

Let's Talk About Benefits

Information Session for Kinship Families





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Meet OhioKAN's Benefit Coordinators

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Kinship and Public Benefits

- Kinship Support Program (KSP)
- Kinship Permanency Incentive Program (KPIP)
- Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KGAP) (new*)
- Ohio Works First (child only)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Childcare Options

Kinship Support Program (KSP)

- Provides financial payments to eligible kinship caregivers for the placement of children in their homes.
- **Eligibility**
 - "**Kinship caregiver**" is anyone who is eighteen years of age or older and is caring for a child in place of the child's parents.
 - Can be related by blood or nonrelative (ex: family friend, neighbor, teacher).
 - 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 and enter it into the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS).
 - No income eligibility requirement.



Accessing KSP & Payment

When a child in PCSA or Title IV-E custody is placed in a kinship caregiver's home.

No application needed to receive this payment. You do not need to apply for KSP payments.

Payments are based on a set rate per child per day.

- Currently, \$11.74 per child per day.

Payments will be received monthly **for up to 6 months** or until the first of the following occurs:

- You obtain foster care certification
- The child is no longer placed in your home
- To the extent that funds are available

Kinship Permanency Incentive Program (KPIP)

Provides a limited number of incentive payments to families caring for kin.

Eligibility

- Kinship caregivers (related or nonrelative) with **legal custody or guardianship**.
- Caregivers' **family income** must not exceed 300% of the federal poverty guideline.

The county Public Children's Service Agency (PCSA) must have an approved kinship home assessment.

Completed background check.

Accessing KPIP & Payment

- After a court order grants legal custody or guardianship to the kinship caregiver. A temporary custody order, grandparent POA, or caretaker affidavit is not sufficient.
- The kinship caregiver must submit to their local children service agency:
 - [Application for Kinship Permanency Incentive \(JFS 01501\)](#).
 - Verification of custody or guardianship, and verification of income.
- Eligible kinship caregivers will receive an initial payment (currently \$525) to help defray the costs of the initial placement.
- You 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**.

Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program



Provides financial payments to eligible kinship caregivers who have been granted legal custody or guardianship of a child that was previously in the custody of a public children services agency (PCSA).



3 Programs – Federal, State, Connections to 21 (KGAP C21)



Ongoing financial support



Medicaid support – federal & C21



Federal and state KGAP- hybrid programs run by PCSA and ODJFS



ODJFS solely administers KGAP C21 and the Non-recurring expenses*

Child's Eligibility

Child is US citizen / legal resident.

The child was removed voluntarily or by the court and it was found that it was not in the best interest for the child to stay with bio parents.

Child has a strong attachment to kin caregiver.

The child is placed with kin as a foster child by a PCSA who holds custody.

- Must be in kins home as a foster child for 6 months.

Reunification/adoption not an option.

Guardianship/custody granted in US.

If 14 or older, the child must be consulted about KGAP.

Sibling of a child with KGAP is also eligible.

Caregiver Requirements

- Become a certified foster caregiver/home.
 - Cared for an eligible child as a foster parent for at least 6 months.
- Strong commitment to the child.
- Must name a primary successor guardian.
- KGAP agreement signed PRIOR to guardianship/custody date.
- Must have a court order granting custody/guardianship.
- Can be outside Ohio.



KGAP Differences

Federal KGAP

- Child is IV-E eligible
- Child is categorically eligible for Medicaid
- Annual redetermination by Office of Families and Children
- Ends at 18, or if eligible, 21

State KGAP

- Child is NOT IV-E eligible
- Family required to apply for OWF with Medicaid
- OWF determination by Office of Family Assistance
- Ends at 18 or end of high school if later, or eligible until 21


KGAP Payments

Negotiated between ODJFS and kin caregiver

No income test/ Child's SSI is considered

Payment is to be 80% of foster care per diem

- Unless that amount is less than \$350
- Then payment would be \$350 or per diem rate, whichever is lower
- Example: \$1200 monthly foster care per diem =\$960
KGAP Payment (80% of 1200)



