

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Programs Supporting Kinship Caregivers



Programs available through the ODJFS Office of Families and Children

Program Name	Kinship Support Program (KSP)	Kinship Permanency Incentive Program (KPIP)	Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator Program (OhioKAN)
Description	KSP provides financial payments to eligible kinship caregivers for the placement of children in their homes.	KPIP provides a limited number of incentive payments to families caring for kin.	OhioKAN is a statewide, flexible, and responsive kinship and adoption navigator program designed to assist children, caregivers, and families. Navigators help connect families to resources to meet their individualized needs.
Who is Eligible?	Kinship caregivers as defined in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 5101.85.	Kinship caregivers, as defined in ORC 5101.85, with legal (permanent) custody or guardianship.	Kinship caregivers as defined in ORC 5101.85 and post-adoptive families of all types, including international, infant, and public adoptions.
Eligibility Requirements	The child placed in the home is in the temporary, permanent, or legal custody of a public children services agency (PCSA) or Title IV-E agency. The agency must complete and approve a kinship home assessment pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5101:2-42-18 and enter it into SACWIS.	Caregivers' family income must not exceed 300% of the federal poverty guideline, and the county PCSA must have an approved kinship home assessment.	Families must have a kinship or adopted child living in their home and live in Ohio.
When Can the Program be Accessed?	When a child in PCSA or Title IV-E custody is placed in a kinship caregiver's home.	After a court order grants legal custody or guardianship to the kinship caregiver. A temporary order is not sufficient.	When a child begins living in the home of a kinship caregiver or when an adoption is finalized.
Application Requirements	None	The kinship caregiver must submit an Application for Kinship Permanency Incentive (JFS 01501), verification of custody or guardianship, and verification of income. The PCSA must complete and approve a kinship home assessment.	No application is required. During a family's first call to OhioKAN, a brief eligibility and needs assessment will be completed.
Amount of Incentive/ Payment and Duration	The financial payments are based on a set rate per child per day. Payments can be received monthly for up to 6 months or until the first of the following occurs: 1. The caregiver obtains foster care certification. 2. The child is no longer placed in the home.	Eligible kinship caregivers will receive an initial payment (currently \$525) to help defray the costs of the initial placement. They may receive subsequent payments (currently \$300 at six-month intervals) to support the stability of the child's placement in the home. The incentive may not exceed eight payments.	No payments are available. In some regions, short-term flexible funds may be available. There are no time limits on service. Families can work with their navigator as long as needed.
Additional Information	Payments are available to the extent that funds are available.	The incentive amount is subject to change. At the beginning of each state fiscal year, ODJFS publishes a procedure letter for PCSAs identifying the amounts.	

Programs available through the ODJFS Office of Families and Children Cont.

Program Name	Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KGAP)	Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program Connections to Twenty-One (KGAP C21)
Description	KGAP is available to kinship caregivers who become legal custodians or guardians after caring for child(ren) at least six consecutive months as foster parent(s).	The KGAP C21 program provides kinship guardianship assistance payments for young adults aged 18 but not yet 21 who meet eligibility requirements.
Who is Eligible?	Kinship foster parents who obtain legal custody or guardianship.	Young adults committed to the legal custody or guardianship of a kinship caregiver at the age of 16 or 17 who received KGAP payments, with a Federal KGAP Agreement finalized at the age of 16 or 17, and who meet requirements of education, employment or disability.
Eligibility Requirements	The kinship caregiver must have committed to caring for the child on a permanent basis and signed a KGAP agreement.	Legal custody or guardianship of young adult must have been obtained at the age of 16 or 17, a Federal KGAP Agreement effective at the age of 16 or 17, proof of kinship caregiver support, and the young adult meets one of five eligibility criteria listed in rule 5101:2-55-02(A)(3) of the Ohio Administrative Code.
When Can the Program be Accessed?	The program is expected to begin in 2023. Once it is available, kinship foster parents may become eligible after a court order grants them legal custody or guardianship of the child.	The program is expected to begin in 2023. Once it is available, young adults over the age of 18 but not yet 21 who meet all eligibility requirements can access the program.
Application Requirements	An application will be required prior to the court order granting the kinship foster parent legal custody or guardianship of the child.	A KGAP C21 application, proof of kinship caregiver support, copy of prior Federal KGAP Agreement and proof of young adult eligibility will be required to receive benefits from this program when the child attains the age of 18.
Amount of Incentive/ Payment and Duration	The program is under development and is expected to have a soft rollout in 2022.	The program is under development and is expected to become available in 2023.
Additional Information	KGAP will be available for Title IV-E eligible children through the Federal KGAP program and all other eligible children through the State KGAP Program. More information will be provided when rules and forms have been finalized.	The program is under development and is expected to become available in 2023.

