

Kinship Permanency Incentive Program

Annual Report
(January 2006-December 2006)



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Introduction

Child welfare agencies have traditionally relied upon extended family members and family friends to care for children who are unable to safely remain in their own homes. Federal and state laws require agencies to first seek relatives or family friends when possible, to preserve the child's connection with his or her family. This practice is referred to as kinship care. Kinship care is defined as: the living situation in which a grandparent, aunt, uncle, other close relative or person who is emotionally close to a child takes primary responsibility for the care of that child. Kinship care can be an effective alternative to foster care, providing numerous benefits for the child and family. The child welfare system has seen a major growth in the number of children in state custody who are placed with relatives. This practice has grown substantially in the past decade. However, this practice varies across States.

Ohio's Kinship Permanency Incentive Program

Ohio's new Kinship Permanency Incentive program (KPI), authorized by Amended House Bill 66, and became effective January 2006. This program, supported with \$10 million from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for each year of the biennium, is designed to promote a permanent commitment by kinship caregivers for minor children who are unable to safely remain in their own homes due to an adjudication that they are abused, neglected, dependent, or unruly. KPI program provides time-limited incentive payments to eligible caregivers who accept legal custody or legal guardianship of kin children on or after July 1, 2005. This program provides for eligible families to receive an initial payment of \$1,000 per child to defray the initial costs associated with assuming the child's care. Families continuing to meet eligibility requirements may receive additional \$500 payments at six month intervals within a thirty-six month period, up to a maximum of \$3500. Participation in this program does not preclude these families from receiving Child Only TANF benefits or funds for the Early Learning Initiative (ELI). Eligible kinship caregivers need to initiate the application process at their local Public Children Service Agency (PCSA).

Eligibility Requirements for Ohio's Kinship Permanency Incentive program Include:

- The child must be adjudicated by the juvenile court as being abused, neglected, dependent, or unruly
- A Court has awarded legal custody or guardianship to the kinship caregiver on or after July 1, 2005, based on the best interest of the child.
- The child must be considered "special needs" (similar criteria as for adoption subsidies).
- The PCSA has completed the Relative or Non-Relative Substitute Placement Approval Process, inclusive of a criminal background check.
- The gross income of the caregiver's family, including the child, may not exceed 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.

This report is the first annual report for the KPI program. The activities occurring for KPI program during January – December 2006 are described in the following sections. This is a descriptive, not an analytical report.

Initial Applications Received for Ohio's Kinship Permanency Incentive Program Funds

During the first twelve months of operation (January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006), 2391 kinship children (based on effective date) applied for KPI program funding. About three fourths (1778 or 74.4%) of them were approved and 24.0% (574) were denied for not meeting the eligibility requirements (See Graph 1 and Table 1).

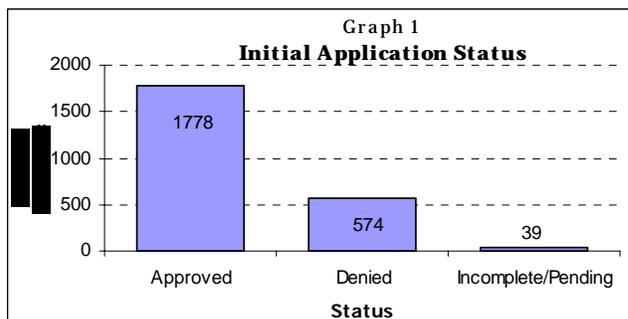


Table 1

Initial Application Status		
	Number	Percent
Approved	1778	74.4%
Denied	574	24.0%
Incomplete/Pending	39	1.6%
Total	2391	100.0%

Though there were 2391 kinship children, more than 2391 applications were received for funding as some kinship children applied a number of times until they received initial approval. This was especially true for those children whose applications were denied the first time for different eligibility reasons and subsequently reapplied. Some children were approved in the subsequent times and others were unsuccessful. Each time an application is submitted a new application identity number is assigned.

Applications Denied (Initial): The main reason for denying KPI program funding was Legal Custody/ Guardianship was Not Established on or After July 1, 2005. (26.3%), Child Not Adjudicated Abused, Neglected, Dependent or Unruly (22.8%), Placement Not Approved by PCSA or PCPA (17.7%), Income Ineligibility (Exceeds 200% of Poverty Level) (16.2%) and Other (14.3%). Nine hundred four (904) denial reasons were cited for 574 applications as each application can be denied for multiple eligibility reasons (See Table 2).

Table 2

Initial Application Denial Reason*		
Denial Reason	Number	Percent
Income Ineligible (exceeds 200% of poverty level)	146	16.2%
Child Does Not Meet Special Needs Definition	21	2.3%
Legal Custody/Guardianship Not Established on or After July 1, 2005	238	26.3%
Child Not Adjudicated Abused, Neglected, Dependent, or Unruly	206	22.8%
Caregiver Not Resident of Ohio	4	0.4%
Placement Not Approved by PCSA or PCPA	160	17.7%
36 Month Timeframe Has Elapsed	0	0.0%
Other	129	14.3%
Total	904	100.0%

* Some applicants have multiple denial reasons.

