

5101:2-40-04

Kinship permanency incentive program.

(A) The following definitions are applicable to this rule and supersede any definitions contained in rule 5101:2-1-01 of the Administrative Code.

(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) "Fraudulent incentive" means incentive funds provided to the kinship caregiver(s) as a result of fraud by the kinship caregiver(s), 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.

(3) "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.

(4) "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 (A)(4)(a)(i) to (A)(4)(a)(iv) and (A)(4)(b) of this rule.

(d) A legal guardian of the child.

(e) A legal custodian of the child.

(5) "Special needs" is defined as the child having at least one of the following needs

or circumstances that may be a barrier to placement or a barrier to a child being sustained in a substitute care placement without financial assistance because the child;

(a) Is in a sibling group.

(b) Is a member of a minority or ethnic group.

(c) Is six years of age or older at the time legal custody or legal guardianship was awarded.

(d) Has a medical condition, physical impairment, mental retardation or developmental disability.

(e) Has a social or medical history or the background of the child's biological family has a social or medical history which may place the child at risk of acquiring a medical condition, a physical, mental or developmental disability or an emotional disorder.

(f) Has experienced multiple placements.

(B) The "Kinship Permanency Incentive" (KPI) program is designed to promote a permanent commitment by a kinship caregiver(s) 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. KPI provides time-limited incentive payments to families caring for their kin.

(C) In order for a kinship caregiver(s) to be eligible for KPI, all of the following criteria must be met:

(1) A court adjudicated the child as abused, neglected, dependent or unruly.

(2) On July 1, 2005 or thereafter, a court determined that it was in the child's best interest to be in the legal custody or in the legal guardianship of the kinship caregiver(s). Any other temporary orders do not apply.

(3) The child meets the definition of special needs identified in paragraph (A) (5) of this rule. Documentation of special needs is only needed at initial application.

(4) The placement was approved by the public children services agency (PCSA) or private child placing agency (PCPA) in accordance with paragraphs (B) to (H) of rule 5101:2-42-18 of the Administrative Code.

(5) The gross income of the kinship caregiver's household with the child, does not exceed two hundred per cent of the federal poverty guidelines excluding OWF payments.

- (6) The kinship caregiver(s) is a resident of the State of Ohio, and
- (7) The child currently resides with the kinship caregiver(s). If the child is on temporary leave from the kinship caregiver's 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.
- (D) Eligible kinship caregiver(s) 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(s). The incentive amount for the kinship caregiver(s) 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(s) and continues to meet the other eligibility requirements of the program.
- (E) The PCSA in the county in which the kinship caregiver(s) resides, at the time of initial application or re-determination, is responsible for the following:
- (1) Upon request of the kinship caregivers(s), providing the kinship caregiver(s) with the JFS 01501 "Application for Kinship Permanency Incentive"(01/2006).
 - (2) Determining eligibility for the initial incentive payment.
 - (3) Notifying the kinship caregiver(s) of the approval, denial or incomplete application in accordance with paragraphs (F)(1) to (F)(3) of this rule.
 - (4) Informing the applicant that subsequent payments will require re-determination of eligibility every six months and that the kinship caregiver(s) must submit another application.
 - (5) Notifying the kinship caregiver(s) thirty days prior to the eligibility for a subsequent incentive payment that the kinship caregiver(s) must submit verifying documentation to enable the PCSA to determine eligibility.
 - (6) Determining continuing eligibility for subsequent incentive payments.
 - (7) Notifying the kinship caregiver(s) of the approval, denial or incomplete application for subsequent incentive payments in accordance with paragraphs (F)(1) to (F)(3) of this rule.
 - (8) Conducting a face-to-face interview with the kinship caregiver(s) to determine eligibility no less frequently than annually. The PCSA may waive the face-to-face interview if this proves to be a hardship for the kinship caregiver.

(F) The PCSA shall approve or deny the application for KPI based on criteria identified in paragraphs (C)(1) to (C)(7) of this rule and provide written notification to the kinship caregiver(s) of its decision within fifteen days of receipt of the completed JFS 01501 and supporting documentation.

(1) When sufficient information is not available to enable the PCSA to approve or deny the application for incentive payments, the PCSA shall provide the kinship caregiver(s) with JFS 01502 "Notice of Incomplete Kinship Permanency Incentive Application"(01/2006) that identifies the information needed. The PCSA shall notify the kinship caregiver(s) if information requested is not submitted within ten days the application will be denied. This shall not prohibit the kinship caregiver(s) from reapplying.

(2) For approved applications, JFS 01503 "Notice of Approval for Kinship Permanency Incentive Funds"(01/2006) shall be completed.

(3) For denied applications, JFS 01504 "Notice of Denial for Kinship Permanency Incentive Funds"(01/2006) shall be completed.

(G) If a kinship caregiver(s) relocates to another Ohio county, the PCSA in the current county of residence is responsible for determining eligibility for subsequent incentive payments and complying with notification requirements outlined in paragraphs (E)(5) to (E)(8) of this rule. When known, the PCSA in the county in which the kinship caregiver(s) currently resides shall coordinate with the PCSA in the county of former residence in order to secure information regarding prior incentive payments. The PCSA in the county in which the kinship caregiver(s) formerly resided shall share information regarding prior incentive payments and upon request, transfer the case to the PCSA of the kinship caregiver's current county of residence.

(H) The kinship caregiver(s) is responsible for notifying the PCSA of any status change in the household that may impact eligibility; as well as notifying the PCSA of address changes.

(I) The PCSA may develop an interagency agreement with the CDJFS to assist in gathering eligibility information necessary for the PCSA to approve or deny the application.

(J) If a director of a PCSA determines that a kinship caregiver(s) has received a fraudulent incentive, the kinship caregiver(s) is ineligible to participate in the KPI program.

(K) In order to confine KPI expenditures to appropriated state funds, the director of the department of job and family services, or designee, may issue an order at any time suspending the intake of any new applications for KPI. During a program suspension, all new applicants will be advised that a suspension is in effect. All

new applications will be denied during the same time that a suspension is in effect. No waiting lists will be established during the periods of suspension.

(L) The PCSA shall inform the kinship caregiver(s) of the right to request a state hearing and provide the kinship caregiver(s) with a copy of the JFS 04059 "Explanation of State Hearing Procedures"(04/2005) upon approval or denial of their application. The kinship caregiver(s) has the right to request a state hearing if the PCSA denies eligibility for KPI, or the application has been acted upon erroneously, or not acted upon with reasonable promptness.

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CERTIFIED ELECTRONICALLY

Certification

11/08/2005

Date

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