (Wolff, 2021).

Central Foster Care Register Annexure D, is contains the following information: opening date of the file, file office reference number, name and surname of the child, gender of the foster child and foster parent. It also contains, identity number or date of birth of the child, residential area and ward of the child, name and surname of the foster parent, file court reference number, district reference number, due date for section 159 and 176 review and the closing date of the file.

The study that was conducted at Richmond gathered and analyses information such as, the age of the foster child, the age of the foster parent, gender of the foster parent, gender of the foster child.

During the gathering of the information the confidentiality was the priority of the researcher to ensure the protection of the FCG beneficiaries and their caregivers. The gathered information was useful, since the researcher was able to categories the age group of foster children's.

### **3.6 Reliability and Validity**

According to, Sekaran and Bouie (2016:248) “reliability and validity have a slightly different meaning in qualitative research in comparison to quantitative research, reliability in qualitative data analysis includes category and interjudge reliability”. Sekaran and Bougie (2016:222) argues, “the validity is a test of an instrument's ability to measure the particular idea designed to assess, while reliability is a test of how consistently a measuring instrument measures the concept verified”. Validity also depends on whether; the instrument measures the right idea whether the validity measurements are stable and consistent (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016). The measurement's efficacy and dependability demonstrate that the research has attained a level of scientific rigor (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016).

In qualitative research, validity refers to the degree to which the study findings accurately reflect the data that have been gathered, both internally and externally, and may be generalized or transferred (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016:249). According Sekaran and Bougie (2016:249) “two techniques have been established to ensure validity in qualitative research, which are supporting generalizations by counts of events and ensuring representativeness of cases and the inclusion of deviant cases”. “Supporting generalizations by counts of events, can address common concerns about the reporting of qualitative data that anecdotes supporting the researcher's theory have been selected, or that too much attention has been paid to a small number of events, at the expense of more common ones” (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016:249). While, ensuring representativeness of cases and the inclusion of deviant cases provides a strong test of your theory. (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016:249).

For this study to achieve trustworthiness uses interviewee's quotations as part of the data analysis to give priority to the participants' voices. “Validity in qualitative research is an indicator that suitable procedures have been implemented to acquire the findings, while reliability indicates that the investigator's methodology is constant throughout the research process” (Mazibuko, 2019:53). Moreover, Mazibuko (2019:53), state that “it has been noted that validity and reliability are tested

differently between qualitative research and quantitative research as their approaches are not grounded on the same principles”. Furthermore, Mazibuko (2019:53) state that” trustworthiness in qualitative research is an overarching concept encompassing credibility, dependability, confirmability, transferability and authenticity”.

### **3.7 Data Analysis**

The acquired raw data are statistically analyzed in data analysis to see if the developed hypothesis is validated (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016). “Data analysis is the methodical application of logical or statistical tools to describe and explain, condense and evaluate, and assess data” (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016). The researcher used the SPSS and Microsoft Excel software programs to analyze the data for this examination. The researcher will conduct some descriptive statistical analyses of the data gathered; the tables and figures will be used to demonstrate the range, medium, mean and mode of the data.

### **3.8 Limitation of the Study**

The research is constrained by a variety of issues that make it difficult for the FCG beneficiaries to be directly participate in the study. Involving the FCG beneficiaries in the study may results on getting the main effect of foster care grant to beneficiaries. The beneficiaries were excluded in the study since the inclusion may results on triggering sensitive issue that may lead on the requirement of specialists such as psychologist to deal with those issues. For example, when asking a minor about his/her heathy status and to find that the child is on chronic medication and bring that issue might lead to the emotional of the child which will require a specialist to deal with the child’s emotion. Involvement of children specialist was going to be expensive exercise since the study is self-funded. The schools were not interview to get better understanding of the beneficiaries’ physical and mental development. The caregivers were not part the sample, interviewing the caregivers may outline the daily behaviour the child in question. In addition, the involvement of the caregivers may be vital for the outcomes of the study, since caregivers monitor the growth of the child. The researcher is not a professional social worker that hinder him from the direct contact with the FCG beneficiaries. Additionally, the study's findings are only valid for the period covered by the study because community life is constantly changing and improving. The study was

conducted in one area. The participation of all SW's who are directly involved in FCG management is no guarantee, it based on the voluntary of the individual.

## **Chapter Four**

### **Presentation of Research Findings and Discussion**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter's primary goal is to present the analysis that was done on the data that was gathered for this research. The outcomes of the study, as discovered through the interviews that produced quantitative and qualitative results, are presented and interpreted in this chapter. Within the framework of the fundamental requirements approach utilized in this study, this chapter provides responses to the following research questions:

- How does the foster child grant benefit its beneficiaries?
- Does the foster child grant contribute to the socio-economic profile of its beneficiaries?
- How can the administration of the foster child grant be improved?
- What are social workers' perceptions of the management of the foster child grant?

There are 18 social workers at the Richmond Service Office and they are directly involved in the administration of the FCG, but only 13 of them agreed to partake in the study. The researcher interviewed each of the social workers who voluntarily availed themselves to contribute in the study. Additionally, information important to this study was gathered using the Central Foster Child Register Annex D, which belongs to the "Department of Social Development". This chapter includes an analysis of the data that was gathered as well as recommendations given by the social workers who were surveyed for the study.

This chapter is structured as follows: Section 4.2 explain the findings of the demographic information. Section 4.3 discusses the findings of the socio-economic profile of foster children in Richmond. Section 4.4 explains the criteria for foster parent selection. Section 4.5 discusses the expectations from foster parents. Section 4.6 discusses monitoring foster child placement. Section 4.7 does the FCG improve the lives of its beneficiaries? Section 4.8 discusses the present monthly rand value of the foster child grant. Section 4.9 is the discussions. Section 4.10 concludes chapter 4.

## 4.2 Demographic Information

Demographic information helps to provide an overview of the social workers who are directly involved in the administration of the “foster child grant”, and an over view of the FCG beneficiaries.

