



Crystal Ward Allen, Executive Director
510 E. Mound St., Suite 200
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-224-5802 • Fax 614-228-5150
crystal@pcsao.org
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, with modifications made in July 2007. 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:

- **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.
- 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 300% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Other Program Specifics:

- Eligible families will receive **an initial payment of \$450 per child, followed by \$250 per child every six months thereafter for a total of 36 months** (amounts are defined by rule, and subject to adjustment based on available funds).
- 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.**