

**ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT
COVER PAGE
ACF-OGM-SF-PPR**

			Page 1	of Pages 8
1. Federal Agency and Organization Element to Which Report is Submitted US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency 90-CF-0024	3a. DUNS 832577092 3b. EIN 31-0996612	4. Reporting Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY) 09/29/2012	

4. Recipient Organization (Name and complete address including zip code) Public Children Services Association of Ohio 510 E. Mound Street, Suite 200 Columbus, OH 43215		5. Recipient Identifying Number or Account Number none	
6. Project/Grant Period Start Date: (Month, Day, Year) 09/30/2009	End Date: (Month, Day, Year) 09/29/2012	7. Reporting Period End Date (Month, Day, Year) 09/29/2012	8. Final Report? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No 9. Report Frequency <input type="checkbox"/> annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> semi-annual <input type="checkbox"/> quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> other (If other, describe: _____)

10. Performance Narrative – see attached, also Evaluation is attached

11. Other Attachments <i>(attach other documents as needed or as instructed by the awarding Federal Agency)</i>	
12. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purposes set forth in the award documents.	
12a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official Crystal Ward Allen, Executive Director Public Children Services Association of Ohio	12c. Telephone (area code, number and extension) 614/224-5802 12d. Email Address crystal@pcsao.org
12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official	12e. Date Report Submitted (Month, Day, Year) 10/30/2012

13. Agency use only

**ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT
COVER PAGE
ACF-OGM-SF-PPR**

Item	Data Elements	Instructions
1.	Awarding Federal agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted	Enter the name of the awarding Federal agency and organizational element identified in the award document or otherwise instructed by the agency. The organizational element is a sub-agency within an awarding Federal agency.
2.	Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by the awarding Federal agency	Enter the grant/award number contained in the award document.
3a.	DUNS Number	Enter the recipient organization's Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number or Central Contract Registry extended DUNS number.
3b.	EIN	Enter the recipient organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN) provided by the Internal Revenue Service.
4.	Recipient Organization	Enter the name of recipient organization and address, including zip code.
5.	Recipient Account Number or Account Number	Enter the account number or any other identifying number assigned by the recipient to the award. This number is strictly for the recipient's use only and is not required by the awarding Federal agency.
6.	Project/Grant Period	Indicate the project/grant period established in the award document during which Federal sponsorship begins and ends. Note: Some agencies award multi-year grants for a project/grant period (e.g., 5 years) that are funded in increments known as budget periods or funding periods. These are typically annual increments. Please enter the project/grant period, not the budget period or funding period.
7.	Reporting Period End Date	Enter the ending date of the reporting period. For quarterly, semi-annual, and annual reports, the following calendar quarter reporting period end dates shall be used: 3/31; 6/30; 9/30; and or 12/31. For final PPRs, the reporting period end date shall be the end date of the project/grant period. The frequency of required reporting is usually established in the award document.
8.	Final Report	Mark appropriate box. Check "yes" only if this is the final report for the project/grant period specified in Box 6.
9.	Report or Frequency	Select the appropriate term corresponding to the requirements contained in the award document. "Other" may be used when more frequent reporting is required for high-risk grantees, as specified in OMB Circular A-110.
10.	Performance Narrative	Leave blank and complete Form ACF-OGM-SF-PPR-B
11.	Other Attachments	Attach other documents as needed or as instructed by the awarding Federal agency.

ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT
Appendix B - Program Indicators
ACF-OGM-SF-PPR

		Page 3	of Pages 8
1. Federal Agency and Organization Element to Which Report is Submitted US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency 90-CF-0024	3a. DUNS 832577092 3b. EIN 31-0996612	4. Reporting Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY) 09/29/2012

Program Indicators			
(1) Item	(2) Activity Description	(3) Indicator	(4) Explanation
B-01	Major activities and accomplishments during this period		<p>Brief grant sites updates are provided below, with a Statewide summary following. As the grant is concluding, local grant site representatives are planning for how their program will change and continue:</p> <p>Ashtabula Co. Children Services – their informal kinship support program doubled from serving 250 kin families to 500 families during the grant duration. Ashtabula CCS has made a commitment to maintain the Kin Navigator unit, but discretionary funds for needs and activities outlined below are not guaranteed. Thru the use of kin (informal families and those with open child welfare cases), the agency now serves more children placed with kin caregivers than placed with paid foster caregivers. The Kin Navigator and related program staff accomplished much:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agency facilitated an aggressive public education effort thru media, billboards, outreach to community organizations and more to build value for kinship caregivers. As the child protection agency, they have merged any public outreach for “resource families” to include kinship, foster and adoptive families. Many activities (such as Christmas donations) include informal kin as well as foster families. • A robust series of child and family activities were facilitated, regularly bringing together aged groups for younger children in kin care, teens in kin care, and the caregivers for an ongoing support group. The support group has their 501(c)3 application pending. Activities have been a mix of fun (baby chicks for Easter and crafts) to more instructive (anti-bullying). The rich program for children attracted the caregivers at the same time. • Over 200 kin families have received judicial custody of the children in their care, and re receiving Kinship Permanency Incentive funds (a state program of fiscal incentives for kin permanency). The grant assisted with payment of pro se filing fees for the caregivers. • Funds from the grant provided a host of needed tangible goods for the kin families including beds and mattresses, clothes and other emergency needs; as well as diagnostic assessments and unique trainings for some. • The community outreach resulted in a rich outpour of support from the faith based community which paid for college needs for transitioning youth (laptops), activity fees for band camp or pay to play athletics, prom clothes

ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT
Appendix B - Program Indicators
ACF-OGM-SF-PPR

Program Indicators			
(1) Item	(2) Activity Description	(3) Indicator	(4) Explanation
			<p>or other items that allow the child in a kinship home to normally participate in activities that other children and youth would.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A respite program was also developed with the faith based community – grant funds paid for criminal background checks and some training, then volunteers set up a regular respite time for kin caregivers. The respite program always had a nurse for special needs medically fragile children, as well as a nutritionally approved food menu. This was much valued by the caregivers, as a trusted and fun opportunity for the children in their care, while they could plan time away. <p>Clark Co. Job & Family Services (CDJFS) – Clark JFS’ agency culture has fully embraced identifying and supporting kinship caregivers for the children in their community. Thru the use and support of kinship the agency has reduced their use of unrelated foster care placement by 35% since the grant started (150 down to 101 children). And only five cases have reverted from placement with kin to unrelated foster care. <i>Starting with one Kinship Navigator, the agency now hosts a full Kinship Unit of five caseworkers and a supervisor.</i> As part of the Title IV-E ProtectOhio Waiver, Clark has fully merged the Kinship Navigator activities with increased support for children placed with kin, with an open child welfare case. <i>Clark is committed to maintaining the full continuum of kinship support for informal and formal kin cases.</i> Some of the highlights are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohort Support Groups participate in a kinship curriculum designed and run by Rocking Horse (federally qualified healthcare center, and trusted community partner). This links the children and families to a full service healthcare provider – bringing long lasting benefits of a health home, as well as much of the program is Medicaid funded. This eight week program will continue. • Much work has been done with their Probate Court to achieve permanency for the kin caregivers when the children do not need to come into the custody of the agency. The court adapted some of its legal procedures to make the process friendlier for the family and the agency assisted the court for quality background checks. • Clark JFS solidified their home study process, both in terms of ensuring safe and stable caregivers, but also in terms of agency structure. Rather than it being easier, and more timely for a caseworker needing a home for a child, to use an already licensed unrelated foster caregiver, the agency streamlined the process of kin home studies, having one expert worker to manage them with the caregiver, caseworker and court. • Clark JFS established valued support for the local school systems in term of assisting when kin caregivers and schools struggle re the child’s behavior and education. • The grant allowed for some hard services and supports, as well as donated items through a volunteer drive managed by the kin navigator staff.

ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT
Appendix B - Program Indicators
ACF-OGM-SF-PPR

Program Indicators			
(1) Item	(2) Activity Description	(3) Indicator	(4) Explanation
			<p>Crawford CDJFS – as a very small agency with few resources or workforce, Crawford JFS is a great example of dedicated excellent practice with minimal bureaucracy. Due to their financial situation, they will not be able to maintain the Kin Navigator program. The relationships with community members, the value built for staff and community about the benefits of placing children with kin and supporting them, and the education with other formal service systems have paved the way for children in kinship families to receive key support services from the agency and by other community agencies. The agency court partnership on kin has improved and will live on, as well as the Support Group, which has an application pending as a 501(c)3, eligible for seeking donations from others.</p> <p>Hardin CDJFS – Hardin is another very small rural county with few resources. Their foster care population is usually between 9-12 children. However, their kinship navigator program connected with over 150 children living with kin, as noted by the 150 ice cream cone passes that such children received to use at the county fair last summer. <i>Despite limited funds, Hardin JFS will maintain its Kinship Navigator position.</i> Essential tasks filled by the navigator include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She is a recognized part of the community and often called upon as a safe listening ear when problems arise, instead of other agency caseworkers. • The Kin Navigator and her Supervisor indicate that caregivers are often ill prepared to manage the children when arriving in their home, as many of these children have been “parentified” and not immediately receptive to caregiver supervision. The families also experience significant visitation issues with parents, and with parents post incarceration, which is the case with many families. The dialogue between the Kin Navigator and the families, for support and encouragement is valued. • The Navigator performs all the kin caregiver homestudies for the agency, as well as facilitates the families to seek a pro se filing in court for custody, and links them to the Kinship Permanency Incentive program. • The grant funds also provided some recreational benefits for the families, emergency needs, home modification needs, back to school items, etc. • Because of the success of the Kin Navigator program, other agency caseworkers have now moved beyond seeking grandparent caregivers and are identifying and engaging other relatives or non-related kin sooner. <p>Lorain Office on Aging in partnership with Lorain CCS – already a well established community agency, and known for support for grandparent and other older kin caregivers, this grant allowed Lorain Office on Aging to build a stronger partnership with the child welfare agency serving a broader population of caregivers as a prevention and diversion from child welfare involvement. <i>The program will continue and the amazing staff leads will seek additional strategies for survival. The child welfare agency</i> invested limited funds to support the Kin Navigator program, and <i>will continue a limited investment.</i> This grant particularly allowed an investment for legal fees to assist kin caregivers to get judicial custody; and</p>

ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT
Appendix B - Program Indicators
ACF-OGM-SF-PPR

Program Indicators			
(1) Item	(2) Activity Description	(3) Indicator	(4) Explanation
			<p>attracted additional foundation investment for programs including a literacy and tutoring program specifically for children in kin homes. The Local Advisory Board meetings also allowed Lorain Co Office on Aging to network with a wide variety of child and family partners to build new partnerships for kin families.</p> <p>Portage CDJFS, contracted with Family & Community Services, Inc. – subgrantee <i>Portage JFS will not maintain their contract with Family and Community Services for the Kin Navigator program.</i> Family and Community Services was the screening and case management entity for informal kin families, yet most of the grant funds were invested for hard services for caregivers (a key need was protective child care for the children in kin caregiver homes, but also beds, clothing, medical items, car repair, etc.) Portage JFS will, however, continue their ongoing partnership with Family and Community Services, referring any open cases for a variety of services such as Medicaid mental health services, food pantry services, etc. The private agency will continue the GRAND (Guardians Raising and Nurturing Dependents) Support group; and is also available to serve all families in the community, based on eligibility issues. As a now trusted entity for kin caregivers, their reputation may steer kin families with them for reimburseable services, but they will not have someone available for the non-reimburseable kinship support services.</p> <p>Portage JFS is also part of the Title IV-E ProtectOhio Waiver and will provide enhanced services to all kin families with an open child welfare case.</p> <p>Richland County Children Services, contracted with Mansfield DRC – <i>Richland CCS is dedicated to sustaining a robust Kinship Navigator program.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agency recently opened up a Kinship Center at a location other than the child welfare agency, becoming a true force in the community. It employs five staff, with phones, computers, a gathering place for kin. • Richland CCS will continue to contract with a local community service provider to employ the Kin Navigators to connect kin to available local resources. This is seen as a critical prevention and diversion from deeper involvement into the child welfare system. The Kin Navigators will continue to do Community Mapping as a resource for effective navigation. • Legal assistance for kin caregivers has been a critical piece of Richland CCS’s program. They continue with a case rate contract with an attorney (former magistrate) to assist kin with legal procedures. The attorney will work across county or state jurisdictions, will handle cases in different types of courts and will see the case through. In 2012, 32 cases have achieved permanency through judicial custody awards, and 25 cases are pending. • Due to the grant concluding, the Richland Kin Navigator program will be very limited in providing hard supports for caregiver families. They will continue to develop partnerships in the community for kin families.

ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT
Appendix B - Program Indicators
ACF-OGM-SF-PPR

Program Indicators			
(1) Item	(2) Activity Description	(3) Indicator	(4) Explanation
			<p><u>Statewide Summary</u></p> <p>The seven grant sites have maintained a consistent level of service to the caregivers in their counties, showing that a consistent need is there for assisting informal kin caregivers. The grant evaluation data is now showing consistent trends – profiles of kin caregivers, profiles of children in caregiver homes, types of needs and capacity of kin navigators to meet those needs. The Ohio Benefit Bank has been a great resource for all Kin Navigator programs, to assist families for any benefits they might access.</p> <p>Title IV-E ProtectOhio Waiver Kinship Strategy has been implemented – give that waiver counties have committed to an enhanced support of kin, the need to have a full continuum of kinship supports is ever more important. Prevention, diversion, exit and Permanency Strategies must be available. The Kinship Navigator counties attest to this program as an important part of Ohio’s safe reduction in the number of children experiencing traumatic out of home care. Several of the Kinship Navigator counties (all seven Kinship Navigator counties are part of the ProtectOhio Consortium) are leaders with the Kinship Support strategy, having already enhanced the agency culture and influenced some structural changes.</p> <p>Regional Permanency Forums were held in four locations across the state in summer of 2012. While primarily focused on long staying youth (vs. informal kin care), ensuring a full continuum of kinship supports was discussed, a brief summary of the findings, including policy recommendations calling for Ohio to adopt KGAP, the Title IV-E Guardianship Subsidy, can be found at Recommendations to Improve Permanency for Foster Children (September 2012).</p> <p>The Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition (OGKC – co-chaired and attended by both kin caregivers and professionals) continues to dialogue with the Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services regarding Ohio’s children, their needs and requests. Director Colbert, values kinship and responded in writing, http://www.kinshipohio.org/News/2012/ODJFSlettertoOGKC.pdf making certain commitments for kinship, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODJFS supports the effort to scale the current 7 site Kinship Navigator Grant statewide and will pledge the non-federal match to seek the next grant for a Statewide program with regional hubs and a warm line (we hope to adapt this opportunity in some way.) • Commits to SFY 2013 funding (\$4.7 M/year) for the statewide Kinship Permanency Incentive program. The last budget proposed eliminating the program, so advance commitment is exciting. • Acknowledgement that child care costs is a very difficult challenge with kinship caregivers accepting children, often on a fixed income. While a solution is not pledged, the acknowledgement is important • ODJFS support for HB 279, a pending bill in the Ohio General Assembly to

ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT
Appendix B - Program Indicators
ACF-OGM-SF-PPR

