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Office of Family Stability Letter # 43
January 9, 2006

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Jeanne Carroll, Deputy Director
Office of Family Stability

SUBJECT: Kinship Permanency Incentive Payments

This memo is to provide clarification about how Kinship Permanency Incentive payments are to be treated for purposes of cash assistance and food stamp benefits. The Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI) program was implemented January 1, 2006, and is funded with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds. Kinship Permanency Incentive payments are designed to promote a permanent commitment by a kinship caregiver(s) through becoming guardians and custodians over minor children who would otherwise be unsafe or at risk of harm if they remained in their own homes. More information about the program can be found at O.A.C. rule 5101:2-40-04, Kinship permanency incentive program, of the Family, Children and Adult Services Manual.

Food Stamps

This memo is not intended to change, replace, or obsolete any portion of applicable federal law, Ohio Revised Code (ORC) section, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule, Food Stamp Certification Handbook (FSCH) regulation, or departmental rule. For a complete explanation of the policies, please reference the FSCH, ORC, OAC, and/or other applicable federal regulations.

Recently, the Food Stamp Section requested further clarification from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) on the proper treatment of income received by food stamp assistance groups from the Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI) program.

FNS has confirmed that in accordance with federal regulations at CFR 273.9 (b)(2), these KPI payments are to be considered countable unearned income for food stamp purposes and that each payment is to be budgeted over the period of time it is intended to cover. Reference OAC rule 5101:4-4-19 (B) of the FSCH.

OWF/DFA

Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI) payments are to be excluded as countable income in the OWF program. An Action Change Transmittal (ACT) will be issued in the near future, and rule 5101:1-23-20 will be amended to include the exclusion of KPI payments.

As set forth in rule 5101:1-5-40, income excluded under the OWF program is also excluded in the DFA program.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the TANF_FSTA mailbox.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

cc:	Barbara Riley, Director	Family Stability Staff
	Fred Williams, Assistant Director	Loretta Adams, OJFSDA
	Bruce Madson, Assistant Director	Crystal Allen, PCSAO
	China Widener, Chief of Staff	Kim Newsome, OCDA
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