

Published October 19, 2009 11:15 pm - Ashtabula County Children Services Board was awarded a federal grant for kinship caregivers.

http://www.starbeacon.com/archivesearch/local_story_292231613.html

Children Services get award for kinship caregivers

Star Beacon

ASHTABULA — Ashtabula County Children Services Board was awarded a federal grant for kinship caregivers. This grant will bring nearly \$100,000 in federal funds to Ashtabula County each year for the next three years.

It came from the Children's Bureau in the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Family Connection Discretionary Grant will enhance kinship navigator projects across the country. In Ashtabula County, the project will directly support kinship caregivers through enhanced services and financial assistance. Kinship caregivers are grandparents, aunts, cousins and other relatives who are raising children not biologically their own. Kinship caregivers keep children with family.

The grant was awarded to evaluate the effectiveness of increasing services to kinship families. The grant will help provide the kinship caregivers support and information to cope with challenges of

raising a relative's child. A kinship caregiver is familiar with the child's personality, needs and background. This gives them a unique ability to help the child understand and cope with stress, Children Services reports.

Ashtabula County Children Services will now be expanding current services to include a support group, informational Website, a resource library, assistance with legal filing fees and other short term and

one-time expenses, book bags and other school supplies, gift cards to help with Christmas gifts, food and clothing. All services will be provided through existing staff.

A kinship caseworker will be available to provide information and referral services as well as a support group and easing the transition to legal custody and case closure.