### 4.2.1 Foster Child Age

Typically, the FCG is paid until the beneficiary becomes 18 years old. The FCG ends when the youngster graduates from high school or starts making more money than allowed by the means test. If it happens that, the beneficiary who is turning eighteen years and is still in school, the grant carries on until the child turns 21 years old. Table 4.1, illustrates the age distribution of FCG beneficiaries at the Richmond Local Municipality. Table 4.1, displays that 1.3% of the total FCG beneficiaries are 21 years old. The youngest FCG beneficiaries are only two (2) years of age, which constitutes 0.4% of 553 recipients of the FCG at Richmond Local Municipality.

Table 4.1: Foster Child Age Distribution

	Age	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	2	2	0.4	0.4	0.4
	3	3	0.5	0.5	0.9
	4	1	0.2	0.2	1.1
	6	6	1.1	1.1	2.2
	7	3	0.5	0.5	2.7
	8	5	0.9	0.9	3.6
	9	8	1.4	1.4	5.1
	10	13	2.4	2.4	7.4
	11	19	3.4	3.4	10.9
	12	25	4.5	4.5	15.4
	13	34	6.1	6.2	21.6
	14	56	10.1	10.1	31.7
	15	55	9.9	10.0	41.7
	16	59	10.7	10.7	52.4

	17	115	20.8	20.8	73.2
	18	101	18.3	18.3	91.5
	19	26	4.7	4.7	96.2
	20	14	2.5	2.5	98.7
	21	7	1.3	1.3	100.0
	Total	552	99.8	100.0	
Missing	System	1	0.2		
Total		553	100.0		

Source: Author compiled from using data from the Richmond Central Foster Child Register Annexe D (2022)

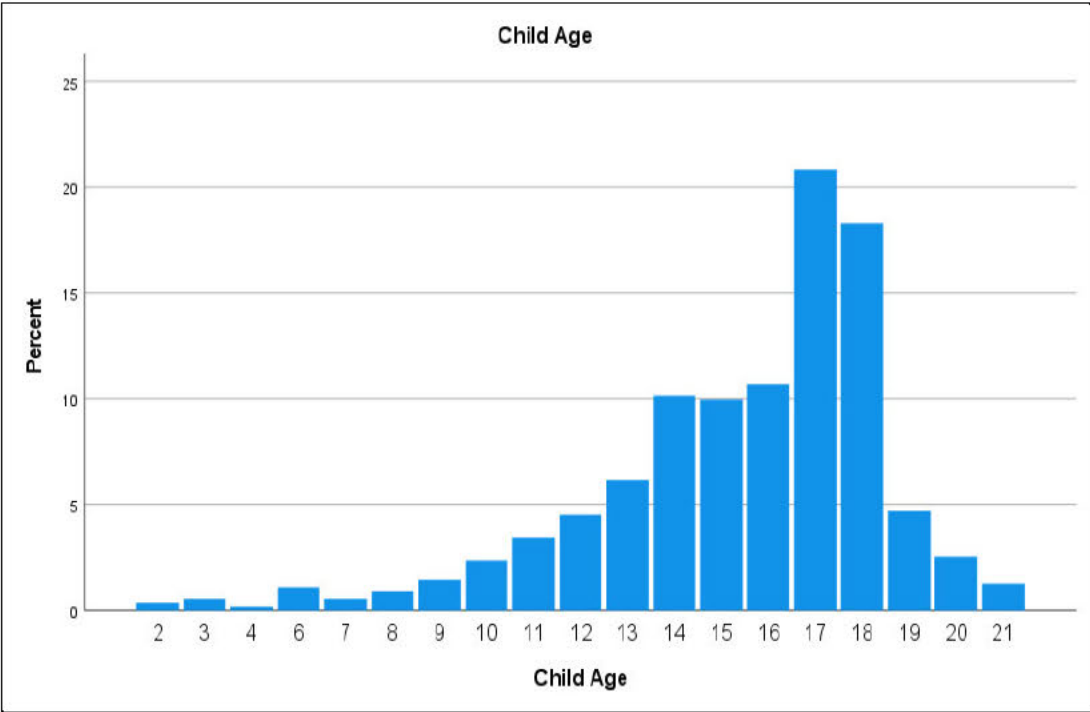


Figure 4.1: Foster Child Age Distribution

Source: Author created using data from the Richmond Central Foster Child Register Annexe D (2022)

Figure 4.1, demonstrates that the majority of FCG beneficiaries at Richmond are 17 years of age, which constitutes 20.8% of the beneficiaries.

#### 4.2.2 Foster Child Gender

Table 4.2: Foster Child Gender Distribution

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male (1)	262	47.4	47.4	47.4
	Female (2)	291	52.6	52.6	100.0
	Total	553	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author compiled from using data from the Richmond Central Foster Child Register Annexe D (2022)

Table 4.2, illustrates the gender distribution of FCG beneficiaries at Richmond Local Municipality. The outcomes of the study show that 52.7% of FCG beneficiaries are female and 47.4% are male.

#### 4.2.3 Foster Parent Age

The outcomes of the study show that the foster parent age ranges from 21 to 93 years of age. The difference in ages between the youngest and oldest “foster parent” is 72 years. The findings show that the highest frequency of foster parents are 58 years old, which constitutes 5.6% of the foster parents at Richmond. Figure 4.2, explains the age distribution of foster parents in Richmond.