Programs available through the ODJFS Office of Family Assistance

Program Name	Kinship Caregiver Program (KCP)	Ohio Works First (OWF)	Ohio Works First (OWF) - Child Only Benefit
Description	KCP provides family stabilization and caregiving services for kinship caregivers. Stabilization funding can help pay for incidental costs incurred when beginning to care for a child unexpectedly. Caregiving funding can be provided as a reimbursement for child caring services.	OWF is the financial assistance portion of the state's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. It provides time-limited cash benefits to eligible low-income families.	OWF is the financial portion of the state's TANF program.
Who is Eligible?	Kinship caregivers as defined in OAC 5101:1-24-30, including caregivers with legal custody or guardianship.	Families with children that meet a "gross monthly income test" may be eligible. Women who are at least six months pregnant may be eligible for individual assistance even if they do not have other minor children in the home.	Specified relatives, as defined in ORC 5107.02, and caregivers with legal custody/guardianship.
Eligibility Requirements	For stabilization services, the child's gross income must be less than 200% of the poverty level. For caregiving services, the household's gross income must be less than 200% of the federal poverty level. In addition, the caregiver must participate in one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid full-time or part-time employment, • A training or education activity, • One or more work activities as a condition of eligibility for the Ohio Works First or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. 	The household must include one or more children, a parent, or a specified relative. Most adults and minor heads of household must participate in work activities and related requirements.	For the OWF Child Only Benefit, the assistance group includes only the child residing with a specified relative, legal custodian, or legal guardian caregiver.
When Can the Program be Accessed?	When the child is placed in the eligible kinship caregiver's home or when a court grants legal custody or guardianship to the caregiver.	After the application is approved.	When the child is placed in the specified relative's home or when a court grants legal custody or guardianship of the child to the caregiver.
Application Requirements	Families must apply through their county agency. In some counties, the JFS agency accepts applications; in others, the PCSA accepts applications.	Families must apply through their JFS county agency.	Families must apply through their JFS county agency.
Amount of Incentive/ Payment and Duration	The amount varies by county. Stabilization services can be used for up to 4 months. The allowed duration of caregiving services varies by county.	The amount of assistance varies, depending on the household. Cash benefits are available for up to 36 months.	The amount of assistance depends on the assistance group, including the number of children receiving benefits. OWF Child Only Benefits are available until the child leaves the home, is no longer considered a child, or there is a change in circumstance.
Additional Information	Programs vary by county, and are detailed in each county's Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Plan.	Benefits are issued through the Ohio EPPICard or directly into a checking or savings account.	



Ohio | Department of
Job and Family Services

Mike DeWine, Governor
State of Ohio

Matt Damschroder, Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

JFS 08072 (Rev. 3/2022)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Caregiver Permanency Options



