

Kinship Caregivers



What is Kinship care?

Kinship care refers to a temporary or permanent arrangement in which a relative – or any non-relative adult who has a long-standing relationship or bond with the child and/or family – has taken over the full-time, substitute care of a child whose parents are unable or unwilling to do so.

Kinship care can be established by an informal arrangement, a legal custody or guardianship court order, a relative foster care placement, or a kinship adoption. For more information on the topics below, and additional topics such as legal options, education, and medical services, check out the Ohio Resource Guide for Relatives Caring for Children:

<http://ocwtp.net/PDFs/ProtectOHIO/OhioResourceGuideforRelatives.pdf>



Financial Options for Kinship Caregivers

Cash Assistance

1. **Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI)**: this option provides temporary financial support for minor children in the legal and physical custody of grandparents, relatives, or other kinship caregivers. A home study must be completed before applying for this benefit. Apply at your local Public Children Services Agency: <https://www.pcsao.org/membership/agency-directory>
2. **Ohio Works First (child-only)**: To be eligible, the kinship caregiver must be related by blood or marriage to the child or be a legal guardian or custodian. Caregivers can receive a monthly payment for the child only (caregiver income will not be counted) until the child turns 18. To receive this benefit, caregivers will be required to cooperate with the Child Support Enforcement Agency to seek a child support order from the parents. Apply at your local Department of Job and Family Services or online at <https://benefits.ohio.gov/>
3. **Child support**: This option may be available if you are caring full-time for a child or have legal custody. The amount of child support the child's parents will be ordered to pay depends on both the parents' ability to pay and the needs of the child. Apply at your local Child Support Enforcement Agency: https://jfs.ohio.gov/County/County_Directory.pdf
4. **Kinship Support Payments (KSP)**: If the child is in the custody of the Public Children Services Agency and is placed in your home by the PCSA as a kinship placement, you can receive a payment for each child for 6-9 months, or until the PCSA no longer has custody, or if you become a licensed foster caregiver.
5. **Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KGA)**: Available to kinship caregivers who are licensed, have had children living in their home for 6 months or more, and have received guardianship or permanent custody from the juvenile court. Apply at your local Public Children Services Agency: <https://www.pcsao.org/membership/agency-directory>
6. **Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS)**: offers financial assistance to help pay for the child's mental health treatment, respite care, and counseling services after an

adoption. This is available to all adoptive families, except for stepparent adoptions. Apply through your local Public Children Services Agency:
<https://www.pcsao.org/membership/agency-directory>

Food Assistance

1. SNAP (food stamps): Provides your family with a monthly allotment loaded onto an EBT card that can be used to purchase eligible food items. To be eligible, the child must live in your household; legal custody is not required. Apply at your local Department of Job and Family Services: <https://benefits.ohio.gov/>
2. WIC (Women, Infants, and Children): Provides coupons for nutritious foods and infant formula for Infants and children up to 5 years old. You must have legal custody of the child. Apply by contacting Help Me Grow Helpline at 1-800-755-4769.

Medical Assistance

1. Medicaid: Provides health insurance to the child. The child must live in your household; legal custody is not required. Apply at your local Department of Job and Family Services: <https://benefits.ohio.gov/>

Childcare

1. Publicly funded childcare: Financial Assistance to legal guardians for childcare while they engage in work or approved school or training activities. Apply at your local Department of Job and Family Services: <https://benefits.ohio.gov/>
2. Kinship Caregiver Program: Provides childcare subsidies and other necessities for caregivers, such as clothes and beds. Apply at your local Public Children Services Agency: <https://www.pcsao.org/membership/agency-directory>



Seek Help!



Your local county or region has a Kinship Navigator that can help you, answer questions, and provide information on available resources for kinship caregivers. To find your local Navigator, call **1-844-OHIO-KAN (1-844-644-6586)** or visited at ohiokan.jfs.ohio.gov. The link can be opened by scanning the QR code to the left with a smartphone camera.

The information on this flyer is not legal advice.

**If you are seeking representation or legal advice, please contact LASC or SEOLS.
An attorney-client relationship does not exist between you and LASC or SEOLS.**

Contact for Services: Intake line: 1-844-302-1800

www.columbuslegalaid.org

www.seols.org

LASC provides services in Central Ohio and has offices in Columbus and Marion.

SEOLS provides services in 34 counties in Southeastern Ohio and has offices in Athens, Chillicothe, New Philadelphia, Newark, Portsmouth, and Steubenville

