



Helping Families of Williams County to Self- Sufficiency

Prevention, Retention & Contingency Plan

Williams County JFS

The Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Program is designed to provide benefits and services to needy families and low income employed individuals who have an emergent need and require essential supports to move out of poverty and become self-sufficient. Services are defined as the following:

- Prevention Services: Exist to divert families from ongoing cash assistance by providing short term non-assistance.
- Retention Services: Provided to assist an employed member of the family in maintaining employment.
- Contingency Services: Provided to meet an emergent need which, if not met, threatens the safety, health or well-being of one or more family members.

The above services correspond directly to one or more of the four purposes of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program.

The four purposes of TANF are:

- **Purpose #1** – To provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes or in homes of relatives.
- **Purpose #2** – To end the dependency of needy parents on governmental benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.
- **Purpose #3** – To prevent and reduce the incidence of out of wedlock pregnancies and establish numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies.
- **Purpose #4** – To encourage the formation and maintenance of two parent families

Eligibility and Application

In order for the assistance group to receive PRC benefits to meet TANF Goals 1 & 2, the Assistance Group (AG) must demonstrate and verify the need for financial assistance and/or services. In order for eligibility to be determined, the income of the AG must be equal to or less than the economic need standard established for the benefits and services requested. The economic need standards are based upon federal poverty guideline measures that are updated annually.

TANF Purpose #3 and 4 are available without regard to economic need. The applicant must be a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien as defined in Section 5101:1-2-30 of the Ohio Administrative Code, a Williams County resident (or otherwise noted below) and be part of the AG which includes:

- A minor child who resides with a parent, caretaker, relative, legal guardian, or legal custodians (ORC 5107) approved by Children Services; or,
- A single pregnant woman with no other individuals in the assistance group is AG of two; or,
- A non-custodial parent who lives in Williams County whose child resides in Ohio and is participating with CSEA; or
- A child may be considered in the home if temporarily absent from the home and the absence meets the requirements of OAC 5101:1-3-04 as verified by Children Services; or,
- Children in the custody of Williams County Job & Family Services (WCDJFS) placed in foster care (would equal an assistance group of one). This AG only applies to the TANF Summer Youth Program.

Eligibility guidelines are based on the availability of funds that are subject to change without prior notice.

For Hard services the AG must consist of at least one adult and/or one child that meet the definition of citizen of the United States or qualified non-citizen. Soft services require at least one child that meets the definition of citizen of the United States or qualified non-citizen.

Everyone in household applying for PRC must be listed on the PRC application. Each person applying for PRC must provide WCDJFS their social security number, or apply for a social security number, along with each member of the Assistance Group.

Applicants who are ineligible for PRC are:

- Fugitive felons and probation and parole violators.
- Individuals ineligible for other programs due to deliberate non-compliance with the terms of their assistance, including LEAP, (CSEA non-compliance is excluded) are ineligible for Contingency Services only.
- An applicant who refuses to use available resources or excess income to help meet their need.
- An applicant or AG member who is not cooperating with Children Services.
- Assistance group members who quit jobs within 30 days of application, without good cause will not be eligible for PRC programs with the exception of PRC soft services or cases involving child welfare.
- Any individual with an outstanding Child Support arrearage or overpayment must have a signed repayment or payment agreement in place.
- Individuals with an outstanding Intentional Program Violation (IPV) in Medicaid, OWF, PRC, Food Assistance or Daycare are ineligible unless a signed repayment or payment agreement is in place. If a non-fraudulent overpayment in any program is owed to the agency, a repayment agreement must be established. Overpayments older than six months must have a repayment agreement established and an established history of complying with the agreement before issuing any PRC services.
- A person found to have fraudulently misrepresented residence in order to obtain assistance in two or more states is ineligible for ten (10) years.
- Those assistance groups currently under a third-tier sanction are not eligible for any PRC, other than the Children Service's (in regards to child safety) such as Lice Eradication, Kinship Services, Family Preservation, etc. of the PRC Plan.

Applicants must complete an appropriate WCDJFS application to request PRC. WCDJFS reserves the right to determine the appropriate application forms for each service. Applicants will be provided with a State Hearing Request form that is part of both the PRC Approval and PRC Denial letter.

Pursuant to Section 5108.10 of the Ohio Revised Code, an application is not required if the benefit or service does not have a financial need eligibility requirement. WCDJFS will not require an application if there is CPS involvement where parenting classes, anger management, or supervised visitation are required as part of the CPS case plan.

The total gross income, earned and unearned of all members of the AG shall be counted except for gross earnings of a minor child as defined in OAC 5101:1-23-20(c)(i). All income, which is received or expected to be received during the thirty (30) day budget period, is considered when determining financial need. The 30-day period begins 30 days prior to the date of application and ends on the application date, unless this period of time does not accurately reflect the expected income. In this instance, income projected to be received 30 days following the date of application may be utilized.