Ohio Works First (OWF)

- Ohio Works First is the financial assistance portion of the state's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. It provides child-only and time-limited cash benefits to financially eligible families.
- **Eligibility**
 - **"Specified relative"** is anyone who is eighteen years of age or older related by blood or adoption (can have legal custody or guardianship, but not required) and is caring for a child in place of the child's parents.
 - Ex: Grandparents, aunt, uncle, siblings, etc.
 - Income threshold cannot exceed 50% of the federal poverty guideline of an assistance group.
- **"Assistance group"** means a group of individuals treated as a unit for purposes of determining eligibility for and the amount of assistance provided under Ohio works first.
 - For the OWF child only benefit, the assistance group includes only the child(ren) residing with a specified relative, legal custodian, or legal guardian caregiver.

Eligibility

Ohio Works First (OWF)

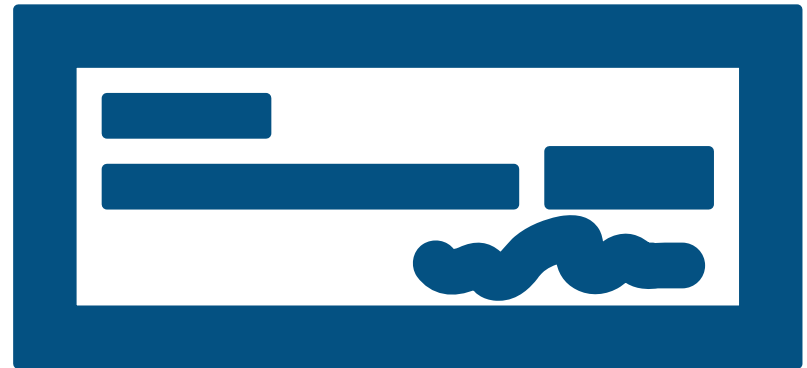
- Ohio resident
- Responsible for child under 19 years
- Meets income requirements
- Unemployed or underemployed
- Women at least 6 months pregnant
- Most adults and heads of household must participate in work activities
- Self-sufficiency contract

Child-Only OWF

- Ohio resident
- Minor children living with eligible caregiver other than their parents
- Amount of assistance depends on:
 - Number of children in household
 - How much money child is receiving
- Caregiver's income is not considered for eligibility

Accessing OWF & Payment

- Families must apply through their JFS county agency using the [Ohio Benefits Portal](#), [completing a paper application](#), or giving them a call.
- 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.
 - Benefits are issued through the [Way2Go Card](#).





Supplemental Nutrition Security Program (SNAP)

- The Ohio Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of families so they can purchase healthy food.
- **Eligibility**
 - Ohio resident
 - Households that meet income, expenses, and resource eligibility requirements (a household may consist of an individual or a group of individuals who live together and usually prepare their food together).
 - Gross monthly income must be less than 130% of the federal poverty guidelines.
 - Exact eligibility guideline amounts differ based on family size.
 - Some households may qualify if they have incomes over the limit if someone in the household is an older adult or disabled.



Accessing SNAP & Payment

- Families must apply through their JFS county agency using the [Ohio Benefits Portal](#), [completing a paper application](#), or giving them a call.
- The amount of assistance varies, depending on the household.
- Electronic Benefits Transfer Card (EBT) - can be used like a debit card to purchase eligible food in authorized retail food stores.
- Families will receive a letter from their local CDJFS with instructions on when and how to recertify benefits.



Child Care Options

- **Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC):** Financial childcare assistance program that helps parent/caregivers who are working or in school pay for childcare.
- **Eligibility**
 - Must be working, in school, or job training
 - Gross household income cannot exceed 142% of the federal poverty guideline
 - Children up to age 13 or age 18 if the child has a special need.
- **Accessing PFCC**
 - Families must apply through their JFS county agency using the [Ohio Benefits Portal](#), [completing a paper application](#), or giving them a call.
 - Redeterminations occur every 12 months.

