

State Kinship Support Program (KSP) Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Q. What is the Kinship Support Program (KSP)?

A. KSP is a state program (Ohio Dept of Job and Family Services) that provides **time limited** financial payments to eligible kinship caregivers for the placement of children in their homes.

Q. Who is eligible for KSP?

A. A kinship caregiver who is **not** certified as a foster caregiver is eligible to receive KSP payments **for a child(ren) placed in the kinship caregiver's home when the child(ren) is in agency legal custody and for whom a kinship assessment is completed.** If the kinship assessment is delayed (securing and receiving fingerprint checks from BCI and FBI are often the cause of delay) KSP payment may also be delayed, but will be processed retroactively based on the completion date for the dates of the child(ren)'s placement. KSP will be issued for children placed for less than 30 days, regardless if the Kinship Assessment is completed. For caregivers with a kinship placement that occurs for less than 30 days, KSP will be paid regardless if the Kinship Assessment is completed.

Q. How long will eligible kinship caregivers receive KSP payments?

A. Eligible kinship caregivers will receive KSP payments in accordance with the following timeframes:

1. For not more than nine months after December 29, when the child was already placed in the kinship home; or
2. For not more than nine months from the date of placement when the child is placed in the kinship home during the nine-month period that begins with December 29, 2020 and ends September 29, 2021; or
3. For not more than six months from the date of placement when the child is placed in the kinship home on or after September 30, 2021.

Q. How much is the KSP payment?

A. The kinship caregivers will receive \$10.20 per day for each kinship child placed in their home. The kinship caregiver will receive KSP payments until the earliest of the following:

- a. The kinship caregiver obtains foster home certification
- b. The applicable timeframe specified in Question 3 above is exhausted; or
- c. The child is no longer placed in the kinship caregiver's home.

Q. Is there an application process required for KSP?

A. No application is needed but the caregiver must participate in a Kinship Assessment, which must be completed prior to payment issuance. This includes the caregiver and household members participating in fingerprinting

Q. When will kinship caregivers receive KSP payments?

A. The first payments for this program will be issued in April 2021. Payments will be made retroactively back to the date of December 29, 2020 for all eligible kinship placements. Payments will be sent directly to kinship caregivers on the 10th of every month thereafter.

Q. Is a nonrelative caregiver eligible for KSP?

A. Yes. The definition of "kinship caregiver" includes nonrelative adults that have a familiar and long-standing relationship or bond with the child or the family.

Q. Why is kinship care preferred?

A. Kinship care is preferred because it helps the child maintain a connection to their family and the world they know. We know from experience and research children are more likely to thrive in the care of someone connected to them. Kinship care can also help in keeping the child connected to family, friends, neighborhood, and school, and could assist with reunification efforts.

Q. How do Kinship Caregivers become licensed for foster care?

A. To continue to receive state payments after the KSP payments end you must become a licensed foster parent for the child(ren) in your care. The local Kinship Stipend Program continues until the placement changes or ends, or the Agency custody ends.

HCJFS does not license foster parents; but we partner with local foster care agencies in our community that provide foster care services. For information about beginning the process to become a foster parent, please visit www.HCKids.org.

Q. Is there a process for the kinship caregiver to waive KSP for any reason?

A. No, the statutory requirements do not provide an option for a kinship provider to opt out of KSP. Kinship caregivers will receive the full amount of the KSP in accordance with the timeframes prescribed in the statute and in the

Q. Are kinship caregivers required to become certified foster caregivers?

A. Kinship caregivers have the option to be certified as foster caregivers. They will not be required to be certified. However, financial support through KSP will end after the 6-9-month time frame, so becoming a certified foster home is a way to continue to receive state financial support if the child(ren) continues to be placed in your home.

Q. Will KSP be issued from Hamilton County?

A. ODJFS will make KSP payments directly to the kinship caregiver.

Q. Are KSP payments allowed for multiple placement episodes of a child?

A. Payment timeframes are specific to the kinship caregiver and the custody episode. A kinship caregiver will not be able to receive more than six or nine payments in the same custody episode. However, a new kinship caregiver will be eligible to receive KSP for the child in the same custody episode.

Q. Does the state KSP program impact the Hamilton county Kinship Stipend?

A. There will be no changes to the local Hamilton County Kinship Stipend through at least September 30, 2021. We plan to use the next several months to evaluate the impact of the new statewide KSP program while continuing our monthly locally funded kinship stipend payments. HCJFS will then determine if any modification is appropriate for our local kinship stipend program. Our main priority is to ensure our kinship families experience the benefits from the new KSP program without losing any current local support. Much like the KSP, our local Hamilton County Kinship Stipend program encourages kinship families to consider becoming licensed foster families so they can transition to receiving foster care payments instead.

If you have questions about the current Kinship Stipend or how this new KSP program will impact you: please call us at 513-946-2466 and select Option 1.

Q. If a child in PCSA custody is placed with a kinship caregiver out of state, will that caregiver receive KSP?

A. Yes, as long as the child is in the custody of the Ohio PCSA or other Title IV-E agency and is placed with a caregiver that meets the definition of “kinship caregiver” in ORC 5101.85, that caregiver will receive KSP payments. If that caregiver is a licensed foster caregiver in the other state, then it is the expectation that the caregiver will receive foster care maintenance payments caregivers have the flexibility to spend the money to provide and maintain a home for the child in care.

Q. Are kinship providers who receive KSP payments still eligible for the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program (KPIP) after granted legal custody?

A. A kinship caregiver who meets the requirements of KPIP will be eligible for that program upon obtaining legal custody or guardianship of the child. The receipt of KSP payments will have no bearing on KPIP eligibility.

Q. Is there any consideration of providing additional payments or services for children with higher needs?

A. The Ohio Revised Code does not provide for additional KSP amounts for children who have special needs. Kinship caregivers are encouraged to work with the custodial agency and Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator (OhioKAN) Program to determine what additional resources are available and accessible for kinship families.

Q. If the Kinship placement ends prior to April 2021 will KSP be issued for the days the child was in placement after 12/29/2020?

A. Yes.

Q. Can kinship caregivers receive both KSP and Ohio Works First-child only benefits?

A. No, kinship caregivers cannot receive both KSP and Ohio Works First (OWF)-child only benefits for the same child at the same time. The Office of Family Assistance is in the process of revising rules to reflect this requirement with an effective date of April 2021. Eligible caregivers may apply for OWF-child only benefits once the KSP payments have ended.

Prior to on April 16, 2021, ODJFS will terminate the OWF for children who were issued a KSP payment for April. The termination will be effective April 30, 2021. If the child is also on SNAP, the SNAP case will have the OWF automatically removed from the SNAP budget and SNAP benefits will be adjusted accordingly.

Notices of the actions will be sent to the household

A report will be sent to the county agency notifying them of these SNAP cases to ensure termination and/or reduction of benefits is correct.

For Additional information about Kinship Care see:

- [HCJFS 7978 Children’s Services Fact Sheet Kinship Care](#)
- [HCJFS 4120 Kinship Stipend Program Frequently Asked Questions and Answers](#)