

## **Kinship Care- Relatives Caring for Children**

Kinship Care can be a temporary or permanent arrangement in which a relative or any non-relative adult who has a long-standing relationship or bond with the child and/or family has taken over the full-time, substitute care of a child whose parents are unable or unwilling to do so.

When a child is removed from his or her home, caseworkers may try to place the child with a family member or close family friend. It represents the most desirable out-of-home placement option for children who cannot live with their parents. Kinship care offers family stability and preservation, allowing the child to maintain a sense of belonging and by enhancing the child's ability to identify with family culture and traditions.

### **Financial Assistance**

#### Kinship Support Program (KSP)

The purpose of the Kinship Support (KSP) program is to provide payments to eligible kinship caregivers who care for children who are placed in their home. The payments will be provided for several months, to allow time for the caregiver to become certified as a foster parent if they choose. Once certified, the caregiver will receive foster care per diem payments for the child placed in their care.

Kinship caregivers are eligible for KSP payments when:

The child is in temporary, permanent, or legal custody of the public children services agency (PCSA);

The PCSA places the child in the home of the kinship caregiver, as a kinship placement;

The kinship caregiver is not already certified as a foster caregiver.

As of January 2021, the eligible kinship caregivers will initially receive a payment of \$10.20 per day per child. Kinship caregivers will receive the KSP payments until they are certified foster parents, until the child is no longer placed in the home, or for not more than nine months if the child was placed in your home before December 29, 2020 for between December 29, 2020 and September 29, 2021. If the child is placed after September 30, 2021, no more than six months. For more information, contact Amy Kordek at 330-661-0821 or speak with your caseworker.

#### Kinship Permanency Incentive Program (KPI)

The Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI) program provides temporary financial support for minor children in the legal and physical custody of grandparents, relatives, or other kinship caregivers. Eligible kinship caregivers will receive an initial payment to help defray the costs of initial placement and may receive subsequent payments at six-month intervals to support the stability of the child's placement in the home. The maximum incentive amount may not exceed eight payments. Participation does not preclude these families from also receiving child-only Ohio Works First benefits.

To be eligible for the KPI program:

A court must have awarded the kinship caregiver legal custody or guardianship of the child on or after July 1, 2005.

A public children services agency must have conducted a home assessment and approved the child's placement.

The gross income of the caregiver's family, including the child, may not exceed 300% of the federal poverty guidelines.

From our website, you can download and complete a copy of the Application for Kinship Permanency Incentive and submit it with supporting documents to Amy Kordek at 330-661-0821 or via e-mail at [Amy.Kordek@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Amy.Kordek@jfs.ohio.gov). Click here for the application.

#### Ohio Works First (OWF)

Kinship caregivers and children in their care can apply for the monthly cash assistance through the Ohio Works First (OWF) program. To be eligible for OWF, you must be related by blood or marriage, or be a legal guardian or custodian to the children in your care.

<http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/num/JFS07200/pdf/>

#### Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator Program (OhioKAN)

OhioKAN is a statewide, flexible, and responsive kinship and adoption navigator program designed to assist children, caregivers, and families. OhioKAN works with families where they are to provide them with the resources they need to thrive. If you have questions about caring for your kinship children, you can contact OhioKAN at 1-844-OhioKan (644-6526) or visit the website at [ohiokan.jfs.ohio.gov](http://ohiokan.jfs.ohio.gov).

#### Ohio Resource Guide

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services publishes an extensive guidebook for kinship families called Ohio Resource Guide for Relatives Caring for Children. To obtain a copy, call 1-866-886-3537 (option 4) or visit [jfs.ohio.gov/form08146](http://jfs.ohio.gov/form08146).