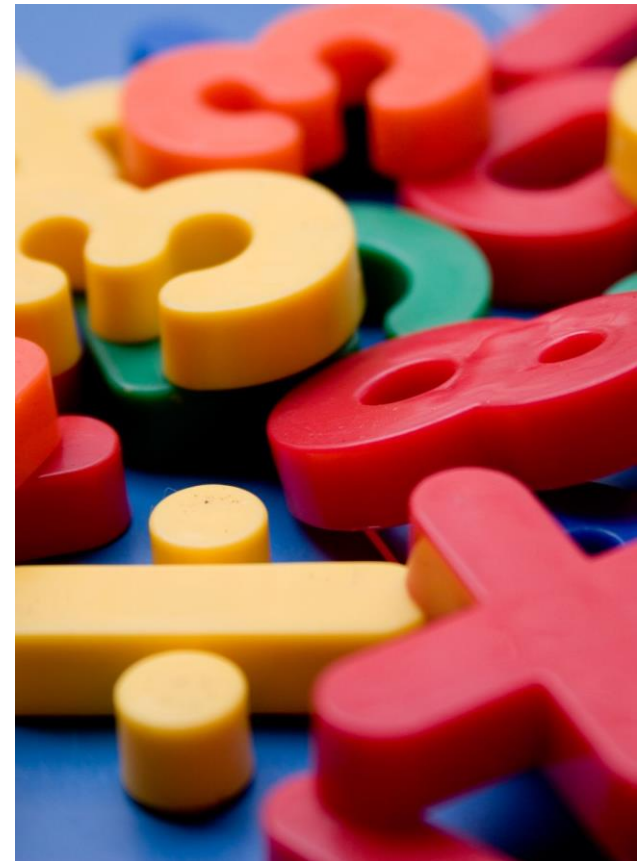


Child Care Options

- **Early / Head Start:** a federally funded school readiness program for children, prenatal to age 5. Head Start provides services to eligible children and families in the areas of early learning, health, and family well-being, while engaging parents and guardians as partners, every step of the way. Head Start includes preschool programs that serve children 3 – 5 years old, and Early Head Start programs for infants, toddlers, and pregnant women.
- **Eligibility**
 - Generally based on family income at or below the poverty level according to the Poverty Guidelines published by the federal government.
 - Children in foster care, **kinship children**, children experiencing homelessness, and children from families receiving public assistance (TANF or SSI) are eligible regardless of income.
- **Accessing Early / Head Start**
 - To apply for Head Start and Early Head Start, families should contact the program serving their community using the [Head Start Locator tool](#). Their local program will provide the required forms and answer questions. They will also tell families what documents they should provide when they apply.

Child Care Options

- **OhioACE (Afterschool Child Enrichment):** The Ohio Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) Educational Savings Account program provides qualifying families with a \$1,000 credit per child. These funds can be used to pay for a variety of educational activities designed to help accelerate learning for children.
- **Eligibility**
 - Any Ohio child ages 6 to 18 years old (who hasn't graduated from high school) who meets at least one of the conditions below:
 - **Residency:** Children residing in districts identified as having a high rate of chronic absenteeism or have one or more schools identified as EdChoice eligible qualify for an ACE Educational Savings Account.
 - **Income:** Children who reside in a household with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) at or below 400% of the federal poverty level based on the household's most recent federal income tax return qualify for an ACE Educational Savings Account. View the chart of qualifying income levels.
 - **Government Social Program Participation:** Children who reside in a household with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) at or below 400% of the federal poverty level based on the household's most recent federal income tax return qualify for an ACE Educational Savings Account.
- **Accessing OhioACE**
 - Creating an account on the [OhioACE website](#) using the [step-by-step guide](#) OR contacting their contact center at contact.center@education.ohio.gov or call (877) 644-6338





