

Kinship Care 2009

The Problem:

- Kinship caregivers (grandparents and other relatives raising relative children) don't have the necessary finances to raise children they have taken responsibility for to keep out of foster care. The Kinship Permanency Incentive Program was introduced to assist relative caregivers who care for children so those children may avoid the foster care system. This program is being removed from the FY10-11 budget.
- The Ohio Navigator Program, a program that advises and helps kinship caregivers find resources, is also no longer being funded.

What we want:

- Increase TANF – Child Only Grants (Ohio Works First) to \$300 per child per month for kinship care in order to ensure all kinship caregivers have the necessary finances to raise the children that are being diverted from the foster care system.
- Restore the \$10 million funding for the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program.
- Restore the \$3 million state budget line item for the Ohio Navigator Program.

Background Information:

- The Kinship Permanency Incentive Program provides a \$1,000 initial payment and \$500 every six months up to three years for a maximum of \$3,500 per child.
- Foster parents that are unrelated to the child receive as much as \$600 per child per month. But the foster parent that is related to the child fits into the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program, which provides much less support.

Impact:

- By guaranteeing kinship caregivers funding through the Ohio Works First grant, many more children may successfully avoid the costly and more traumatic foster care system.
- By fully funding the Ohio Navigator Program, Kinship caregivers will have access to all of the resources they need in order to provide more successful kinship care.

Kinship Care and the Ohio Navigator Program are vital programs that benefit many children in Ohio and are essential for a more sustainable future.

To Get Involved: Your legislators work for you and need to hear your voice. Join together with ABLE and find out how you can have your voice heard. CONTACT ABLE TODAY!