



Public Children Services Association of Ohio

Crystal Ward Allen, Executive Director
510 E. Mound St., Suite 200 * Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-224-5802 * Fax 614-228-5150 * Email address: PcsaoCrystal@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.pcsao.org

Ohio's Kinship Permanency Incentive Program

Ohio's Biennial Budget (HB 66) established the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program. The new program was implemented January 1, 2006. This program will provide *financial support* for minor children in the legal and physical custody of grandparents, relatives, or other "kinship caregivers" (defined in Ohio as any relative or non-relative adult who has a long-standing relationship or bond with the child and/or family).

Eligible kin caregivers must have received judicial custody on or after July 1, 2005.

Eligibility requirements for Ohio's Kinship Permanency Incentive Program include:

- Child must be adjudicated by the juvenile court as being abused, neglected, dependent, or unruly
- **Court must have awarded legal custody or legal guardianship of the child to the grandparent, relative or other kinship caregiver on or after July 1, 2005**, based on the best interest of the child.
- Child must be considered "special needs" (same criteria as for adoption subsidies).
- A Public Children Services agency must have completed the Relative or Non-Relative Substitute Placement Approval Process (OAC 5101: 2-42-18), inclusive of a criminal background check, as well as completion of an application form.
- The gross income of the caregiver's family, including the child, may not exceed 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Other Program Specifics:

- Eligible families will receive **an initial payment of \$1,000 per child, followed by \$500 per child every six months thereafter for a total of 36 months (\$3,500 limit)**.
- Funding will come from Ohio's TANF funds in the amount of \$10 million per year.
- This program **does NOT preclude these families from receiving Child Only TANF benefits**, it is in addition to such benefits.
- This **program does NOT require the PCSA to have ever held custody of child**.
- Initially, this will be a reimbursement based program, utilizing a new web-based tool that will allow a 3-4 week turnaround from the time a PCSA reports payment to ODJFS, to the receipt of funds back to the PCSA. Eventually, SACWIS will be modified to allow a direct pay to families.
- The Kinship Permanency Incentive Program rule was finalized by JCARR on Oct. 24, 2005, OAC 5101:2-40-04.