Adoption Subsidies & Grants

- Ohio Adoption Grant (new*)
- Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS)
- Title IV-E Adoption Assistance & Connections (AAC) to Age 21
- Nonrecurring Adoption Expense Subsidy
- State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy (SAMS)

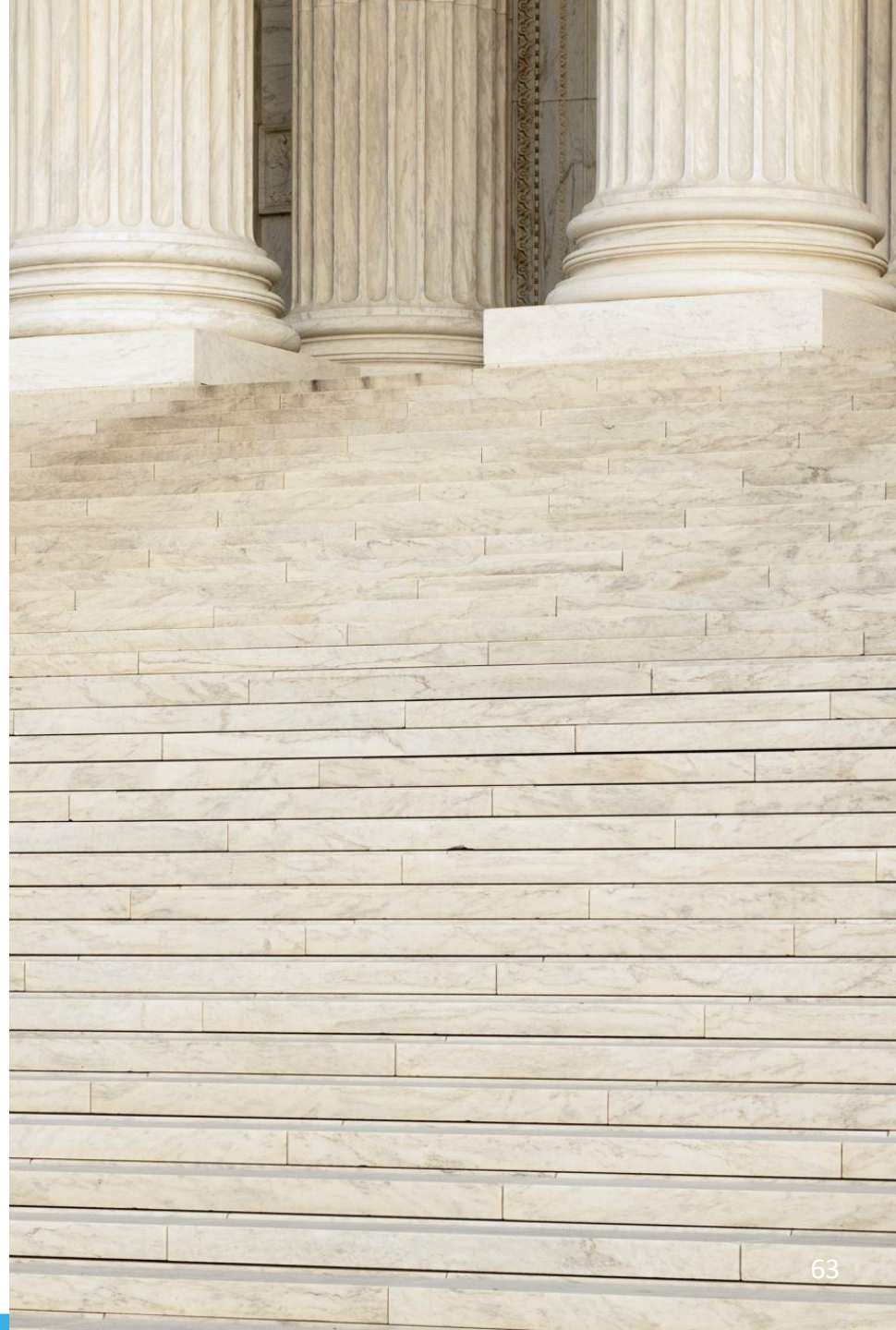
A small green seedling with several leaves is growing out of a crack in a dark, textured rock surface. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