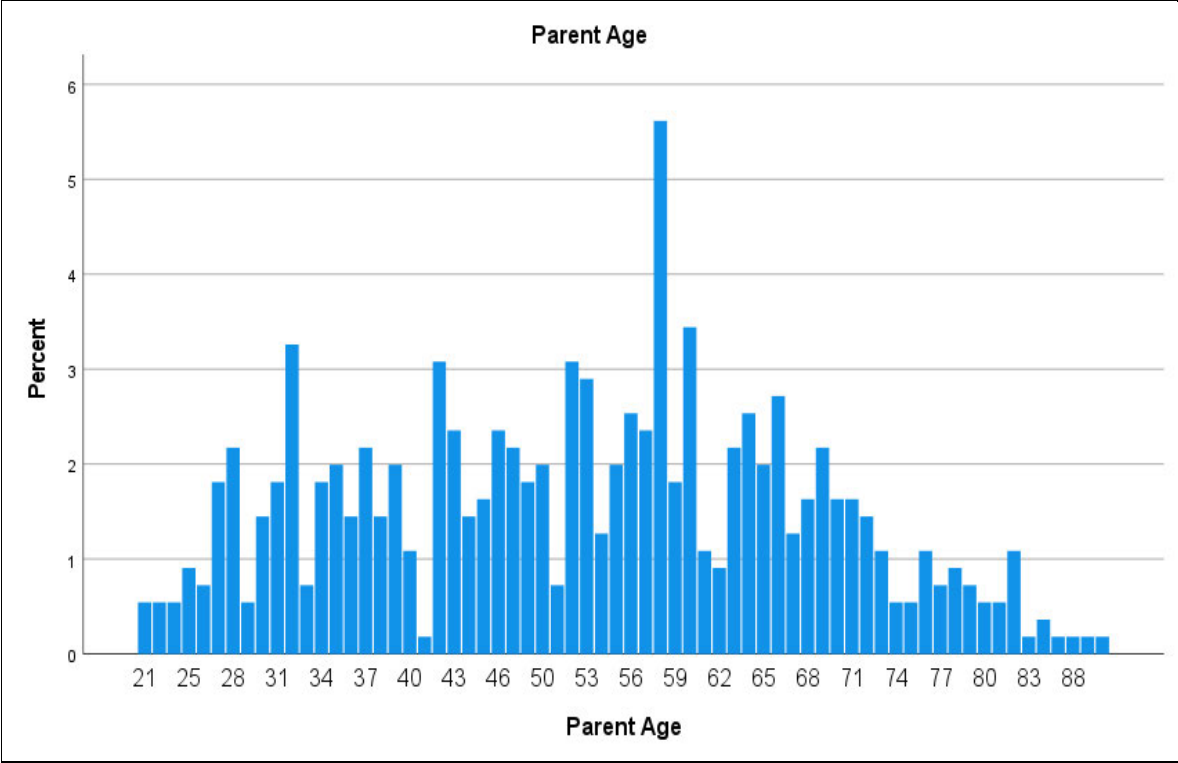


Figure 4.2: Foster Parent Age Distribution in Richmond

Source: Author created using data from the Richmond Central Foster Child Register Annex D (2022)

Furthermore, the study found that active foster parents who are younger than 60 years make up a total of 47.4% of the entire foster parent population of Richmond, while foster parents older than 60 years of age that is, who are already of pension age make up 33.8% of the foster parent population in Richmond. Moreover, young foster parents, who fall within the youth category, age range between 21 and 35 years, constitute 18.8% of the entire foster parent population of Richmond.

**4.2.4 Foster Parent Gender**

The study results show that females constitute the majority of foster parents in Richmond, with a female foster parent percentage of 93.15 this amounts to 516 total female foster parents in the region. Males constitute 6.95 percent of foster parents in Richmond, which equates to only 38 total male foster parents in the region. Table 4.3, illustrates the gender distribution of foster parents in Richmond.

Table 4.3: Gender Distribution of Foster Parents in Richmond

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male (1)	38	6.9	6.9	6.9
	Female (2)	515	93.1	93.1	100.0
	Total	553	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author compiled from using data from the Richmond Central Foster Child Register Annexe D (2022)

The study results reveal that women form the higher number of people who are available to take care, and willing and capable of doing so, of orphans and children who are in need.

#### 4.2.5 Social Worker Gender

Based on the number of personalities who agreed to take part in the study, 15.4 percent (2) are male social workers, while 84.6 percent (11) are female social workers, all of whom are directly involved in the administration of the FCG at Richmond. Table 4.4, illustrates the gender distribution of social worker participants who directly partake in the administration of the FCG in Richmond.

Table 4.4: Gender Distribution of Social Worker Participants

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male (1)	2	15.4	15.4	15.4
	Female(2)	11	84.6	84.6	100.0
	Total	13	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author compiled from using data from the Richmond Central Foster Child Register Annexe D (2022)

The findings indicate that there is a relationship between the gender distributions of SW who are directly participating in the administration of the FCG and the gender distribution of foster parents

in Richmond Local Municipality. In this respect, it is apparent that the huge number of “foster parents” are female and the majority of SW’s directly involved in the administration of the FCG are also female.

#### 4.2.6 Social Worker Age

The findings pertaining to the age distribution of SW’s who are directly involved in the administration of the FCG are illustrated in Table 4.5, below.

Table 4.5: Age Distribution of Social Worker Participants

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	31	1	7.7	7.7	7.7
	32	1	7.7	7.7	15.4
	33	3	23.1	23.1	38.5
	36	2	15.4	15.4	53.8
	37	1	7.7	7.7	61.5
	38	1	7.7	7.7	69.2
	40	1	7.7	7.7	76.9
	42	1	7.7	7.7	84.6
	43	1	7.7	7.7	92.3
	48	1	7.7	7.7	100 .0
	Total	13	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author compiled from using data from the Richmond Central Foster Child Register Annexe D (2022)

The outcomes of the study show that the most of the social workers directly participating in the administration of the FCG at Richmond Local Municipality are 33 years of age, which constitutes at 23.1% of social worker participants in this study. The youngest social worker is 31 years old, while the oldest social worker participant from Richmond Local Municipality is 48 years old.

#### 4.2.7 Social Worker Work Experience in FCG Administration

The study reveals those participants' work experience ranges from 5 to 12 years. Table 4.6, illustrates the work experience of SW who are directly participating in the administration of the FCG at Richmond Local Municipality.

Table 4.6: Social Worker Work Experience in Foster Child Grant Administration

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	5	2	15.4	15.4	15.4
	9	5	38.5	38.5	53.8
	10	4	30.8	30.8	84.6
	11	1	7.7	7.7	92.3
	12	1	7.7	7.7	100.0
	Total	13	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author compiled from using data from the Richmond Central Foster Child Register Annexe D (2022)

In this regard, work experience plays a vital role in the administration of the FCG. This is because, through years of experience, one is able to identify gaps and to devise a turnaround strategy that would allow the social worker to overcome challenges in the workplace.

#### 4.3 Socio-economic Profile of Foster Children in Richmond

The interviews with Richmond social workers show that the most foster children in Richmond are in school. The majority of the foster children who are in school have their school needs met, such as the need for a school uniform. The fundamental needs of the foster children, such as food, shelter and clothing, are also met. These children also have a sense of belonging. Moreover, they have access to health facilities, and their health is taken care of, even though some foster children are on chronic medication. As a direct result of the support system linked to the grant, children who receive the FCG are more likely to attend school.

