

BUTLER COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

POLICY NO.: 3.2	SUBJECT: KINSHIP PERMANENCY INCENTIVE
OAC: 5101:2-40-04	EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/27/06
PCSAO:	REVISION DATE: 8/1/07
	REVIEW DATE: 8/1/07, 8/1/08

PURPOSE:

The Kinship Permanency Incentive program is designed to promote a permanent commitment by a kinship caregiver through becoming guardians and custodians over minor children who would otherwise be unsafe or at risk of harm if they remained in their own homes. The Kinship Permanency Incentive provides time-limited incentive payments to families caring for their kin.

POLICY:

- 3.2.1 At the time legal custody is granted to the kinship caregiver and/or at the time the case is closed the child's caseworker shall provide the kinship caregiver with the Ohio Kinship Caregivers pamphlet and an application for kinship permanency incentive if requested.
- 3.2.2 If the family has questions regarding the Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI), the worker shall direct the kinship caregiver to contact the Kinship Permanency Incentive/Post Adoption Worker.
- 3.2.3 Determining eligibility and notifying the applicant pursuant to 51010:2-40-04 of the Administrative Code shall be the responsibility of the Kinship Permanency Incentive/Post Adoption Worker. The Kinship Permanency Incentive/Post Adoption Worker will also provide the kinship caregiver with information regarding the agency's responsibilities and the kinship caregivers rights and responsibilities in regards to the program.

ELIGIBILITY:

Pursuant to 5101:2-40-04 in order for a kinship caregiver to be eligible for KPI, all of the following criteria must be met:

1. On July 1, 2005 or thereafter, a court issued an order granting legal custody or legal guardianship to the kinship caregiver(s). Any other temporary orders do not apply;
2. The child currently resides with the kinship caregiver. If the child is on temporary leave from the kinship caregivers home (e.g. hospitalization, mental health treatment or respite) and the

kinship caregiver retains legal custody or legal guardianship this shall not preclude eligibility for KPI.

3. The kinship caregiver is a resident of the State of Ohio, and;
4. The placement was approved by the public children services agency or private child placing agency in accordance with paragraphs (B) to (H) of rule 5101:2-42-18 of the Administrative Code. For children placed directly with a kinship caregiver by a court or relative, the BCCS shall assess the home in accordance with the requirements identified in paragraph (B) to (H) of rule 5101:2-42-18 of the Administrative Code prior to the approval of KPI.
5. The gross income of the kinship caregiver's family with the minor child, does not exceed three hundred per cent of the federal poverty guidelines.

Eligible kinship caregivers shall receive an initial amount of one thousand dollars per child to defray costs of initial placement and may receive five hundred dollars per child at six month intervals to support the stability of the child's placement in the home. The maximum incentive amount may not exceed thirty-five hundred dollars per child per placement or per kinship caregiver. The incentive amount for the kinship caregiver shall not be provided for longer than a total of thirty-six consecutive months during which time the child remains in the legal custody or legal guardianship of the kinship caregiver and continues to meet the other eligibility requirements of the program. (5101:2-40-04).

DEFINITIONS:

1. "Custodian" has the same meaning as in section 5107.02 of the Revised Code which is an individual who has legal custody of a minor child or comparable status over a minor child created by a court of competent jurisdiction in another state.
2. "Family" means kinship caregiver, spouse of kinship caregiver, and all of the minor children who reside in the same household.
3. "Fraudulent incentive" means incentive funds provided to the kinship caregiver as a result of fraud by the kinship caregiver, including an intentional violation of the program requirements. Fraudulent incentive does not include incentive payments provided due to an error of the agency in processing the application.
4. "Gross income" means income before taxes and deductions. Exclusions of reported income are as follows and shall be deducted from the gross income of each adult responsible for reporting his or her income:
 - (a) Child support paid out to another custodian for a child in the other custodian's care.
 - (b) Up to one-hundred dollars per month of any child support received on behalf of the child for whom the kinship caregiver is applying for the kinship permanency incentive (KPI).
 - (c) Any Ohio works first (OWF) payments.
5. "Guardian" has the same meaning as in section 5107.02 of the Revised Code which is an individual that is granted authority by a probate court or a court of competent jurisdiction in

another state to exercise parental rights over a minor child to the extent provided in the court's order and subject to residual parental rights of the minor child's parents.

6. "Kinship caregiver" has the same meaning as in section 5101.85 of the Revised Code which is any of the following who is eighteen years of age or older and is caring for a child in place of the child's parents.
 - (a) Individuals related by blood or adoption to the child including:
 - (i) Grandparents, including grandparents with the prefix "great", "great-great", or "great-great-great".
 - (ii) Siblings.
 - (iii) Aunts, uncles, nephews, and nieces, including such relatives with the prefix "great", "great-great", "grand" or "great-grand".
 - (iv) First cousins and first cousins once removed.
 - (b) Stepparents and stepsiblings of the child.
 - (c) Spouses and former spouses of individuals named in paragraph (6)(a)(i) to (6)(a)(i) and (6)(b) of this rule.
 - (d) A legal guardian of the child
 - (e) A legal custodian of the child.
7. "Minor child" has the same meaning as in 45 C.F.R. 260.30 (1999), which is either of the following:
 - (a) An individual who has not attained age eighteen.
 - (b) An individual who has not attained age nineteen and is a full-time student in a secondary school or in the equivalent level of vocational or technical training.



Approval Date: 9/1/07

Michael A. Fox, Executive Director