Adjudication of Kinship Children: These children came under kinship care as a result of court adjudication. Some had multiple adjudication reasons. The most predominant

adjudication reason was Dependency. About six out of ten (60.5%) applicants (including Approved, Denied and Incomplete/Pending) were adjudicated as Dependent. The next largest adjudication reason was Neglect (29.2%). When each application status is considered separately, the same pattern prevailed. The approved children adjudicated for Dependency was the single largest group (1428) and the approved children adjudicated for Neglect was the next largest group (676). Children who were adjudicated Unruly had a higher rate of application denial ($11/33=33.3\%$) than other types of adjudications, however, the number of unruly children was miniscule to indicate a real trend (See Table 3).

Table 3

Type of Court Adjudication of Kinship Children* (Initial Application)								
Court Adjudication	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Abused	217	9.3%	44	9%	1	2.7%	262	9.1%
Dependent	1428	61.0%	289	58%	22	59.5%	1739	60.5%
Neglected	676	28.9%	151	31%	12	32.4%	839	29.2%
Unruly	20	0.9%	11	2%	2	5.4%	33	1.1%
Total	2341	100.0%	495	100.0%	37	100.0%	2873	100.0%

* Some applicants have more than one reason for adjudication.

Reason Children Were In Kinship Care: When exploring why these children were living with relatives, a number of reasons were identified, and some children have more than one reason for living with relatives. Parents' Substance Abuse and/or Treatment (24.8%) was the most common reason among these children. Abandonment/Relinquishment/Dependency (14.1%) was the next prevalent reason. Other major reasons mentioned were Parents Unemployed (11.8%), Parents Mental Health and/or Treatment (11.1%) and Parents Incarcerated (11.0%). Unruly/Delinquency ($11/45=24.4\%$), Parents Death ($28/122=22.9\%$), Child Disability/Special Needs ($18/93=19.3\%$), Parents Unemployed ($103/535=19.2\%$), Sexual Abuse ($19/99=19.1\%$), Child Behavior Problems ($25/131=19.0\%$) had the highest rates of denial among all the entry reasons (See Table 4).

Table 4

Entry Reason Children Were in Kinship Care* (Initial Application)								
Reason Child Living	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
With Relatives								
Parent(s) incarcerated	405	10.9%	91	11.7%	5	9.6%	501	11.0%
Parent(s) substance abuse and/or treatment	919	24.8%	196	25.1%	12	23.1%	1127	24.8%
Parent(s) mental health and/or treatment	412	11.1%	88	11.3%	3	5.8%	503	11.1%
Parent(s) has a chronic illness	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Parent(s) unemployed	426	11.5%	103	13.2%	6	11.5%	535	11.8%
Parent(s) death	93	2.5%	28	3.6%	1	1.9%	122	2.7%
Physical abuse	159	4.3%	34	4.4%	1	1.9%	194	4.3%
Sexual abuse	77	2.1%	19	2.4%	3	5.8%	99	2.2%
Emotional abuse	257	6.9%	38	4.9%	3	5.8%	298	6.6%
Abandonment/Relinquishment/Dependency	545	14.7%	82	10.5%	11	21.2%	638	14.1%
Child substance abuse and/or treatment	19	0.5%	4	0.5%	0	0.0%	23	0.5%
Child behavior problems	103	2.8%	25	3.2%	3	5.8%	131	2.9%
Unruly/Delinquency	33	0.9%	11	1.4%	1	1.9%	45	1.0%
Child's disability/special needs	74	2.0%	18	2.3%	1	1.9%	93	2.0%
Other	186	5.0%	43	5.5%	2	3.8%	231	5.1%
Total	3708	100.0%	780	100.0%	52	100.0%	4540	100.0%

*Some applicants have more than one reason for living with relatives.

We found other reasons for child being in kinship care in additions to the ones in the above table. There is a section in the application form for other kinship reasons. Mostly cited reasons among other things were; homelessness, domestic violence, mother is living out-of-state, mother relocated out-of-state, parents were deported, parents whereabouts unknown, child was born addicted to drugs, grandparents petitioned for custody, child endangerment, unsafe home/dirty environment, child is released from Ohio Department of Youth Services and the child parent is a unruly minor.

Previous Custody of Kinship Children: A majority of these children (52.6%) were not in the custody or a PCSA or PCPA prior to living with relatives. Most of those who were previously in the custody of a PCSA or PCPA were under Temporary Court Order (24.8%) and Temporary Commitment (12.1%). Children with No Previous Custody (433/1257 =34.4%) and children with Ex-Parte (21/97=21.6%) had the highest proportions of application denial (See Table 5).

Table 5

Previous Custody of Kinship Children (Initial Application)								
Previous Custody	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agency Authority	87	4.9%	22	3.8%	2	5.1%	111	4.6%
Ex Parte	72	4.0%	21	3.7%	4	10.3%	97	4.1%
Temporary Commitment	262	14.7%	26	4.5%	2	5.1%	290	12.1%
Temporary Court Order	522	29.4%	65	11.3%	5	12.8%	592	24.8%
PPLA	14	0.8%	2	0.3%	1	2.6%	17	0.7%
Voluntary Agreement for Care	22	1.2%	5	0.9%	0	0.0%	27	1.1%
No Previous Custody	799	44.9%	433	75.4%	25	64.1%	1257	52.6%
Total	1778	100.0%	574	100.0%	39	100.0%	2391	100.0%

Special Needs of Kinship Children: The children living with relatives have a variety of special needs and some children have multiple special needs. Over one third (34.0%) of these children are part of a Sibling Group and about a fourth (25.3%) are members of a Minority Racial/Ethnic Group. Another 23.0% are aged Six Years or Older. Therefore, many of these kinship children had special needs related to social aspects rather than medical aspects of their lives. Comparatively, kinship children having experienced Medical/Physical Condition (52/218=23.8%) and children Six Years or Older (206/930=22.1%) were denied funding more than children with other special needs. The lowest denial rate occurred for Sibling Group (190/1375=13.8%) (See Table 6).