#### **4.4 Criteria for Foster Parent Selection**

The interviews with Richmond social workers outline that, someone to be a foster parent must be above 18 years old in order to meet minimum requirement to be foster parent. “Potential foster parent candidates need to be screened in terms of Section 182(2) of the Children’s Act No. 38 of 2005, in order to ascertain whether the candidate’s name appears on the Child Protection Register as their name should not appear on this register”(DSD, 2012:14). Furthermore, the candidate must be mentally and physical fit to look after a child, and they must have shelter. A family background check also takes place when selecting a potential foster parent. Moreover, when selecting a foster parent for a child, extended family members or relatives get first preference to take over as the foster parent of a child in need.

#### **4.5 Expectations from Foster Parents**

The interviews with Richmond social workers, utilizing the open-ended questions resulted on the different expectations from an individual to become a foster parent. To be a foster parent you are expected to be able to provide shelter for the foster child. Be a loving and caring person. You also expected to be willing to take care of, and protect, the child. Be cooperative in every process of foster placement. Furthermore, to be foster parent you are expected to ensure that all the basic needs of the child are adequately met. In addition, a foster parent is expected to play a parent role, and be responsible for the child. Collaborate with the social worker in the maintaining the wellbeing of the child. Submit school reports to the social worker at the end of every school term are also expected from the foster parent. Be able to save for the future of the child, and provide proof of savings to the social worker and magistrate.

In light of the above, the study findings suggest that the main qualities of an effective foster parent are a genuine interest in children and a focus on the genuine interests of the child.

#### **4.6 Monitoring Foster Child Placement**

According to RSA (2012:96), “the monitoring and evaluation function is to promote accountability, to provide a clear basis for decision making and to learn from practical lessons and experiences to guide future development interventions”. Furthermore, RSA (2012) outline that

monitoring in relation to the children's court report entails ensuring that reports are submitted to court in time and that they are proficient and comply with the standard required.

In normal circumstances, the monitoring of a foster child placement is conducted half yearly. In the case of an emergency, monitoring can be conducted whenever necessary. The monitoring schedule is influenced and determined by the nature of each case. Not all cases are the same; some cases require close monitoring, while others fit within the scope of half-yearly monitoring. The study results indicated that 2 of the social worker participants had different perceptions regarding the schedule for monitoring foster placements: one participant stated that monitoring should be conducted once a month, while the other participant states that the monitoring should be conducted bi-monthly. Based on the study findings, it is apparent that monitoring is conducted half-yearly, as supported by the statutory guidelines for foster child placement.

Monitoring is also a tool that is used to ensure that beneficiaries of the FCG actually benefit from the grant. Through the monitoring process, social workers can ensure that FCG beneficiaries do in fact benefit from the grant, or do not benefit from it. In this respect, school visits are often conducted to ensure that FCG beneficiaries have all their basic school needs met. During a home or school visit, a one-on-one interview is conducted between the social worker and the beneficiary, so as to ascertain from the child whether his/her basic needs are maintained. During the monitoring process, social workers encourage "foster parents" to save for the future FCG beneficiary; these bank savings are also monitored.

#### **4.7 Does the FCG Improve the Lives of its Beneficiaries?**

According to Kaseke (2010) social security has traditionally taken a risk-based approach to social protection. The role of social security has been to compensate beneficiaries for lost income because of exposure to contingencies, and it also plays a critical role in poverty alleviation (Kaseke, 2010). Furthermore, Hendricks (2021) argues that the foster parent is responsible for providing a secure and stable home for the children in their care. Moreover, the foster child grant creates potential economic benefits, for instance, it increases beneficiaries' abilities to cope with potential risks and insecurities, and lessens recipients' exposure to shocks (Hendricks, 2021). The provision of foster child grants has generally resulted in positive outcomes concerning improving the lives of

vulnerable children (Hendricks, 2021). The foster child grant has developmental effects for children, improving their access to nutrition, education and other basic human rights, and health care facilities (Hendricks, 2021). In addition, Hendricks (2021) mentions that the majority of foster care grant beneficiaries specified that they used the grant money to purchase foodstuff, pay school fees and purchase school uniforms.

Considering outcomes of the interviews with Richmond social workers, FCG is insufficient, but does indeed improve the lives of its beneficiaries, since most foster children are orphans who have been left by their biological parents, with nothing by which to sustain themselves. The FCG ensure that the beneficiaries are free from the poverty life, makes sure those beneficiaries' fundamental needs, such as those for education, clothes, and food met. The FCG plays a significant role in the educational needs of foster children. However, the beneficiaries FCG need the support of foster parents and social workers to sustain themselves.

#### **4.8 Present Monthly Rand Value of the Foster Child Grant**

The current monthly rand value of the FCG is R1070.00, which is paid out by SASSA directly to foster parents on behalf of the beneficiaries that is, the foster children. Table 4.7, illustrates participant responses concerning the sufficiency of the present monthly rand value of the FCG.

Table 4.7: Sufficiency of the Current Foster Child Grant Monthly Rand Value

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1 agree	1	7.7	7.7	7.7
2 disagree	12	92.3	92.3	100.0
Total	13	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author compiled from using data from the Richmond Central Foster Child Register Annexe D (2022)

Based on the participant responses on this matter, 7.7% agree that the present monthly FCG rand value is sufficient. However, 92.3% of the participant's state that the current monthly FCG rand value is not sufficient to cater for the beneficiary's maintenance. Participant suggestions regarding

what would be a sufficient monthly rand value for FCG beneficiaries are demonstrated in Figure 4.3.