Federal Adoption Subsidy Programs

- Concept of “special needs”
- Circumstances that prevent or delay a child from being placed into an adoptive home.
- This includes determining whether a specific factor or condition exists that would prevent the child from being placed with the adoptive parents if not for the adoption assistance.

Ohio Adoption Grant

- The Ohio Adoption Grant Program gives families the opportunity to apply for a one-time payment. The Ohio Adoption Grant Program was signed into law on January 6, 2023, by Governor DeWine as part of House Bill 45 of the 134th General Assembly.





Eligibility

- Families who adopted a child under the age of 18 on or after January 1, 2023.
- Families who are applying less than one year after the adoption became final.
- Families who live in Ohio at the time of the application.
- Stepparent adoptions are not eligible.



Supporting Documentation

- A certified copy of finalized adoption decree from the Court.
- Completed and signed IRS form W9 (for adoptive parent payee only).
- Two forms of identification for the adoptive parent who will be receiving payment (Photo ID, Social Security Card, Passport, etc.).
- If applicable, proof of foster placement prior to adoption.
- If applicable, an Ohio Adoption Grant Program Special Need Documentation (Form JFS 1058) completed and signed by a qualified professional.

Payments and Qualifying Time Period



Ohioans who adopt can apply for a \$10,000 one-time payment.

Those who adopt a child they've been fostering can apply for a \$15,000 one-time payment.

If the child has one or more special needs (as defined in the law) prior to the adoption finalization, the parent can apply for a one-time payment of \$20,000.

Adoptive families can apply for this grant once per adopted child.

When and How to Access Ohio Adoption Grant

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If applying online

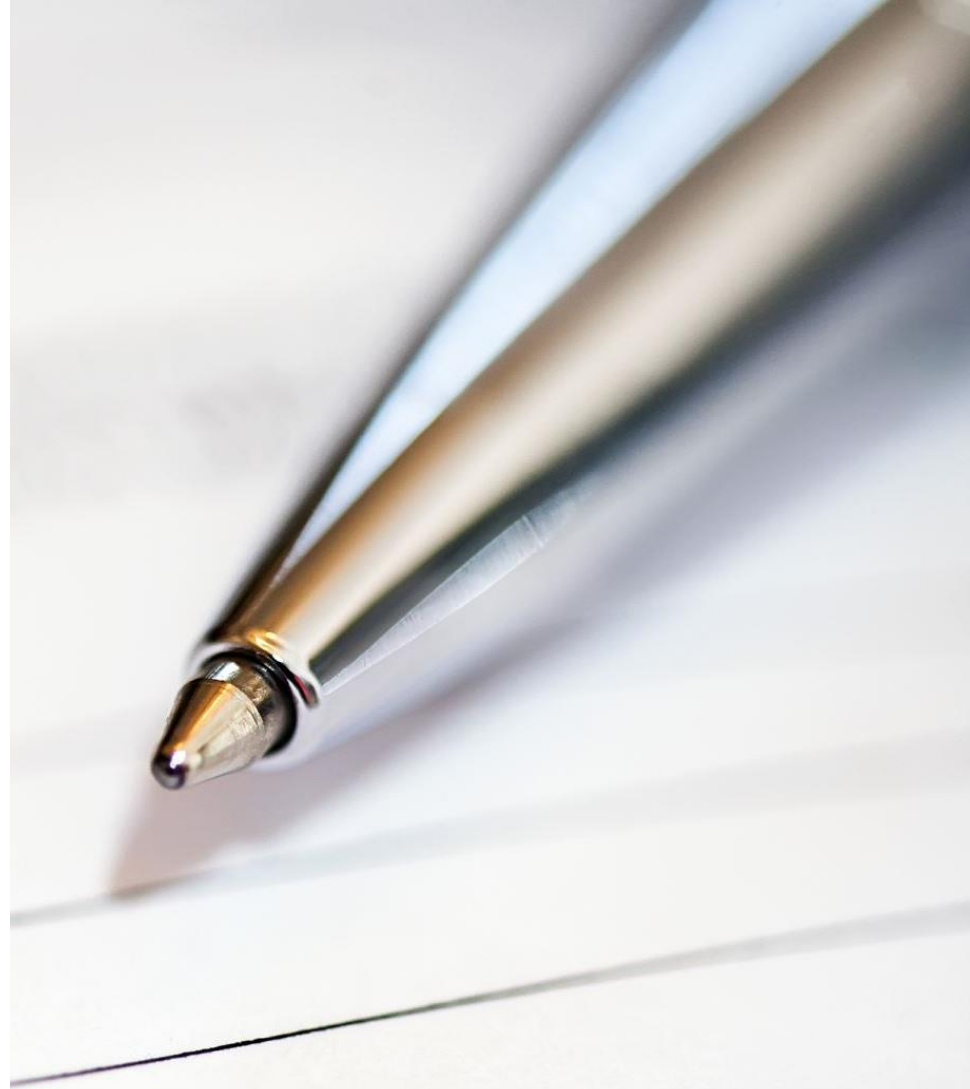
- The adoptive parent will need to create an account and follow the guidelines in the Ohio Adoption Grant Community User Guide. The user guide is a helpful tool that will walk the adoptive parent through the application process.