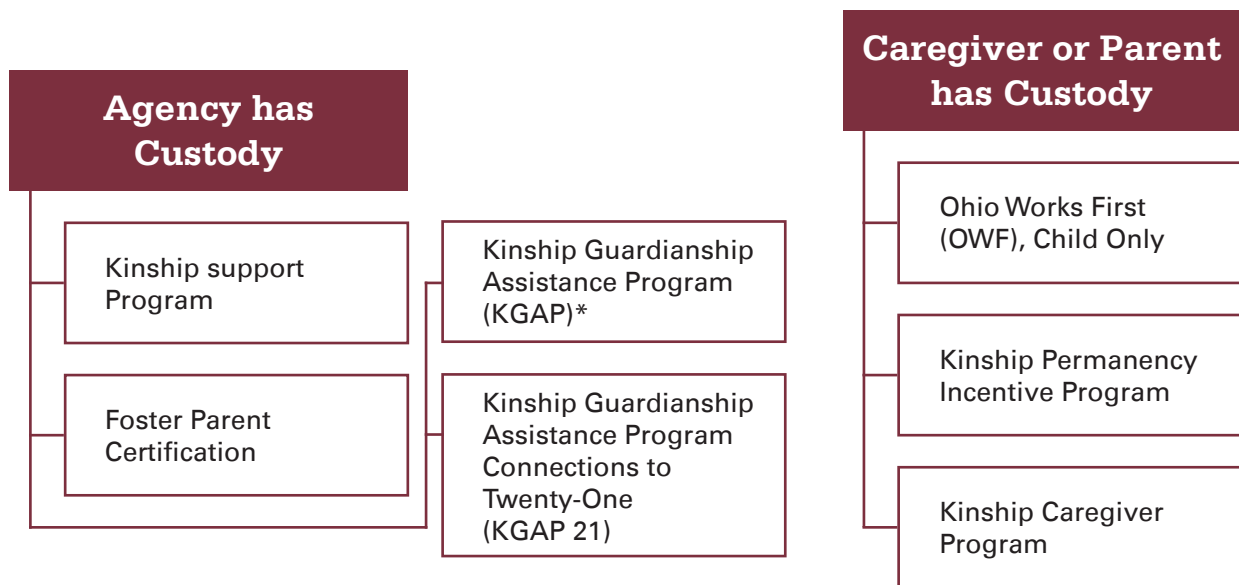
Department of
Job and Family Services

Caregiver Permanency Options

Supports for Kinship Caregivers Working with a Public Children Services Agency

When a child must be removed from their home, the local children services agency will first try to find a relative or close family friend to care for them. These individuals are called kinship caregivers. Kinship caregivers can include grandparents, other relatives by blood or adoption, a non-relative who has a relationship with the child or family (such as a neighbor, teacher, or friend), or a parent who has legal custody of the child's sibling. When a kinship home has been identified, the children services agency may take custody of the child, they may give custody of the child to the kinship caregiver, or the parent or caregiver the child was removed from may retain custody. If you are a kinship caregiver, it's important to know who has custody of the child, as this will affect what supports are available to you. If you are unsure who has custody, speak with the caseworker assigned to your family.

Below is an overview of the financial supports that may be available to you once a child is placed in your home:



Kinship Support Program

If the local children services agency has custody of the child and places the child with you as a kinship caregiver, you will automatically be enrolled in the Kinship Support Program. This program provides financial support for up to six months while the agency holds custody. You may be eligible for payments if the agency holds temporary, permanent, or legal custody of the child and if the child resides in your home. While you receive these payments, if you would like, you can work to become certified as a foster family.

All kinship caregivers can call the Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator Program at 1-844-OhioKAN (644-6526) or visit ohiokan.jfs.ohio.gov to talk to a navigator who can help you locate additional resources.

Kinship Placement to Permanency Options

Kinship Support Program

- Monthly financial payments for each child placed
- Available for up to 6 months until the caregiver becomes a foster parent or the child leaves the home.

Foster Parent Certification

- Kinship caregivers can have some certification requirements waived if there is no safety issue.
- Once certified, receive a monthly per diem and ongoing support.

Kinship Guardianship Assistance (Available in 2023)*

- A relative foster parent may be eligible for ongoing financial support if legal custody or guardianship is granted by a court.
- The child must have lived in the home for 6 months, and an application must be completed.

Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program Connections to Twenty-One (Available in 2023)*

- Provides kinship guardianship assistance payments for young adults aged 18 but not yet 21;
- Who were committed to the legal custody of a kinship caregiver at the age of 16 or 17;
- Who received KGAP payments through a Federal KGAP Agreement finalized at the age of 16 or 17; and
- Who meet education, employment or disability criteria.

Adoption Assistance

- If the children services agency has permanent custody of the child, the relative may be eligible to adopt.
- Adoption subsidies are available for children with special needs. The benefits may include financial assistance and/or a Medicaid card.
- To find out more about becoming an adoptive parent and available subsidies, speak with your local children services agency.

If the local children services agency has not taken custody of the child, and the child lives with a relative, kinship caregivers may have the following options:

Ohio Works First Child-Only Assistance

Financial support for kinship caregivers, including legal custodians and guardians.

Application for benefits is available at the county department of job and family services.

Kinship Caregiver Program

Short-term family stabilization and caregiving services for kinship caregivers.

Caregiver income must be below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Application for benefits is available at the county department of job and family services.

Kinship Permanency Incentive Program

Provides up to eight payments to kinship caregivers, who are legal custodians and guardians.

Caregiver income must be below 300% of the federal poverty level.

Application is available at the local children services agency.



Ohio | Department of
Job and Family Services

Mike DeWine, Governor
State of Ohio

Matt Damschroder, Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

JFS 08073 (Rev. 3/2022)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
A proud partner of the American Job Center Network.