Table 6

Special Needs of Kinship Children* (Initial Application)								
Child's Special Needs	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Medical History Risk	221	6.7%	56	7.9%	6	10.0%	283	7.0%
Sibling Group	1168	35.7%	190	26.8%	17	28.3%	1375	34.0%
Minority Racial/Ethnic Group	835	25.5%	172	24.2%	18	30.0%	1025	25.3%
Six Years or Older	707	21.6%	206	29.0%	17	28.3%	930	23.0%
Multiple Placements	180	5.5%	34	4.8%	1	1.7%	215	5.3%
Medical/Physical Condition	165	5.0%	52	7.3%	1	1.7%	218	5.4%
Child or Biological Family has MR/DD	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	3276	100.0%	710	100.0%	60	100.0%	4046	100.0%

*Some applicants have more than one special need.

Placement Goals of Kinship Children: The case plans for these kinship children were required to be developed by PCSAs. These plans expect them to permanently remain with their Relatives (38.7%). For others, the plan is to reunify with their Parents (37.4%) or return to Own Home (22.8%). The greatest denial rate occurred for the children who had placement goal of Adoption (3/7=42.8%) and Return to their Own Home (76/410=18.5%). Further, about 24.9% (596) kinship children did not have placement goals mentioned. Some PCSAs were not initially involved with the family, thus, they were not required to develop a case plan. This might explain lack of placement goals for a large number (See Table 7).

Table 7

Placement Goals of Kinship Children* (Initial Application)								
Placement Goal	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Adoption	4	0.3%	3	1.2%	0	0.0%	7	0.4%
Independent Living	11	0.7%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	12	0.7%
Own Home	326	21.4%	76	30.8%	8	33.3%	410	22.8%
Permanency With Relatives	585	38.4%	96	38.9%	13	54.2%	694	38.7%
Return to Parent	598	39.2%	71	28.7%	3	12.5%	672	37.4%
Total	1524	100.0%	247	100.0%	24	100.0%	1795	100.0%

* Missing Data=596

County Distribution of KPI program Applications (Initial): The county distribution detailing the number of applications received for KPI program funds resembled the regular pattern of child welfare in Ohio. The six major metro counties accounted for 57.1% (1367 kinship children) with the largest single county being Cuyahoga with 363 children (15.2%), followed by Hamilton with 235 children (9.8%), Franklin with 217 children (9.1%), Summit with 197 children (8.2%), Lucas with 189 children (7.9%) and Montgomery with 166 children (6.9%). Other counties which had a significant number of kinship children applying for KPI program funding were Stark with 94 children (3.9%), Trumbull with 80 children (3.3%), Mahoning with 78 children (3.3%), Butler with 71 children (3.0%), Clark with 56 children (2.3%) and Lorain with 50 children (2.1%). The distribution for all counties appears in Appendix Table 1.

Profile of Kinship Children

This segment of the report focuses on the socio-demographic characteristics of kinship children who applied for initial funding under KPI program.

Gender of Kinship Children: There were 2391 children for whom applications for funds under the Kinship Permanency Incentive program were submitted. Over half of the applications (51.5%) were for Female children, 48.5% were for Male children. This pattern remained the same for both approved and denied applicants. The application denial rate was higher for Males ($276/1144=24.1\%$) than Females ($289/1214=23.8\%$) (See Table 8).

Table 8

Gender of Kinship Children* (Initial Application)								
Gender	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Female	904	51.5%	289	51.2%	21	55.3%	1214	51.5%
Male	851	48.5%	276	48.8%	17	44.7%	1144	48.5%
Total	1755	100.0%	565	100.0%	38	100.0%	2358	100.0%

*Missing Data=33

Race/Ethnicity of Kinship Children: close to one half of the kinship children were African American (46.5%), White children accounted for 43.9% and Multi Racial had 7.8%. Among approved applicants there were 803 (45.7%) African American and 778 (44.3%) White kinship children. However, among denied applicants African American had 196 (49.7%) children compared to 169 (42.9%) White children. Thus, indicating a higher denial rate for African American ($196/1013=19.3\%$) than White ($169/956=17.6\%$). The race/ethnicity data for 213 (8.9%) of all applicants were not available (See Table 9).

Table 9

Race/Ethnicity of Kinship Children* (Initial Application)								
Race/Ethnicity	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African/American	803	45.7%	196	49.7%	14	50.0%	1013	46.5%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	0.1%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.2%
White	778	44.3%	169	42.9%	9	32.1%	956	43.9%
Multi Racial	147	8.4%	18	4.6%	5	17.9%	170	7.8%
Hispanic	23	1.3%	10	2.5%	0	0.0%	33	1.5%
Total	1756	100.0%	394	100.0%	28	100.0%	2178	100.0%

*Missing Data=213

Age of Kinship Children: About two thirds ($38.2\%+29.2\%=67.4\%$) of kinship children were under ten years old. The single largest age group was children who were 4 Years or younger (38.2%). Children aged 5-9 Years were the next largest group with 29.2%. Though the older kinship children were numerically less among the applicants they had higher denial rates; 15-19 Years old ($84/276=30.4\%$) and 10-14 Years old ($139/501=27.7\%$). The age is calculated from birth date to effective date (See Table 10 – next page).

