

**As Reported by the Committee of Conference
Biennial Budget Kinship Permanency Incentive Program**

**126th General Assembly
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Am. Sub. H. B. No. 66

Sec. 5101.802. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Custodian," "guardian," and "minor child" have the same meanings as in section 5107.02 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Federal poverty guidelines" has the same meaning as in section 5101.46 of the Revised Code.

(3) "Kinship caregiver" has the same meaning as in section 5101.85 of the Revised Code.

(B) Subject to division (E) of section 5101.801 of the Revised Code, there is hereby created the kinship permanency incentive program to promote permanency for a minor child in the legal and physical custody of a kinship caregiver. The program shall provide an initial one-time incentive payment to the kinship caregiver to defray the costs of initial placement of the minor child in the kinship caregiver's home. The program may provide additional permanency incentive payments for the minor child at six month intervals for a total period not to exceed thirty-six months.

(C) A kinship caregiver may participate in the program if all of the following requirements are met:

(1) The kinship caregiver applies to a public children services agency in accordance with the application process established in rules authorized by division (E) of this section;

(2) The minor child the kinship caregiver is caring for is a child with special needs as that term is defined in rules adopted under section 5153.163 of the Revised Code;

(3) A juvenile court has adjudicated the minor child to be an abused, neglected, dependent, or unruly child and determined that it is in the child's best interest to be in the legal custody of the kinship caregiver or the probate court has determined that it is in the child's best interest to be in the guardianship of the kinship caregiver;

(4) The kinship caregiver is either the minor child's custodian or guardian;

(5) The minor child resides with the kinship caregiver pursuant to a placement approval process established in rules authorized by division (E) of this section;

(6) The gross income of the kinship caregiver's family, including the minor child, does not exceed two hundred per cent of the federal poverty guidelines.

(D) Public children services agencies shall make initial and ongoing eligibility determinations for the kinship permanency incentive program in accordance with rules authorized by division (E) of this section. The director of job and family services shall supervise public children services agencies' duties under this section.

(E) The director of job and family services shall adopt rules under division (C) of section 5101.801 of the Revised Code as necessary to implement the kinship permanency incentive program. The rules shall establish all of the following:

- (1) The application process for the program;
- (2) The placement approval process through which a minor child is placed with a kinship caregiver for the kinship caregiver to be eligible for the program;
- (3) The initial and ongoing eligibility determination process for the program;
- (4) The amount of the incentive payments provided under the program;
- (5) The method by which the incentive payments are provided to a kinship caregiver;
- (6) Anything else the director considers necessary to implement the program.

(F) The director shall begin implementation of the kinship permanency incentive program no later than January 1, 2006.

Section 206.67.08. KINSHIP PERMANENCY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Of the foregoing appropriation item 600-689, TANF Block Grant (Fund 3V6), \$10 million per fiscal year shall be used to support the activities of the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program created under section 5101.802 of the Revised Code.

The Department of Job and Family Services shall prepare reports concerning both of the following:

- (A) Stability and permanency outcomes for children for whom incentive payments are made under the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program;
- (B) The total amount of payments made under the Program, patterns of expenditures made per child under the Program, and cost savings realized through the Program from placement with kinship caregivers rather than other out-of-home placements.

The Department shall submit a report to the Governor, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the President and Minority Leader of the Senate not later than December 31, 2008, and December 31, 2010.