Program Indicators			
(1) Item	(2) Activity Description	(3) Indicator	(4) Explanation
			<p>provide kin caregivers without judicial custody, legal documentation for school enrollment and routine/emergency healthcare.</p> <p>KGAP, or Title IV-E Guardianship Subsidy Option – ODJFS has convened a group of key stakeholders to consider how Ohio can best support permanent kinship caregivers as an exit out of foster care. This has generated significant discussion across Ohio as to how best to support kin families.</p> <p>HSRI Evaluation Materials – much more than an evaluator, HSRI collects information and then documents and summarizes it for building value and outlining implementation of the grant. During the past six months, HSRI completed the Ohio’s Fostering Connection Grant: Implementation Report, also the Ohio Enhanced Kinship Navigator Project Mid-Grant Brief. These materials enhance our ability to explain and build value for the KN Program, as well as assist in the development of our Replication Manual. Of course now the evaluation is progressing, we have exciting information about the caregivers, children and community capacity for unmet needs. We are anxiously awaiting the outcomes data as SACWIS information is analyzed.</p>
B-02	Problems		<p>The economy continues to be challenging in these communities – high unemployment rates, heavy reliance on public assistance (of course the evaluation shows KNs are able to connect caregivers with the available and eligible benefits and resources), all community resources are stretched.</p> <p>Legal challenges for kin caregivers have not let up, with the need to purchase legal support for caregivers to manage the custody process.</p> <p>There is great disappointment with the KN grant sites about the grant concluding. Disappointment is both with the loss of funds, but also the value of the quarterly networking to share successes, jointly problem solve and access trainings or new partners.</p>
B-03	Significant findings and events		<p>The Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Courts continues its work on Legislative and judicial procedural options for kin caregivers. The National Center for Adoption Law and Policy (NCALP) has researched other state laws re relatives and kin, Ohio case law and precedence, as well as the various Ohio legal practices re kin. Many complexities, confusion and inconsistencies in law have been found, as well as a variety of experiences and perspectives from all parties to the court process including judges and magistrates, attorneys, CASA/GALs, child welfare professionals, kin caregivers, and youth. NCALP is in process of follow up surveys (from earlier ones discussed in the March, 2012 report), drafting of recommendation for the Advisory Committee and other Judicial forums to review and then a final report with recommendations. This is part of the Court Improvement Process.</p>

ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT
Appendix B - Program Indicators
ACF-OGM-SF-PPR

Program Indicators			
(1) Item	(2) Activity Description	(3) Indicator	(4) Explanation
B-04	Dissemination on activities		<p>Websites</p> <p>www.KinshipOhio.org – PCSAO has continued to host the website, and promoted it statewide. It continues to be accessed by caregivers as demonstrated by callers to PCSAO who have found or are directed to the website. It is clear kin caregivers find and access this site, as PCSAO regularly has individuals to call for additional support and information, based on what they find on this website.</p> <p>http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/kinship_care.stm - this is the state Kinship webpage, and includes the Kinship Resource Guide (bottom of page), which was updated and frequently accessed during the grant span.</p> <p>http://www.richlandcountychildrenservices.org/ - this is the homepage for the Richland County Children Services Kin site.</p> <p>http://www.clarkdifs.org/family-children/kinship.html - Clark JFS highlights kinship as a critical part of its services.</p> <p>http://www.help-a-child.com/kinshipex.htm - Ashtabula CCS Kinship Supports highlighted.</p> <p>http://www.crawfordcountyjfs.org/more-services.html#kinship – Crawford JFS highlights kinship.</p> <p>http://lcoa.org/ - Lorain County Office on Aging website, with significant kinship resources on left margin</p> <p>Infant Sleep Safety: A Guide for Grandparents – a link from the Lorain County Children Services website</p> <p>Dissemination about Kinship Navigator Program Among Public Children Services Agencies</p> <p>There is great interest in the success of the Kinship Navigator program, across the state. 62 child welfare professionals (Directors, managers, supervisors and direct service workers) attended a recent Kinship Innovations workshop offered by the Kinship Navigator grant sites at the PCSAO Annual Conference held Oct 24 & 25. Two hours of CEUs were provided. The Kinship Navigator Replication Manual was distributed in draft form at the workshop, as was the Title IV-E ProtectOhio Kinship Strategy Manual. The presentation focused on the full continuum of kinship supports as an effective child welfare strategy. The Kinship Navigator addresses prevention, diversion and can be used as an exit support. As the ProtectOhio counties have dedicated themselves to enhanced support for all open child welfare cases, safely diverting open cases is an important option, as is having a support</p>

**ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT
Appendix B - Program Indicators
ACF-OGM-SF-PPR**

Program Indicators			
(1) Item	(2) Activity Description	(3) Indicator	(4) Explanation
			<p>resource for closed kinship cases.</p> <p>The Kinship Replication Manual will be finalized at a grant wrap up meeting scheduled for later November, and it will be included as part of the Final Grant Report due in late December.</p> <p>Media – in addition to the faithful Crawford County Kinship Connection each month mailed to their database of caregivers),</p> <p>September 2012 State may allow the families to receive foster-care money, The Columbus Dispatch, 9/24/2012 September 2012 Crawford County Kinship Connection, Crawford County September has been designated as Grandparent/Kinship Month by Gov. Kasich</p> <p>August 2012 August 2012 Crawford County Kinship Connection, Crawford County Kinship caregivers gaining in numbers by Kate Giammarise, Blade Staff Writer, 8/6/2012</p> <p>July 2012 July 2012 Crawford County Kinship Connection, Crawford County</p> <p>June 2012 Generation Gap: Grandparents stretch to fill in for Mom and Dad - Once magazine: Issue 8 June 2012 Crawford County Kinship Connection, Crawford County June 2012 Newsletter, Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program, Lucas County</p> <p>May 2012 Report: More Relatives, Friends Step Up to Raise Ohio Children, Public News Services, 5/23/2012 May 2012 Crawford County Kinship Connection, Crawford County</p> <p>March - April 2012 March - April 2012 Crawford County Kinship Connection, Crawford County</p> <p>Statewide Training and Outreach Activities – as the Title IV-E ProtectOhio Strategy is intensely implemented, the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program has developed two six hour training sessions, the first more general about the needs of kinship caregivers. The training was built upon the session the OCWTP developed for the Kinship Navigator grant sites early in the three year grant.</p> <p>PCSAO – we will continue to highlight and discuss the full continuum of Kinship Supports in a variety of publications and forums.</p>

ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT
Appendix B - Program Indicators
ACF-OGM-SF-PPR

Program Indicators			
(1) Item	(2) Activity Description	(3) Indicator	(4) Explanation
B-05	Other Activities		<p>As a project, we have continued with our day long quarterly meetings of the seven sites, ensuring time for county sharing of successes and challenges; review of evaluation data. The grant sites have decided to meet one final time, in later November, HSRI will also attend to summarize findings.</p> <p>The evaluation, from HSRI is attached.</p>
B-06	Activities planned for next reporting period		<p>Continued dialogue with the Supreme Court on legal paths.</p> <p>Final work on the Replication Manual, wide electronic distribution, posting on the www.KinshipOhio.org and www.pcsao.org websites.</p> <p>Individual sites have various sustainability strategies in process, including three Support Groups that have 501(c)3 applications in process.</p> <p>Several of the grant sites and other public/private partners, along with the Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition, the Ohio Statewide Advisory Board to ODJFS, ODJFS and PCSAO, collaborated to seek grant support to scale the Kinship Navigator program Statewide, using natural regional hubs, with a warm line. While this did not receive federal funding, we hope to modify in some way to benefit kin caregivers across the state.</p> <p>PCSAO will aggressively share the final evaluation report findings both in the child welfare and community service provider world, but also the judicial community, with the media, etc. Showing that a modest investment of professional time and resources can make a positive impact on the capacity of kin caregivers to provide a safe, stable and often permanent environment for kids in their care is exciting.</p>