Table 10

Age of Kinship Children as of Effective Date (Initial Application)								
Age Group	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-4 Years	708	39.8%	194	33.8%	11	28.2%	913	38.2%
5-9 Years	528	29.7%	156	27.2%	13	33.3%	697	29.2%
10-14 Years	352	19.8%	139	24.2%	10	25.6%	501	21.0%
15-19 Years	187	10.5%	84	14.6%	5	12.8%	276	11.5%
20 Years and Above	3	0.2%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	4	0.2%
Total	1778	100.0%	574	100.0%	39	100.0%	2391	100.0%

Legal Relationship of Primary Caregivers to Kinship Children: When the legal relationship is considered, the primary caregivers were mostly Legal Custodians (85.0%). This was true for approved as well as denied applicants. The largest single group is kinship children whose applications were approved and had Legal Custodians (1494). The denial rates for Legal Custodian ($501/2033=24.6\%$) is higher than for Legal Guardian ($73/358=20.3\%$) (See Table 11).

Table 11

Legal Relationship of Primary Caregivers to Kinship Children (Initial Application)								
Relationship	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Legal Custodian	1494	84.0%	501	87.3%	38	97.4%	2033	85.0%
Legal Guardian	284	16.0%	73	12.7%	1	2.6%	358	15.0%
Total	1778	100.0%	574	100.0%	39	100.0%	2391	100.0%

Profile of Primary Kinship Caregivers

The discussion in the following section is focused only on the primary kinship caregivers mentioned in initial applications though other caregivers were mentioned in the applications. Many kinship children had more than one caregiver and they are mentioned as primary, secondary and so forth. On the other hand, one primary caregiver may provide care for more than one kinship child, especially in the case of sibling group. Therefore, the number of primary caregivers (1502) was less than the number of kinship children applied for initial KPI program funding (2391).

Gender of Primary Caregivers: Overwhelmingly, the primary caregivers were Females. Nearly nine out of ten (88.0%) caregivers were Females. Also, denial ratio is higher for Female caregivers ($353/1307=27.0\%$) compared to Males ($44/178=24.7\%$). (See Table 12).

Table 12

Gender of Primary Caregivers*								
Gender	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Female	930	87.9%	353	88.9%	24	80.0%	1307	88.0%
Male	128	12.1%	44	11.1%	6	20.0%	178	12.0%
Total	1058	100.0%	397	100.0%	30	100.0%	1485	100.0%

*Missing Data=17

Race/Ethnicity of Primary Caregivers: The race distribution of primary kinship caregivers reflected a similar pattern of kinship children. The identical number of African American and White primary caregivers were among all the caregivers (48.4%) each. Almost three out of ten ($28.5\%=207/725$) African American caregivers' applications were denied whereas the similar ratio for White was 25.5% ($185/725$). But the highest denial rate was for American Indian/Alaskan Native ($3/8=37.5\%$). Nevertheless, the number of primary caregivers was miniscule from this race category to identify a veritable trend (See Table 13).

Table 13

Race/Ethnicity of Primary Caregivers *								
Race/Ethnicity	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African/American	504	47.3%	207	51.5%	14	46.7%	725	48.4%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	5	0.5%	3	0.7%	0	0.0%	8	0.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
White	526	49.4%	185	46.0%	14	46.7%	725	48.4%
Multi Racial	16	1.5%	2	0.5%	1	3.3%	19	1.3%
Hispanic	13	1.2%	5	1.2%	1	3.3%	19	1.3%
Total	1065	100.0%	402	100.0%	30	100.0%	1497	100.0%

*Missing Data=5

Age of Primary Caregivers: Primary caregivers by and large were middle aged; 40 to 59 Years old ($31.8\%+25.6\%=57.4\%$), with the largest single age group being 40-49 Years old (31.8%), followed by 50-59 Years old (25.6%). A considerable number of caregivers were over age 60 Years ($9.7\%+2.8\%=12.5\%$) and the oldest was 93 years old. The applications from 50-59 Years old primary caregivers ($121/382=31.6\%$) were denied at a higher rate, followed by 70 and over Years old ($13/42=30.9\%$) and 60-69 Years old ($41/145=28.2\%$). The age is calculated from birth date to effective date (See Table 14).

Table 14

Age of Primary Caregivers * as of Effective Date								
Age Group	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
20-29 Years	119	11.2%	35	8.7%	3	10.0%	157	10.5%
30-39 Years	221	20.8%	66	16.4%	6	20.0%	293	19.6%
40-49 Years	336	31.6%	126	31.3%	14	46.7%	476	31.8%
50-59 Years	256	24.1%	121	30.1%	5	16.7%	382	25.6%
60-69 Years	102	9.6%	41	10.2%	2	6.7%	145	9.7%
70 Years & Over	29	2.7%	13	3.2%	0	0.0%	42	2.8%
Total	1063	100.0%	402	100.0%	30	100.0%	1495	100.0%

*Missing Data=7

Educational Level of Primary Caregivers: A majority of primary caregivers (22.6%+43.6%=66.2%) mentioned either attended High School or graduated from High School as their highest level of education. The next largest group is caregivers who had some college level education (17.8%); however, the number of Associate Degree or College Degree holders among primary caregivers (120) was smaller compared to caregivers who had Some College education (258). The primary caregivers who had College Degree (28/80=35.0%) had higher application denial rates than other educational levels and it was followed by Some High School (108/328=32.9%), Some College (84/258=32.5%), High School Graduate (195/632=30.8%) and Associate Degree (12/40=30.0%) (See Table 15).

