

Proposed Changes in the Budget Bill (HB166) to Ohio Revised Code Language regarding Kinship Navigator Programming

Note: The below changes are just proposed at this time. Currently the programming also has 3.5 million dollars for both SFY2020 and SFY2021 of general revenue funds (GRF) attached to it. Again this funding amount could be reduced, increased or eliminated depending on the state legislature.

5101.85 Kinship caregiver defined.

As used in sections 5101.851 to 5101.853 of the Revised Code, "kinship caregiver" means any of the following who is eighteen years of age or older and is caring for a child in place of the child's parents:

(A) The following individuals related by blood or adoption to the child:

- (1) Grandparents, including grandparents with the prefix "great," "great-great," or "great-great-great";
- (2) Siblings;
- (3) Aunts, uncles, nephews, and nieces, including such relatives with the prefix "great," "great-great," "grand," or "great-grand";
- (4) First cousins and first cousins once removed.

(B) Stepparents and stepsiblings of the child;

(C) Spouses and former spouses of individuals named in divisions (A) and (B) of this section;

(D) A legal guardian of the child;

(E) A legal custodian of the child;

(F) Any nonrelative adult having a familiar and long-standing relationship or bond with the child or the family, which relationship or bond will ensure the child's social ties.

5101.851 Statewide program of kinship care navigators.

The department of job and family services ~~may~~ shall establish a statewide ~~program of~~ kinship care ~~navigators~~ **navigator program** to assist kinship caregivers who are seeking information regarding, or assistance obtaining, services and benefits available at the state and local level that address the needs of those caregivers residing in each county. The program shall provide to kinship caregivers information and referral services and assistance obtaining support services including the following:

(A) Publicly funded child care;

(B) Respite care;

(C) Training related to caring for special needs children;

(D) A toll-free telephone number that may be called to obtain basic information about the rights of, and services available to, kinship caregivers;

(E) Legal services.

5101.852 Payments for kinship caregivers. This section would be rescinded

~~Within available funds, the department of job and family services shall make payments to public children services agencies for the purpose of permitting the agencies to provide kinship care navigator information and referral services and assistance obtaining support services to kinship caregivers pursuant to the kinship care navigator program. The department may provide training and technical assistance concerning the needs of kinship caregivers to employees of public children services agencies and to persons or entities that serve kinship caregivers or perform the duties of a kinship care navigator and are under contract with an agency.~~

5101.853

The director of job and family services shall divide the state into not less than five and not greater than twelve regions, for the kinship care navigator program under section 5101.851 of the Revised Code. The director shall take the following into consideration when establishing the regions:

(A) The population size;

(B) The estimated number of kinship caregivers;

(C) The expertise of kinship navigators;

(D) Any other factor the director considers relevant.

5101.854

The program in each kinship care navigator region established under section 5101.853 of the Revised Code shall provide information and referral services and assistance in obtaining support services for kinship caregivers within its region.

~~5101.853~~ 5101.855 Adoption of rules.

Not later than one year after the effective date of this amendment, the department of job and family services ~~may~~ shall adopt rules to implement the kinship care ~~navigators~~ navigator program. The rules shall be adopted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, except that rules governing fiscal and administrative matters related to implementation of the ~~navigators~~ program are internal management rules and shall be adopted under section 111.15 of the Revised Code.

5101.856

(A)(1) The kinship care navigator program shall be funded to the extent that general revenue funds have been appropriated by the general assembly for that purpose.

(2) The director of job and family services shall take any action necessary to obtain funds available for the kinship care navigator program under Title IV-E of the "Social Security Act," 94 Stat. 501 (1980), 42 U.S.C. 670, as amended.

(B) The department shall pay the full nonfederal share for the kinship care navigator program. No county department of job and family services or public children services agency shall be responsible for the cost of the program.