If families decide to apply without creating an online account

- Can print out, fill-in, and submit the completed application and documentation to OFC-Ohioadoptiongrant@jfs.ohio.gov.

Important Links for Accessing Ohio Adoption Grant

- [ODJFS Office of Families and Children website](#)
- [Ohio Adoption Grant Community User Guide](#)
- [Application for the Ohio Adoption Grant \(fill-in\)](#)
 - [Instructions for completing the application](#)
- [Special Needs Documentation](#)
 - [Instructions for completing the special needs documentation](#)
- [W9 Form \(for adoptive parent payee only\)](#)



Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS)

- PASSS is a unique subsidy designed to help Ohio families **after adoptions are finalized**.
- Available to all adoptive families, except for stepparent adoptions, regardless of the type of adoption.
 - International
 - Attorney
 - Public or private agency
- The child does not have to meet the federal or state definitions of special needs, which are more detailed than the PASSS definition of special needs.



What does PASSS cover?



Services not covered by other adoption subsidy programs, insurance programs, or Medicaid.

Medical services
Psychological services
Respite care



Maintenance costs of residential treatment programs



Does **not** cover educational/recreational services/activities solely for self-esteem.

Accessing PASSS & Payment

- At any time **after** the adoption has been finalized families can connect with OhioKAN!
- Families can visit our website for the application packet and information about documentation or contact us via phone.
- Payment
 - There is a limit of \$10,000 per child per state fiscal year (July 1 through June 30).
 - ODJFS makes final decision on approvals or denials.
 - If extraordinary circumstances exist, families can apply for an additional \$5,000 by connecting with us.
 - Not a maintenance program for monthly payments.
 - PASSS applications are approved based upon the availability of funds.

Title IV-E Adoption Assistance

Title IV-E Adoption Assistance provides financial assistance to families based on the child's special needs **at the time of the adoptive placement.**

Eligibility

Children who meet the definition of special needs.

Age and length of time spent in foster care is considered.