Table 15

Education Level of Primary Caregivers *								
Education Level	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Grade School	18	1.9%	4	0.9%	0	0.0%	22	1.5%
Middle School	24	2.5%	6	1.3%	0	0.0%	30	2.1%
Some High School	212	22.1%	108	23.7%	8	22.9%	328	22.6%
High School Graduate	428	44.5%	195	42.9%	9	25.7%	632	43.6%
Technical Training	39	4.1%	18	4.0%	4	11.4%	61	4.2%
Some College	165	17.2%	84	18.5%	9	25.7%	258	17.8%
Associate Degree	27	2.8%	12	2.6%	1	2.9%	40	2.8%
College Degree	48	5.0%	28	6.2%	4	11.4%	80	5.5%
Total	961	100.0%	455	100.0%	35	100.0%	1451	100.0%

*Missing Data=51

Income of Primary Caregivers: For Fifty-six percent (56.8%) of the primary caregivers' the main source of income was from Employment. The other major income source was Social Security (SSI 10.5% and Social Security 9.9%) with 20.4%. A considerable number (365 or 24.3%) of these primary caregivers did not disclose their income sources. Surprisingly, the applications from recipients of Social Security (39/112=34.8%), Retirement (12/39=30.7%), SSI (35/119=29.4%) and Employment (183/646=28.3%), were denied more often compared to denial rates of other types of income (See table 16 – Next Page).

Table 16

Source of Primary Caregivers' Income*								
Income Level	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Child Support	37	4.6%	8	2.6%	1	5.6%	46	4.0%
Disability	29	3.6%	10	3.2%	2	11.1%	41	3.6%
Employment	453	56.2%	183	58.5%	10	55.6%	646	56.8%
Retirement	27	3.3%	12	3.8%	0	0.0%	39	3.4%
SSI	82	10.2%	35	11.2%	2	11.1%	119	10.5%
Social Security	72	8.9%	39	12.5%	1	5.6%	112	9.9%
Veterans Benefits	6	0.7%	2	0.6%	1	5.6%	9	0.8%
Workers Compensation	7	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	0.6%
Other	93	11.5%	24	7.7%	1	5.6%	118	10.4%
Total	806	100.0%	313	100.0%	18	100.0%	1137	100.0%

* Missing Data =365

Primary Caregivers Receipt of Public Assistance on Behalf of Kinship Children: The kinship children may be eligible to receive child only public assistance under Ohio Works First. More than half of primary caregivers (60.1%) received public assistance through Ohio Works First. Among approved applicants 70.2% received OWF assistance and only 34.7% denied applicants received OWF assistance, thus, a significant proportion of denied applicants did not receive OWF funds (263 or 65.3%). On the other hand, the denial rate for those who do not receive OWF benefits ($263/600=43.8\%$) far exceeded the denial rate for those who receive OWF benefits ($140/902=15.5\%$) (See Table 17).

Table 17

Primary Caregivers Receiving Public Assistance for Kinship Children								
Receiving	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ohio Work First Funds								
Yes	750	70.2%	140	34.7%	12	40.0%	902	60.1%
No	319	29.8%	263	65.3%	18	60.0%	600	39.9%
Total	1069	100.0%	403	100.0%	30	100.0%	1502	100.0%

Relationship between Primary Caregivers and Kinship Children: Most of the kinship children were in the care of grandparents. About 44.8% (1044) of kinship children for whom applications were submitted were grandchildren (including great grand children); an equal number of Granddaughters (22.4% or 522) and Grandsons (22.4% or 522). These 1044 grandchildren were under the care of 657 Grandparents. The next largest category was Kin Children (20.0%), Nieces (12.3%) and Nephews (11.6%). The highest denial rate occurred Adopted/Foster Children ($2/3=66.7\%$) but the number of these children is trivial. Significant denial rates were also observed for Step-Daughter ($1/3=33.3\%$), Other Relative ($12/39=30.7\%$), Granddaughter ($142/522=27.2\%$), Kin Children ($125/467=26.7\%$), Brother ($5/21=23.8\%$), Grandson ($123/522=23.5\%$) and Nephew ($60/271=22.1\%$). Surprisingly, Non Relatives had the lowest rate of denial ($8/72=11.1\%$) (See Table 18 - Next Page – *the relationship mentioned in the table is either Primary Caregivers' relationship to Kinship Children or Kinship Children's relationship to Primary Caregivers*).