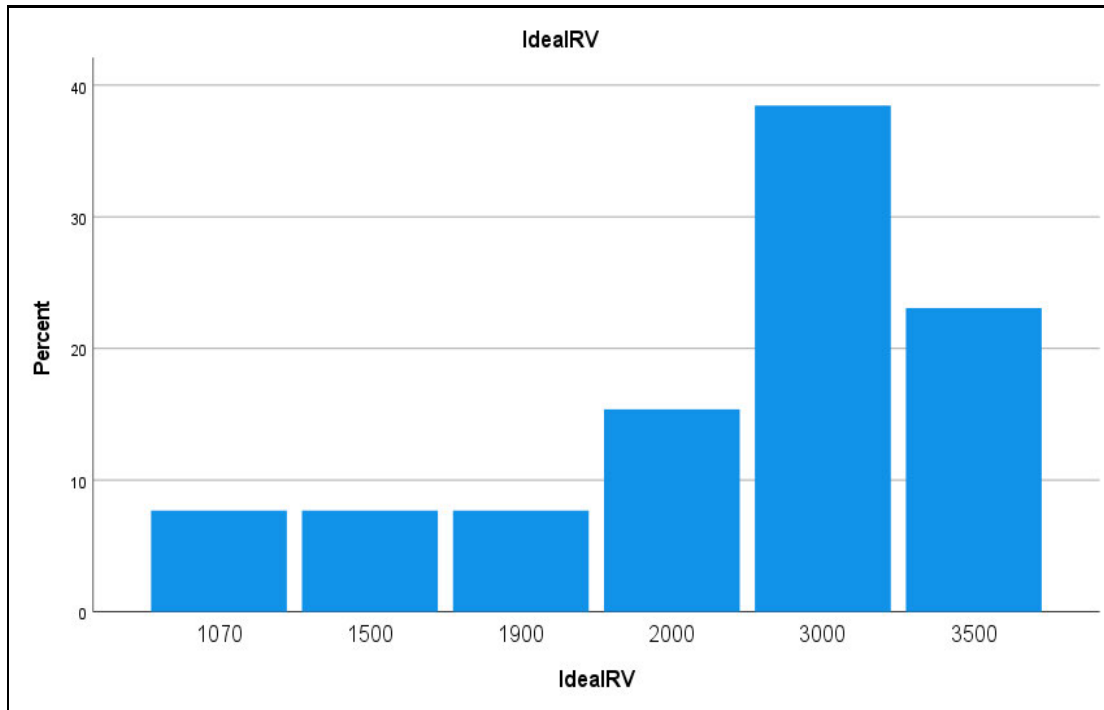


Figure 4.3: Participant Suggestions of Sufficient Monthly Rand Value of the Foster Child Grant  
Source: Author created from using data from the Richmond Central Foster Child Register Annex D (2022)

The interviewees put the five suggestions of a sufficient FCG monthly rand value forward. The highest amount put forward was R3500.00, as suggested by 23.1 percent of the social worker partakes. The highest percentage of the participants, 38.5 percent, suggested an amount of R3000.00. Further, 7.7% of the participants agreed that the current FCG amount of R1070.00 is sufficient.

*Participant 1: “Some of the foster children are on chronic medication; children who are on chronic medication were born with sickness sic”,*

*Participant 5: “The foster cases need to be segregated and allocated to social workers per category, categories such as age of the beneficiaries or needs of the beneficiaries”.*

*Participant 6: “Most of the caregivers of foster child grant beneficiaries are social grants beneficiaries”.*

*Participant 6: “Hiring of Social Auxiliary Workers and link them to Social workers, would make a huge difference in improving the foster child grant administration”.*

## **4.9 Discussion**

This discussion will focus on the effectiveness of the “foster child grant”, the socio-economic standing of foster child grant beneficiaries, as well as social workers’ perceptions of and recommendations pertaining to the improvement of the “foster child grant”.

### **4.9.1 Effectiveness of Foster Child Grant**

In Richmond Local Municipality, there are 553 foster child grant beneficiaries. Each beneficiary received R1070 per month. SASSA Richmond Local Municipality month expenditure for FCG per month is R 591 710.00 which amount to R 7 100 520.00 per annual. The findings of the study that was conducted at Richmond shows that foster child grant is effective in changing the lives of orphans; it gives hope to the vulnerable children. FCG also retain the dignity to its recipients by meeting the fundamental needs of the beneficiaries. Hendricks (2021) found that social grant payments in SA significantly reduce poverty, especially within low-income households. However, this is an insufficient revenue, “foster care grants have effectively cushioned poor households from shocks, including the worst effects of the 2009/10 global recession” (Hendricks, 2021:106). In addition, Hendricks (2021) notes that social grants, including foster child grants, have potential economic benefits; for example, they increase beneficiary capacity to cope with potential risks and insecurities, and they reduce recipients’ exposure to shocks. Providing social assistance often has positive outcomes in terms of upgrading the standard the lives of the disadvantaged and deprived (Hendricks, 2021).

Hendricks (2021:103) also points out that “funds for foster children have an influence on children's development by making it easier for them to receive food, education, and other fundamental human rights as well as healthcare”. The foster child grant is a significant source of income for many people (Hendricks, 2021). “In South Africa, the decisions, opportunities, and resources available to care for children in foster care are rooted in, and deeply intertwined with, systems of inequality across race, gender, and class” (Hendricks & Tanga, 2019:33). The apartheid regime's purposely and systematic interference in family life meant that the conditions under which children’s

received care and the capacity of families to receive care were frequently constrained by factors outside of their control (Hendricks & Tanga, 2019).

According to Khosa and Kaseke (2017), the caregiver or extended family member who is taking care of a child in foster care receives the grant, for the benefit of these kids. “The foster child grant's objective is to assist these primary carers by replenishing their resources and strengthening their capacity to offer suitable services for the foster child under their care's growth and development” (Khosa & Kaseke, 2017:356). Foster child grant are an effort to make some of these kids' rights a reality (Khosa & Kaseke, 2017). In this regard, the “foster child grant” is largely utilized to provide for the child's basic necessities (Khosa & Kaseke, 2017). These funds are meant to help children, but some caregivers prefer to abuse them, leaving the children who are supposed to benefit from them living in poverty (Khosa & Kaseke, 2017). Low educational achievement, poor schooling, hunger, and low living standards are all significantly linked to this kind of poverty (Khosa & Kaseke, 2017).