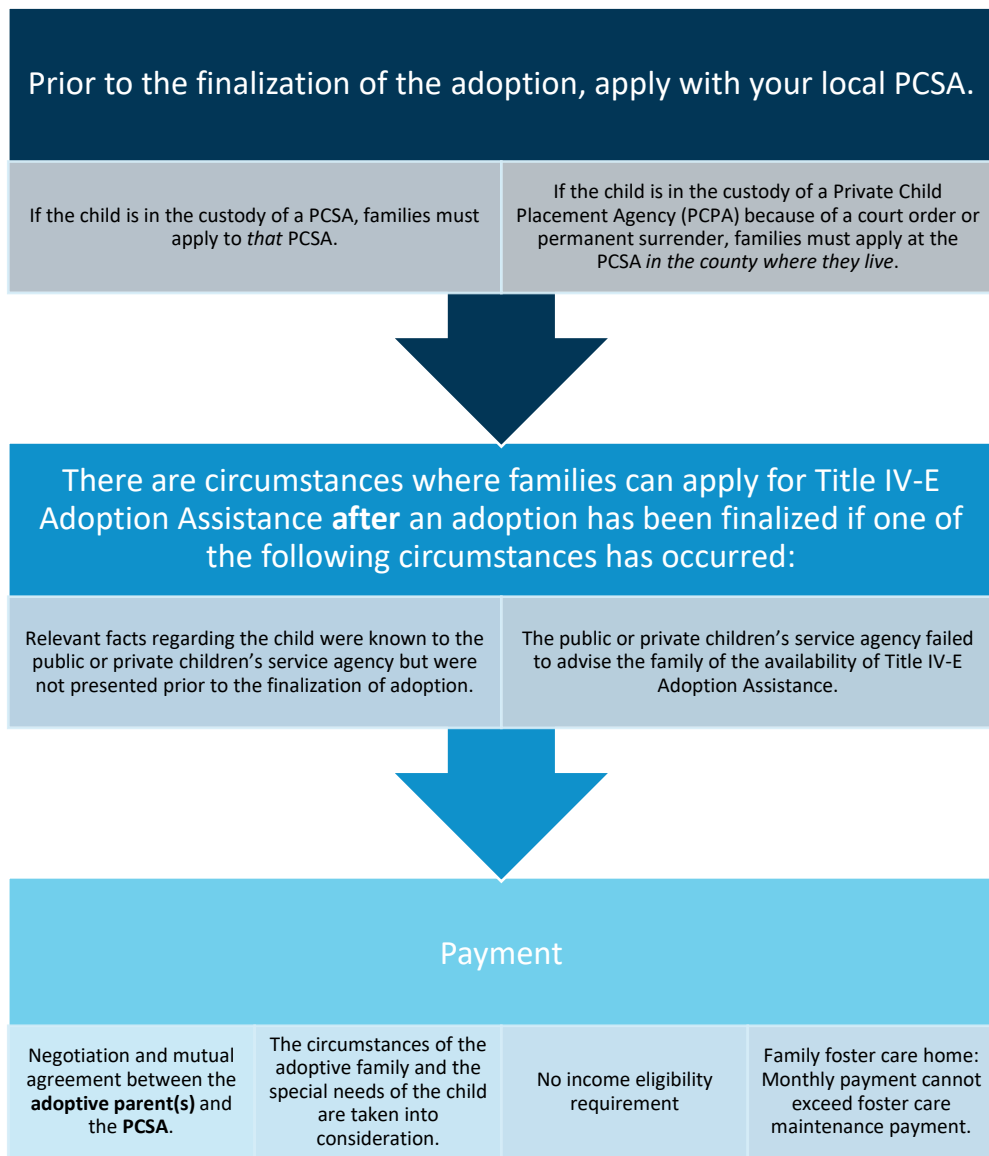
Previously in the permanent custody of a public or private children services agency.

*A child eligible for Supplemental Security Income is automatically eligible for this subsidy.

*Children adopted internationally are **not** eligible for this subsidy.