Table 18

Relationship between Primary Caregivers and Kinship Children*								
Relationship	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Adopted/Foster Child	1	0.1%	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	3	0.1%
Brother	16	0.9%	5	0.9%	0	0.0%	21	0.9%
Cousin	88	5.0%	18	3.3%	3	8.1%	109	4.7%
Granddaughter	371	21.3%	142	25.7%	9	24.3%	522	22.4%
Grandson	392	22.5%	123	22.3%	7	18.9%	522	22.4%
Kin Child	333	19.1%	125	22.6%	9	24.3%	467	20.0%
Nephew	208	11.9%	60	10.9%	3	8.1%	271	11.6%
Niece	229	13.1%	53	9.6%	5	13.5%	287	12.3%
Non Relative	63	3.6%	8	1.4%	1	2.7%	72	3.1%
Other Relative	27	1.5%	12	2.2%	0	0.0%	39	1.7%
Sister	12	0.7%	3	0.5%	0	0.0%	15	0.6%
Step-Daughter	2	0.1%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	3	0.1%
Step-Son	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
Total	1743	100.0%	552	100.0%	37	100.0%	2332	100.0%

*Missing Data =59

Grandparents Providing Care as Primary Caregivers for Kinship Children: The number of kinship children approved for KPI program funding between 1/1/2006 and 12/31/2006 was 1778 (including 763 grand children) and 1069 primary caregivers provided kinship care for them. Among these primary caregivers 456 were grandparents representing 42.6% of approved kinship caregivers.

A majority of these grandparents were Grandmothers; 88.7% of all applicants. Only the grandchildren who were provided care by 456 grandparents were approved for funding. Among the approved grandchildren, the kinship care was provided by Grandmothers (88.8%) and Grandfathers (11.2%). The trend is similar for grandparents whose kinship children were denied funding (See Table 19).

Table 19

Grandparents Providing Care as Primary Caregivers for Kinship Children								
Relationship	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Grandmother	405	88.8%	169	89.4%	9	75.0%	583	88.7%
Grandfather	51	11.2%	20	10.6%	3	25.0%	74	11.3%
Total	456	100.0%	189	100.0%	12	100.0%	657	100.0%

Applications Received for Ohio's Kinship Permanency Incentive Program Funds - First Redetermination

Kinship children who were approved for initial funding are entitled to receive additional \$500 payments at six month intervals within a thirty-six month period, up to a maximum of \$3500 (including initial \$ 1000) provided they continue to meet the eligibility requirements. The first six months have elapsed since the inception of Kinship Permanency Incentive program. This segment describes the kinship children who applied for the first redetermination.

Seven hundred twenty three applications were received by December 31, 2006 (based on effective date) from 720 kinship children for redetermination. Three kinship children applied twice for redetermination, two were denied both times and another was approved in the subsequent time. A majority of caregivers who applied for redetermination on behalf of kinship children (698 or 96.9%) were approved and only 19 children (2.6%) were denied. Applications from 3 children are pending.

Applications Denied (First Redetermination): The subsequent funding was denied to 19 kinship children primarily due to the following reasons; Income Ineligible (57.1%), Other (19.0%) and Placement Not Approved (14.3%) (See Table 20).

Table 20

Application Denial Reason* - First Redetermination		
Denial Reason	Number	Percent
Income Ineligible (exceeds 200% of poverty level)	12	57.1%
Child Does Not Meet Special Needs Definition	0	0.0%
Legal Custody/Guardianship Not Established on or After July 1, 2005	2	9.5%
Child Not Adjudicated Abused, Neglected, Dependent, or Unruly	0	0.0%
Caregiver Not Resident of Ohio	0	0.0%
Placement Not Approved by PCSA or PCPA	3	14.3%
36 Month Timeframe Has Elapsed	0	0.0%
Other	4	19.0%
Total	21	100.0%

* Some applicants have multiple denial reasons

Gender of Kinship Children (First Redetermination): Males had a higher approval rate (49.0%) compared to Females; 48.0%, however, Females has a higher denial rate (11/343=3.1%) compared to that of Males (8/358=2.2%) (See Table 21).

Table 21

Gender of Kinship Children* (First Redetermination)						
Gender	Female		Male		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Approved	343	96.1%	350	97.8%	693	96.9%
Denied	11	3.1%	8	2.2%	19	2.7%
Incomplete/Pending	3	0.8%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%
Total	357	100.0%	358	100.0%	715	100.0%

*Missing Data =5

Race/Ethnicity of Kinship Children (First Redetermination): Those who sought redetermination mostly were African American (48.0%) and White children were next 43.5%. The approval rate was higher for White children (302/309=97.7%) than African American



children (330/341=96.7%). Conversely, the denial rate was higher for African American children (10/341=2.9%) and the same for White children was 1.9% (6/309) (See Table 22).

Table 22

Race/Ethnicity of Kinship Children* (First Redetermination)								
Race/Ethnicity	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African/American	330	47.8%	10	55.6%	1	50.0%	341	48.0%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
White	302	43.7%	6	33.3%	1	50.0%	309	43.5%
Multi Racial	46	6.7%	2	11.1%	0	0.0%	48	6.8%
Hispanic	12	1.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	12	1.7%
Total	691	100.0%	18	100.0%	2	100.0%	711	100.0%

*Missing Data=9

County Distribution of KPI program Applications (First Redetermination): The county distribution detailing the number of applications for redetermination resembled the regular pattern of child welfare in Ohio. The six major metro counties accounted for 55.5% (400 kinship children) with the largest single county being Cuyahoga with 99 children (13.8%), followed by Hamilton with 73 children (10.1%), Montgomery with 70 children (9.7%), Lucas with 65 children (9.0%), Summit with 49 children (6.8%), and Franklin with 44 children (6.1%). Other counties which had a significant number of kinship children applying for KPI program redetermination were Trumbull with 42 children (5.8%), Mahoning with 41 children (5.7%), Stark with 18 children (2.5%), and Lorain with 18 children (2.5%). The distribution for all counties appears in Appendix Table 2.