#### **4.9.2 The Socio-economic Standing of Foster Child Grant Beneficiaries**

The interviews with Richmond social workers show that the most foster children in Richmond are in school. The majority of the foster children who are in school have their school needs met, such as the need for a school uniform. The fundamental needs of the foster children, such as food, shelter and clothing, are also met. “Social development was embraced as a guiding paradigm for welfare and socioeconomic work practice in post-apartheid society as a reaction to social concerns like poverty, unemployment, and inequality in South Africa” (Dhludhlu & Lombard, 2017:166). The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) entitles everyone to social security; this includes appropriate social assistance for those who are unable to support themselves and/or their families (Dhludhlu & Lombard, 2017). For creating a setting that is suitable for rearing foster children, social services rely on the foster care system (Dhludhlu & Lombard, 2017). The statutory social workers should not only concentrate on foster care services from a remedial viewpoint but also integrate socioeconomic development priorities in their perspectives on foster care in accordance with a developmental strategy (Dhludhlu & Lombard, 2017).

Innovations in social programs and policies in developing nations have received considerable worldwide attention (Plagerson, Patel, Hochfeld & Ulriksen, 2019). Therefore, it is significant to

pay attention to the formation, character, and effectiveness of contemporary social policy routes in order to assess if they constitute genuine solutions to the social development issues faced in low- and middle-income countries (Plagerson et al., 2019).

Furthermore, Plagerson et al. (2019) point out that the Constitution reaffirmed the interdependence and indivisibility of all South Africans' social and economic rights while also abolishing the racially discriminatory apartheid policy. Additionally, the Constitution established the framework for rebuilding the welfare system in accordance with the ideals of justice and equity and codified the idea of focusing resources on the population's most vulnerable groups (Plagerson et al., 2019).“In South Africa, caring for the elderly, young children and the sick are duties which are still largely performed by women in the household; in this respect, these women are expected to play dual roles of active labour market participants and unpaid family caregivers” (Plagerson et al., 2019:2).

### **4.9.3 Social Workers Perceptions of Foster Child Grant**

All recipients of foster child grants are mandated by Section 28 Act No. 108 of 1996 to get high-quality assistance from social workers. In addition, SW's are mandated by Section 28 of The Constitution of Republic of South Africa (1996) to exhibit interventions expertise in the application of human behavior and social systems theory and are guided by specific Acts, rules, and policies that govern childcare services. Based on democratic principles, social justice objectives, and fundamental human rights, the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996, directs society with the intention of enhancing everyone's quality of life and realizing each person's potential.

According to social workers' assessments of institutional support for grant administration for foster children, there are not many difficulties. Participants proposed ways the department could assist their work more effectively, including better foster parent training, the use of computerized files, and the execution of “Section 186 of the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005”. They also indicated that caseloads are manageable.

Training: Increased the training that is provided to foster parent was one of the points that the social workers participated in this study agreed with. Prior to taking in a foster child, parents and

caregivers can practice their parenting techniques thanks to foster parent training. This aids in preparing parents and caregivers for a variety of situations that could arise with the foster child. The parent or caregiver will undoubtedly become a better foster parent as a result. Foster children require continuous discipline just like any other child to teach them how to act appropriately. This training can assist the parent or caregiver in determining the precise type of punishment the foster child requires so that you can maintain control while also ensuring that they always feel loved. The parents or carers' knowledge of basic finance may help them manage funds for the foster child's future development.

Electronic files: With an auto-reminder of file review dates, the department could modify its use of digital files. Court orders will hardly lapse, if the department could adapt the utilization of digital filing with an auto-reminder.

Application of Section 186 of the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005. Compliance with Section 186 of the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005 within the Richmond Children's court. The adoption of Section 186 will lighten the pressure on social workers since if a child is placed with a foster parent, the court order remains in effect until the child is 18 years old.

#### **4.10 Conclusion**

This study reveals that foster child grants assist to maintain beneficiaries of the foster child grant. However, the monthly rand value of the grant is indicated as insufficient to the purpose of meeting said needs. Foster child grants are strategic endeavors in ensuring access to important, basic needs of foster children. The study participants also recognized the contribution of the “foster child grant” to enabling access to healthcare and medication. However, the limitations in this regard have been noted, as the FCG can only support public healthcare and primary care; in this respect, beneficiaries have limited options if a doctor is needed. This chapter leads to chapter five that wrap up the research by connecting the key findings to the study's aims and provides conclusions and recommendations.

## **Chapter Five**

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter serves to wrap up the research by connecting the key findings to the study's aims. This chapter also seeks to offer recommendations and areas for future research. The study's second chapter covered the literature review that pursued to examine the effectiveness of the foster child grant in South Africa. The research methodology employed in this study is described in detail in Chapter three. Data analyses findings and discussions were covered in Chapter four. This chapter ends the study by presenting a summary of the research outcomes, future possible studies and offering recommendations based on these outcomes. This chapter is structured as follows: Section 5.2 discusses the main objectives and findings. Section 5.3 provides recommendations. Section 5.4 explains the research limitations and areas for future research. Section 5.5 concludes the study

#### **5.2 Objectives and the summary of the main results and findings**

The objectives of the study were:

- To explore the effectiveness of foster child grant in Richmond Local Municipality,
- To explore the extent to which beneficiaries of the foster child grant actually benefit from the grant,
- To examine the socio-economic standing of foster child grant beneficiaries and
- To explore social workers' perceptions of the foster child grant, and their recommendations on how to improve the grant.

Based on the findings of the study that was conducted at Richmond Local Municipality using the Central Foster Care Register Annaxe D as a secondary for 2022/2023 financial year, there are 553 foster child beneficiaries. The age of foster care beneficiaries at Richmond Local Municipality ranges between 2 years to 21 years. The findings of this study shows that there are 291 female beneficiaries and 262 male beneficiaries of foster child grant at Richmond Local Municipality. The findings of this study shows that the foster parent age ranges from 21 to 93 years of age. The study reveal that women forms the majority of foster parent at Richmond Local Municipality.

Based on the participant responses on this matter, 7.7% agree that the present monthly FCG rand value is sufficient. However, 92.3% of the participant's state that the current monthly FCG rand value is not sufficient to cater for the beneficiary's maintenance. In addition social workers who partakes in the study reveal that some of the foster children are on chronic medication; children who are on chronic medication were born with sickness, most of the caregivers of foster child grant beneficiaries are social grants beneficiaries. They further states that integration between the Department of Social Development and South African Social Security Agent will produce a positive impact on the administration of foster care grant at Richmond. Moreover, some of the foster child grant beneficiaries lost the benefit of having family due to the difficult behavior/attitude they demonstrated toward foster parents.