*Independent and open adoptions – possible, but unlikely

Accessing Adoption Assistance & Payment



Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Connections (AAC) to Age 21

AAC provides financial assistance to eligible families who adopt children at ages 16 or 17 and then continue to support them as they transition to adulthood.

Monthly payment and/or Medicaid insurance.

Support continues until young adult reaches age 21.



Eligibility

Have been in the permanent custody of an Ohio PCSA,	Have been 16 or 17 when the Adoption Assistance Agreement was signed,	Have been adopted before they turned 18,	Have adoptive parent(s) who are continuing their parental responsibility,	Not be enlisted in the military,	Not be married.
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Eligibility requirements for AAC continued

- Must meet at least **one of the following requirements:**
- Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential,
- Enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education,
- Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment,
- Employed for at least 80 hours a month, OR
- Incapable of doing any of the above activities due to a medical condition, as documented by a qualified practitioner.
- Eligibility determined every 6 months.



Accessing AAC & Payment

Can apply before or after an adoption has been finalized.

Email HELP-DESK-OCF@jfs.ohio.gov to request an application.

- Completed applications and corresponding documentation should be sent to the following address: ODJFS – OFC – AACP.O. Box 183204Columbus, Ohio 43218-3204

Payment

- Negotiation and mutual agreement between the **adoptive parent(s)** and the **state of Ohio**.
- The circumstances of the adoptive family and the needs of the adopted young child are taken into consideration.
- No income eligibility requirement
- Family foster care home: Monthly payment cannot exceed foster care maintenance payment.




Nonrecurring Adoption Expense Subsidy

- This program **provides payment or reimbursement** for nonrecurring expenses related to the adoption.
 - Nonrecurring adoption expenses are one-time expenses directly related to the legal **adoption of a child with special needs**.
 - Examples: Attorney's fees, court costs, transportation costs, and the reasonable costs of food and lodging, adoption home study, health examinations and reasonable and necessary adoption fees.
- **Eligibility**
 - Families who adopt children determined to have special needs.
 - The PCSA determines that the child cannot or should not be returned to the home of their birth parent(s).
 - The PCSA determines the prospective adoptive parent(s) would not be able to adopt the child without Nonrecurring Adoption Assistance.
 - No income requirement.
 - International adoptions are **not** eligible.

Accessing Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses Subsidy & Payment

Before an adoption has been finalized, submit completed Application for Reimbursement of Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses form to the PCSA.



Submit receipts to the agency within two years of the adoption's finalization.

Not to exceed \$1,000
per child.

State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy (SAMS)

Provides monthly financial assistance and Medicaid coverage to families based on the child's special needs **at the time of the adoptive placement.**

Eligibility

- Documentation from the PCSA that the child was placed for adoption by a PCPA or PCSA.
- Child meets at least one of the state's criteria for special needs.
- Documentation that the prospective adoptive parent(s) lack the economic resources to care for the child without financial assistance.
- **Gross family income must not exceed 120% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG).** Included in the family size count is the adoptive child.

If Title IV-E eligible, then **not** eligible for SAMS.*

International adoptions are also not eligible.*

Accessing SAMS & Payment

Before an adoption has been finalized.

Submit completed JFS 01613, “Application for State Adoption Subsidy,” to the PCSA.

Eligibility

- Family and PCSA negotiates monthly payments and/or Medicaid coverage.
- Redetermined every year.
 - Families receive written notice of the redetermination at least ninety days prior to the annual redetermination date.

Connect with OhioKAN!



Contact OhioKAN if
you have benefit
needs.

OhioKAN is a 100% free service for Ohio's kinship and adoptive families. Our OhioKAN Navigators are available to talk 1:1 about any questions you may have.

Call 1-844-OHIOKAN (1-844-644-6526) Mon - Fri 8:30am - 6:30pm.

- [OhioKAN - Kinship & Adoption Navigator](#)