Applications Received for Ohio's Kinship Permanency Incentive Program Funds - *Second Redetermination*

Some kinship children applied for the second redetermination (second \$ 500). This segment describes the kinship children who applied for the second redetermination.

Eleven applications were received by December 31, 2006 (based on effective date) for second redetermination and all these children were approved.

Among them, there were 7 Males (63.6%) and 4 Females (36.4%). The race distribution was 6 (54.5%) White children and 5 (45.5%) African American children. County distribution is as follows; Mahoning (5 or 45.5%), Auglaize (3 or 27.3%), Licking (2 or 18.2%) and Lucas (1 or 9.1%).

Reasons for Kinship Children Exiting Kinship Care

There were 13 children exited from kinship care during the time period. This represent less than one percent (0.5%) of all children applied for initial KPI program funding or 0.7% of children whose applications were initially approved. Among them were nine children (69.2%) who received only initial funding and four children (30.8%) who received subsequent funding also. Four children (30.8%) Moved to PCSA Custody, three children (23.1%) each Aged Out (one got married) or exited for other reasons (See Table 23).

Table 23

Reasons for Exiting Kinship Care						
Exit Reason	Initial		Redetermination		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Child Moved to the Custody of PCSA.	3	33.3%	1	25.0%	4	30.8%
Child Aged Out	3	33.3%	0	0.0%	3	23.1%
Return to Other Relatives	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	1	7.7%
Caregiver Moves Out of Ohio	0	0.0%	2	50.0%	2	15.4%
Other	3	33.3%	0	0.0%	3	23.1%
Total	9	100.0%	4	100.0%	13	100.0%

An overwhelming majority of these exited children were females (6 or 66.7%). They have equal race distribution; White, African American and multiracial (3 children each). The county distribution is Lucas, Meigs and Miami (2 children each) and Champaign, Clark and Mahoning county a single child each.

After One Year.....

Since the inception, KPI program provided incentives to three fourths of kinship children who applied. They were mostly dependent children, placed in kinship placements through temporary court order due to parents criminality (incarceration and substance abuse), and the children of sibling group with a goal of achieving permanency with relatives. These children were very young (under 5 years of age) and made up equally of male, female, African American and White.

The primary caregivers were mainly grandmothers. They were equally distributed among African American and White, middle aged (40-49 years old) with a high school education. Their main income was employment and many also received Ohio Works First assistance.

Appendix

Table 1

Applications for KPI program Funds (Initial) - County Distribution								
County Name	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Allen	5	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.2%
Ashtabula	4	0.2%	9	1.6%	0	0.0%	13	0.5%
Athens	9	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9	0.4%
Auglaize	7	0.4%	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	9	0.4%
Belmont	12	0.7%	3	0.5%	0	0.0%	15	0.6%
Butler	34	1.9%	37	6.4%	0	0.0%	71	3.0%
Carroll	4	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.2%
Champaign	9	0.5%	3	0.5%	0	0.0%	12	0.5%
Clark	50	2.8%	6	1.0%	0	0.0%	56	2.3%
Clermont	14	0.8%	3	0.5%	0	0.0%	17	0.7%
Clinton	4	0.2%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	5	0.2%
Columbiana	11	0.6%	7	1.2%	0	0.0%	18	0.8%
Coshocton	4	0.2%	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	6	0.3%
Crawford	6	0.3%	3	0.5%	0	0.0%	9	0.4%
Cuyahoga	239	13.4%	116	20.2%	8	20.5%	363	15.2%
Darke	5	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.2%
Delaware	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
Erie	12	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	12	0.5%
Fairfield	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	1	2.6%	3	0.1%
Fayette	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Franklin	155	8.7%	59	10.3%	3	7.7%	217	9.1%
Fulton	5	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.2%
Gallia	8	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	8	0.3%
Geauga	9	0.5%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	10	0.4%
Greene	15	0.8%	5	0.9%	0	0.0%	20	0.8%
Guernsey	4	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.2%
Hamilton	152	8.5%	82	14.3%	1	2.6%	235	9.8%
Hancock	5	0.3%	6	1.0%	0	0.0%	11	0.5%
Harrison	0	0.0%	4	0.7%	0	0.0%	4	0.2%
Highland	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Hocking	8	0.4%	4	0.7%	0	0.0%	12	0.5%
Huron	4	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.2%
Jefferson	10	0.6%	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	12	0.5%
Knox	7	0.4%	4	0.7%	0	0.0%	11	0.5%
Lake	7	0.4%	7	1.2%	0	0.0%	14	0.6%
Lawrence	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
Licking	17	1.0%	2	0.3%	5	12.8%	24	1.0%
Logan	3	0.2%	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	5	0.2%
Lorain	34	1.9%	16	2.8%	0	0.0%	50	2.1%
Lucas	152	8.5%	32	5.6%	5	12.8%	189	7.9%
Madison	6	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	0.3%
Mahoning	66	3.7%	12	2.1%	0	0.0%	78	3.3%
Marion	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%