The first objective was to explore the effectiveness of foster child grant in Richmond Local Municipality. The findings of the study that was conducted at Richmond shows that FCG is effective in the changing lives of orphans, it gives hope to the vulnerable children. FCG also retain the dignity to its recipients. If foster parents are making an effort to fulfil these fundamental needs of the minor, the "foster child grant" is typically sufficient to meet the immediate needs of its beneficiaries.

The second objective of this study was to explore the extent to which beneficiaries of the foster child grant actually benefit from the grant. Based on the findings of the study that was conducted at Richmond, CFG plays a vital role in removing the foster children from poverty. The FCG ensure that the fundamental needs of the beneficiaries such as food, cloth and basic education met.

The third objective of this study was to examine the socio-economic standing of foster child grant beneficiaries. The interviews with Richmond social workers show that the most foster children in Richmond are in school. The majority of the foster children who are in school have their school needs met, such as the need for a school uniform. The fundamental needs of the foster children, such as food, shelter and clothing, are also met. Dhludhlu & Lombard (2017) stated that there needs to be embracement of Social development as a guiding paradigm for welfare and socioeconomic work practice in post-apartheid society as a reaction to social concerns like poverty, unemployment, and inequality in South Africa. FCG plays a vital role to meet the basic needs of its beneficiaries in Richmond. Based on the findings of this study the FCG beneficiaries are

attending school, having access to healthcare facilities, have clothes and shelter. Foster child grant recipients should all have the chance to engage in social skill-building recreational activities; some may even decide to make a career out of sports. By giving the foster child opportunity to interact with other kids through recreational activities, the foster parent can also aid in the development of a self-assured personality and assist the youngster understand about what they like and do not like.

The fourth objective of this study was to explore social workers' perceptions of the foster child grant, and their recommendations on how to improve the grant. The insight of social workers in FCG includes the better foster parent training, the use of computerized files, and the execution of Section 186 of the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005 (a court order that lasts until the foster child is 18 years old). In addition, the social workers perception in FCG administration is the employment of social auxiliary workers and link them to social workers. Some of the foster children are on chronic medication; children who are on chronic medication were born with sickness. The foster cases need to be categories and allocated to social workers per category, categories such as age of the beneficiaries or needs of the beneficiaries. The integration between the Department of Social Development and South African Social Security Agent will produce a positive impact on the administration of foster care grant at Richmond.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

The study results reveal that older parents who are frequently available to take care, and willing and capable of doing so, of orphans and children who are in need. The majority of these older foster parents are female. Most foster parents do not have jobs; therefore, they depend on the social grant to help them support their families. The loss of the foster child grants forces families and children back into an endless sequence of extreme poverty and increases the likelihood that they will not be able to retain stable means of support. In addition, the study reveals that the foster child grant is only valid for two years and after two year the child need to go back to children's court for the review. While the child is at court for review he or she may lose a day at school. Based on this study conducted in Richmond Local Municipality, the following suggestions are proposed:

- Migrating from foster care hard copy filing to digital filing;
- Foster parents should motivate their foster children to engage in recreational activities, particularly sports, as this will aid in their growth and development;

- Implementation of Section 186 of the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005 (a court order that lasts until the foster child is 18 years old), by Richmond Children's court's.

#### **5.4 Limitations and Areas for Future Research**

The research is constrained by a variety of issues that make it difficult for the FCG beneficiaries to directly participate in the study. Involving the FCG beneficiaries in the study may result in getting more information about the main effects of foster care grants on beneficiaries. Limitations of the study conducted at Richmond Local Municipality result in the following future areas of research:

- A study that will interview the FCG beneficiaries in order to examine the effectiveness of foster care grants. Interviewing the beneficiaries will give the insight of the FCG recipients.
- A study that will interview the foster parents in order to examine the effectiveness of foster care grants. Interviewing the caregivers/foster parents will outline the challenges that are faced by caregivers in raising orphans and may result in recommendations to improve the grant system.

#### **5.5 Conclusion**

The literature review demonstrated the importance of administering foster child grants for children in need. The proper management and administration for foster child grant can lessen the poverty faced by orphans in South Africa. The “social security” community relies on social grants; as social security is some families’ sole source of income. In most cases, the grant is adequate to meet the basic needs of the beneficiary, if caregivers are trying to meet the basic needs of the child. The grant authorized by the DSD and administered by SASSA.

The research methodology employed in this study is mixed methods research, which favors in-depth investigation. A total purposive sample of 13 (out of 18) social workers was utilized as of information of this study. The data collection tools used in this study included a semi-structured schedule interview, which aided the research in conducting one-on-one interviews. Secondary data, in the form of foster care registries, was also used to collect data for this study. All relevant ethical considerations were observed during the data collection phase.

If foster parents are making an effort to fulfil these fundamental needs of the minor, the “foster child grant” is typically sufficient to meet the immediate needs of its beneficiaries. Social workers contend, however, that the grant should be increased in order to pay for more products, such as education, and savings towards future education, which is essential to guaranteeing these children a decent future. Social workers want foster children to have bright futures and pursue higher education, just like other caregivers do. Every foster parent owes it to their foster child to make an investment in their future. Foster child grant recipients should all have the chance to engage in social skill-building recreational activities; some may even decide to make a career out of sports. By giving the foster child opportunity to interact with other kids through recreational activities, the foster parent can also aid in the development of a self-assured personality and assist the youngster understand about what they like and don't like. The foster child grant was created to help underprivileged kids who have been given to foster parents by the Children's Court with their necessities provided for. Therefore, it is important to assess how the foster child grant will affect the beneficiaries' socioeconomic situation as well as the lives of foster children.

Social workers must continue to give services to foster children. Social workers must consistently check to see if the foster parents are meeting the needs of the children, they are caring for them. The foster child's physical and mental growth depends on the social worker and foster parent having a positive working relationship. The study findings also shows that women make up the majority of persons who are available to take care of orphans and other children in need and are competent in doing so, with men making 6.9% of foster parents and carers. Foster parent/caregivers play a crucial role in the development of foster children; social workers' insights into the administration of foster child grants make it abundantly clear that foster parent/caregiver trainings are also essential to the development of the foster child.

