

Become a Kinship Care Provider

To become a kinship care provider, you must be at least 18 years old.

Additional factors taken into consideration may include:

- Family make-up
- Criminal background check (including fingerprinting)
- Employment history
- Marital/personal relationship history
- Financial history/current financial situation
- Home environment (safety inspection)
- Physical and/or mental health assessment
- Drug/alcohol assessment
- Review of juvenile court records for any minors residing in the home

Some kinship care providers elect to become licensed foster care providers. Since every kinship situation is unique, Tuscarawas County Children Services can help you determine if this makes sense for your family.



This brochure has been written and distributed by:

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Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services helps children, families, and adults achieve and maintain safety, security, and self-sufficiency



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Tuscarawas County Kinship Care



Why Kinship Care?

When serious concerns arise, sometimes it isn't safe for children to remain with their birth family. When this happens, out-of-home placement with a relative or close family friend, known as *kinship care*, can be the best option for children and their family during a stressful, challenging time.



KINSHIP CARE

Kinship care refers to cases where a relative or non-relative has taken over the full-time care, nurturing and protection of a child. The definition for kinship caregivers also goes beyond the scope of blood relatives and may include an adult who has a familiar relationship or bond with the child and/or family.

Are you a grandparent who is caring for a grandchild in Ohio, but cannot make vital decisions because you don't have legal custody?

If so, visit pcsao.org and kinshipohio.org for helpful information concerning this issue.

For additional advice and tools for kinship care, visit grandparents.com or review the Ohio Resource Guide for Relatives Caring for Children at the following link
<https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/jfs.ohio.gov/OFC/OhioResourceGuideforRelatives.pdf>

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY KINSHIP CARE SERVICES

Program referrals are voluntary, and will be accepted for Kinship Families residing within Tuscarawas County based on the following criteria:

- * Kinship families with closed child welfare cases
- * Kinship families with open protective cases at risk for disruption
- * Kinship families referred by community partners
- * Kinship families eligible for the KPI program
- * Kinship families who self-refer



OPEN CASE SERVICES

The kinship care program is designed to provide a one-stop-shop for supportive services to kinship families while a case is open with TCJFS. The goal is to ensure teamwork and communication between the kinship families and the agency. Services may include:

- * Educational orientation about TCJFS and support services
- * Limited material assistance (to those who qualify)
- * Assistance with case transition
- * Additional home visits to maintain placement

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES



Fostering:love
wearefosteringlove.org
330-353-9327

ohioKAN
Ohiokan.ohio.gov
1-844-OHIO-KAN



KINSHIP PERMANENCY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Some kinship families are eligible to receive help through Ohio's Kinship Permanency Incentive Program (KPI). KPI is a state initiative that provides kinship families, who received legal custody or guardianship of a kinship youth on or after July 1, 2005, with cash payments dispersed once every 6 months over a 4-year period.

To begin the process to be assessed for KPI funds, the kinship caregiver must fill out the form and submit it to TCJFS. The form can be accessed at odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/, Type in DCY 01501 in the search by form number or name box and click on search. Additional Kinship information can be found at fosterandadopt.jfs.ohio.gov/kinship-care. TCJFS can only assess kinship caregivers living within Tuscarawas County. If you reside outside of Tuscarawas County, please contact your local children services agency for assistance.

KPI Eligibility Requirements:

- Have court-ordered legal custody granted after 2005
- Income cannot exceed 300% FPL
- The home must be approved by a Children Services worker; a one-time home visit may need to occur if a worker has never been to the home

For more information about TCJFS' Kinship Program, call 330-339-7791 Press Option 1 then Option 4 after you choose a language option.