Appendix

Table 1

Applications for KPI program Funds (Initial) - County Distribution								
County Name	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Medina	6	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	0.3%
Meigs	7	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	0.3%
Mercer	4	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.2%
Miami	18	1.0%	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	20	0.8%
Montgomery	127	7.1%	35	6.1%	4	10.3%	166	6.9%
Muskingum	23	1.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	23	1.0%
Ottawa	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Perry	10	0.6%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	11	0.5%
Pickaway	6	0.3%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	7	0.3%
Portage	4	0.2%	16	2.8%	3	7.7%	23	1.0%
Preble	6	0.3%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	7	0.3%
Putnam	3	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.1%
Richland	19	1.1%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	20	0.8%
Ross	8	0.4%	0	0.0%	1	2.6%	9	0.4%
Sandusky	3	0.2%	3	0.5%	1	2.6%	7	0.3%
Scioto	19	1.1%	5	0.9%	0	0.0%	24	1.0%
Seneca	6	0.3%	7	1.2%	0	0.0%	13	0.5%
Shelby	23	1.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	23	1.0%
Stark	93	5.2%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	94	3.9%
Summit	163	9.2%	29	5.1%	5	12.8%	197	8.2%
Trumbull	63	3.5%	15	2.6%	2	5.1%	80	3.3%
Tuscarawas	26	1.5%	3	0.5%	0	0.0%	29	1.2%
Union	3	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.1%
Van Wert	3	0.2%	3	0.5%	0	0.0%	6	0.3%
Warren	3	0.2%	5	0.9%	0	0.0%	8	0.3%
Wayne	8	0.4%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	9	0.4%
Williams	5	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.2%
Wood	11	0.6%	11	1.9%	0	0.0%	22	0.9%
Wyandot	2	0.1%	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	4	0.2%
TOTAL	1778	100.0%	574	100.0%	39	100.0%	2391	100.0%

Appendix

Table 2

Applications for KPI program Funds (First Redetermination)

County Distribution

County Name	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ashtabula	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Athens	6	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	0.8%
Auglaize	6	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	0.8%
Belmont	3	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%
Butler	14	2.0%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	15	2.1%
Carroll	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Champaign	6	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	0.8%
Clark	7	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	1.0%
Clermont	6	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	0.8%
Clinton	3	0.4%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	4	0.6%
Columbiana	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	3	0.4%
Cuyahoga	95	13.6%	4	21.1%	0	0.0%	99	13.8%
Darke	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	1	33.3%	2	0.3%
Erie	4	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.6%
Franklin	44	6.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	44	6.1%
Gallia	5	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.7%
Geauga	7	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	1.0%
Greene	4	0.6%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	5	0.7%
Guernsey	4	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.6%
Hamilton	73	10.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	73	10.1%
Jefferson	5	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.7%
Knox	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Lake	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.3%
Licking	10	1.4%	4	21.1%	0	0.0%	14	1.9%
Lorain	18	2.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	18	2.5%
Lucas	64	9.2%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	65	9.0%
Madison	3	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%
Mahoning	41	5.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	41	5.7%
Marion	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.3%
Meigs	4	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.6%
Miami	3	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%
Montgomery	66	9.5%	4	21.1%	0	0.0%	70	9.7%
Muskingum	12	1.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	12	1.7%
Perry	5	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.7%
Pickaway	6	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	0.8%
Portage	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.3%
Preble	5	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.7%
Richland	12	1.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	12	1.7%
Scioto	7	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	1.0%
Shelby	3	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%
Stark	18	2.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	18	2.5%

Appendix

Table 2

Applications for KPI program Funds (First Redetermination)

County Distribution

County Name	Approved		Denied		Incomplete/Pending		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Summit	48	6.9%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	49	6.8%
Trumbull	42	6.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	42	5.8%
Tuscarawas	15	2.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	15	2.1%
Union	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Warren	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.3%
Wayne	3	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%
Williams	3	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%
Wood	4	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.6%
Wyandot	1	0.1%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	2	0.3%
Total	698	100.0%	19	100.0%	3	100.0%	720	100%

Definitions

"Custodian" has the same meaning as in section 5107.02 of the Revised Code, which is an individual who has legal custody of a minor child or comparable status over a minor child created by a court of competent jurisdiction in another state.

"Guardian" has the same meaning as in section 5107.02 of the Revised Code, which is an individual that is granted authority by a probate court or a court of competent jurisdiction in another state, to exercise parental rights over a minor child to the extent provided in the court's order and subject to residual parental rights of the minor child's parents.

"Kinship Caregiver" has the same meaning as in section 5101.85 of the Revised Code, which is 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) Individuals related by blood or adoption to the child including:
 - (i) Grandparents, including grandparents with the prefix "great," "great-great," or "great-great-great".
 - (ii) Siblings.
 - (iii) Aunts, uncles, nephews, and nieces, including such relatives with the prefix "great," "great-great," "grand," or "great-grand".
 - (iv) First cousins and first cousins once removed.
- (b) Stepparents and stepsiblings of the child.
- (c) Spouses and former spouses of individuals named in paragraph (A)(4)(a)(i) to (A)(4)(a)(iv) and (A)(4)(b) of this rule.
- (d) A legal guardian of the child.
- (e) A legal custodian of the child.

"Special Needs" is defined as the child having at least one of the following needs or circumstances that may be a barrier to placement or a barrier to a child being sustained in a substitute care placement without financial assistance because the child;

- (a) Is in a sibling group.
- (b) Is a member of a minority or ethnic group.
- (c) Is six years of age or older at the time legal custody was awarded.
- (d) Has a medical condition, physical impairment, mental retardation or developmental disability.
- (e) Has a social or medical history or the background of the child's biological family has a social or medical history which may place the child at risk of acquiring a medical condition, a physical, mental or developmental disability or an emotional disorder.
- (f) Has experienced multiple placements.