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## Appendix A: Interview Questions



### UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP WESTVILLE CAMPUS

#### Examining the effectiveness of foster care grant in South Africa: A case study of Richmond

#### Interview Questions

Name of the interviewer	
Location of the respondent	
Date of the interview	
Questionnaire number	

#### Demographic Information

1. Please provide the following information about yourself

Demographic Variable	Response
Gender	
Age	
Educational level	
How long have you been working with recipients of the foster care grant?	
What is your current work position/portfolio, and the duration in your current position?	Work position or portfolio: Duration:
What is your case load?	

#### Interview Questions

1. What are the typical socio-economic profiles of the foster care beneficiaries (recipients)?
2. What criteria do you use to select foster parents?

3. What are your expectations from foster parents?
4. How often do you monitor foster child placements?
5. How do you ensure that foster care beneficiaries actually benefit from the grant?
6. From your experience, do you think foster child grant is improving the lives of the beneficiaries and removing them from poverty? Please explain in detail.
7. Is the present monthly rand value of the foster child grant sufficient? What amount (monthly Rand value) would be ideal for the foster child grant?
8. What do you think can be done to minimize the foster child backlog (lapsing of court orders)?
9. Do you have any further recommendations that may improve the administration and effectiveness of the foster child grants?

## Appendix B: Interview Schedule

### Interview Schedule

#### Examining the effectiveness of foster child grant in South Africa:

#### A case study of Richmond

##### 1. Opening

- My name is Musawenkosi Blose, you may call me Musa. I am the researcher for the abovementioned research project.
- For the purpose of this interview, I would like to ask you some questions about your experience with the foster care programme.
- I hope to use this information to gather your perceptions of and recommendations concerning the foster care programme.
- The interview should take approximately 20 minutes. Are you available to respond to any questions at this time?

##### 2. Body

###### A. General demographic information about the interviewee

Demographic Variable	Response
Gender	
Age	
Educational level	
How long have you been working with recipients of the foster care grant?	
What is your current work position/portfolio, and the duration in your current position?	Work position or portfolio: Duration:
What is your case load?	

###### B. Interview questions

1. What are the typical socio-economic profiles of the foster care beneficiaries (recipients)?
2. What criteria do you use to select foster parents?
3. What are your expectations from foster parents?
4. How often do you monitor foster care placements?

5. How do you ensure that foster care beneficiaries actually benefit from the grant?
6. From your experience, do you think the foster child grant is improving the lives of the beneficiaries and removing them from poverty? Please explain in detail.
7. Is the present monthly rand value of the foster care grant sufficient? What amount (monthly Rand value) would be ideal for the foster care grant?
8. What do you think can be done to minimize the foster care backlog (lapsing of court orders)?
9. Do you have any further recommendations that may improve the administration and effectiveness of foster care grants?

### 3. Closing

- I appreciate the time you dedicated to this interview.
- Is there anything else you think would be helpful for me to know?
- I should have all the information I need.
- Would it be fine if I call you after this session, should I have any questions?
- Thanks again.

## Appendix C: Informed Consent

# UKZN HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (HSSREC)

## APPLICATION FOR ETHICS APPROVAL For research with human participants

### INFORMED CONSENT RESOURCE TEMPLATE

#### Information Sheet and Consent to Participate in Research

Date: 22 August 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Musawenkosi Blose. I am enrolled for a Master of Commerce Leadership Studies (MCLS) degree at the Graduate School of Business and Leadership at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

You are being invited to consider participation in my masters research entitled: *Examining the effectiveness of the foster child grant in South Africa: A case study of Richmond*. The aim and purpose of this research is to examine the effectiveness of the foster child grant through a case study of the Richmond Local Municipality in South Africa. The study is expected to enrol 18 interviewees who are directly involved in the administration of the foster child grant. The research will be conducted virtually, preferably using Zoom, but other platforms can also be used to accommodate the participants. Should you choose to enrol and remain in the study, the duration of your participation is expected to be a maximum of 20 minutes.

This study will provide no direct benefits to participants.

This study has been ethically reviewed and approved by the UKZN Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (Protocol reference number HSSREC/00004874/2022).

In the event of any problems, concerns and/or questions you may have, please contact the researcher at [217045012@stu.ukzn.ac.za](mailto:217045012@stu.ukzn.ac.za) or [REDACTED]. You may also contact the UKZN Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee, contact details as follows:

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION  
Research Office, Westville Campus  
Govan Mbeki Building  
Private Bag X 54001

Durban  
4000  
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa  
Tel: 27 31 2604557- Fax: 27 31 2604609  
Email: [HSSREC@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:HSSREC@ukzn.ac.za)

Participation in this research is voluntary and, as such, participants may withdraw their participation at any point during the course of the study. In the event of refusal/withdrawal of participation, participants will not incur any penalties or loss of treatment, or any other benefit to which they are normally entitled. There will be no consequence, or potential consequence, for any participant who elects to withdraw from the study. Any participant who decides to withdraw from the study should make their intention to discontinue their participation in the study in writing, and send written notification of withdrawal of participation to the researcher using the contact details.

There will be no cost incurred by the participant as a result of their participation in this study. The confidentiality of the participant will be maintained throughout the study, and the data obtained during the course of this study will be only used for the purpose of the study.

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## CONSENT

I (Name \_\_\_\_\_) have been informed about the study entitled *Examining the effectiveness of the foster child grant in South Africa: A case study of Richmond* by Musawenkosi Blose

I understand the purpose and procedures of the study, which uses interviews to examine the effectiveness of the foster child grant through a case study of the Richmond Local Municipality, South Africa.

I have been given an opportunity to answer questions about the study and have had answers to my satisfaction.

I declare that my participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and that I may withdraw at any time.

If I have any further questions, concerns and/or queries related to the study, I understand that I may contact the researcher at [21704512@stu.ukzn.ac.za](mailto:21704512@stu.ukzn.ac.za) or \_\_\_\_\_

If I have any questions or concerns about my rights as a study participant, or if I am concerned about any aspect of the study or the researcher, then I may contact:

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION  
Research Office, Westville Campus  
Govan Mbeki Building  
Private Bag X 54001  
Durban  
4000  
KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA  
Tel: 27 31 2604557 - Fax: 27 31 2604609  
Email: [HSSREC@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:HSSREC@ukzn.ac.za)

I hereby provide consent to:

Audio-record my interview    YES / NO

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Participant**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**