



Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KGAP)

What is KGAP?

KGAP is financial assistance and Medicaid, funded through federal and state dollars, to licensed kinship caregivers who become legal custodians who hold placement of their kin child (ren) at least six consecutive months as a foster child.

Who is eligible for KGAP?

KGAP is available to licensed kinship caregivers who obtain legal custody of the kinship child who had been placed in their home as a foster child, as long as the placement type and time frame requirements are met.

When does KGAP start?

KGAP starts when a licensed kinship caregiver receives legal custody of a child that had been in their licensed kinship care for the previous 6 months.

How much financial assistance is available?

Lorain County Children Services reimburses foster parents on a per diem (daily) basis that differs by the child's age. KGAP payments are negotiated with ODJFS and caregivers can receive up to 80% of the child's current foster care per diem.

Know Your Permanency Options and Time Frames

Fully understanding your options for permanency for children in your care is the best way for you to make the most informed long-term decisions for your family, if children cannot be reunified. It is important for you to decide now, or early in the life of the case, if you are going to become a licensed kinship caregiver so as to not delay permanency for the children.

Legal Custody (LC) vs. Adoption

LC = Legal Custody grants the Legal Custodian the right to physical care and control of the child, and is intended to be permanent in nature.

Parents may retain residual parental rights and responsibilities including the right to visit and the duty to pay child support. You may be eligible for KGAP.

Adoption = Parental rights are terminated when Permanent Custody is granted, freeing the child to be adopted through the Probate Court.

Parents do not have a right to visitation and legally no child support can be ordered. The child(ren) may be eligible to receive an adoption subsidy and potentially Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS) funds.

For more information on how to become a licensed kinship caregiver with Lorain County Children Services, please call your Kinship Support Worker or the child's Caseworker at 440-329-5340. For more information, including Kinship and KGAP forms, please visit www.ChildrenServices.org/Kinship-Care