For cases in which the income cannot be accurately obtained, the implementation of practices that are reasonable and prudent will occur when determining countable income. A signed applicant/recipient authorization for release of information will be obtained from the applicant for an inquiry.

The following types of income are excluded as income in determining financial eligibility for PRC benefits and services.

- (A) Child support payment distributions made by the Ohio department of job and family services (ODJFS) pursuant to division (C) of Section 1 of Am. S.B. 170 of the 124th General Assembly (10/2001).
- (B) All income that is federally excluded in the determination of eligibility for federal needs-based programs. Federally excluded income includes the income sources identified in paragraphs (C) and (D)

- (C) Drug discounts and transitional assistance received under the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act, at Section 1860D-31(g)(6) of the Social Security Act (10/2001). The language in Section 1860D-31(g)(6) of the Social Security Act states that the availability of negotiated prices or transitional assistance under this section shall not be treated as benefits or otherwise taken into account in determining an individual's eligibility for, or the amount of benefits under any other federal program.
- (D) Monetary allowances paid under Section 401 of the Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000, effective November 1, 2000. Payments authorized and made by the veteran's administration (VA) to provide certain benefits, including a monthly monetary allowance for children with covered birth defects who are the natural children of women veterans who served in the republic of Vietnam from February 28, 1961 through May 7, 1975.

The focus of the PRC program is to provide benefits and services within a specific date of the receipt of a signed application. A ten-day standard of promptness is a suggested time frame that is intended to stress the importance of dealing with PRC applications in a timely manner. An emergent need, such as a utility shutoff, may warrant a speedier disposition. In some instances, this time frame will not be met due to unavoidable delays on the part of the applicant or the agency. The ODHS 4074 Notice of Approval of Your Application for Assistance shall be mailed or otherwise delivered if services are approved. If it is determined that an application for PRC is denied, the ODHS 7334, Notice of Denial of Your Application for Assistance, shall be mailed or otherwise delivered. Families participating in the PRC Program who request contingency assistance for payment of rent or utilities on more than one occasion may be referred by WCDJFS to NOCAC to participate in Financial Case Management. Participation in Financial Case Management is not required, but strongly encouraged.

After an application is received, a checklist will be sent to the client within three business days requesting needed verifications. Checklist will have a due date of the 30th day of application. If communication from the client is not received by the 30th day of application, the application will be denied. A new application will be needed.

WCDJFS reserves the right to deny PRC services to any applicant who has demonstrated a pattern of PRC actual or attempted misuse or abuse. WCDJFS reserves the right to terminate PRC services to any individual that does not follow the program's policies and procedures and appropriately participate in that program.

Eligibility will be carefully evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The evaluation of the presenting need and whether the PRC Program can address the need(s) and prevent recurrence will be the determining factor along with verifications that the applicant must provide.

The Director of WCDJFS reserves the right to waive cap limits on any services, at any time, under their own discretion.

Once eligibility for PRC is established, authorization shall occur and a payment for the benefits or services will be generated. Authorization may occur at any time during a period beginning on the date that PRC is approved. Hard Services: As long as payment is authorized within 30 days, actual payment may be made to vendors or the assistance group (AG) according to the procedures in place. Hard Services: Approved application expires 6 months from the date of approval. Soft Services: Approved application expires 6 months from date of approval. A new application is required if a requested service is not specified on a previously approved application.

Overpayments

if a person intentionally gives false information in qualifying for PRC, the entire amount of PRC issued is an overpayment and there will be no monetary (hard) services available to the AG until the overpayment is repaid. Additionally, the AG will be disqualified from receiving PRC (hard) services for 12 months as a penalty of committing an Intentional Program Violation. Repayment will be determined as specified by the Williams County JFS Fraud Plan.

Non-Administrative Program Operational Activities

Certain benefits and services do not require an application or certification for PRC benefits and/or services as they do not provide a direct service linked to an individual family. Such activities could include employer recruitment, outreach, information and referral, websites, billboards, program promotional items and public service announcements which are considered non-administrative program operation costs.

Plan Approval

The Williams County Job & Family Services agrees to implement the PRC plan as written. The county reserves the right to amend its plan at any time. Written verification will be submitted with any and all further PRC plan amendments. A copy of the plan and any amendments will be available at the agency for public inspection.

Contingency Service or Benefit	TANF Purpose	CAP (per individual)	Eligibility	Targeted Group	Application
FAMILY STABILIZATION: Provided to meet an emergency need so that children can be cared for in their homes/homes of relatives.					
Hard Services: eviction assistance, mortgage payments, security deposits, emergency shelter* (up to 5 days stay at hotel/motel), utility disconnection/reconnection, bulk fuel purchase for heating, repairs to home affecting basic structure, repairs to necessary household appliances, property taxes, Bed Brigade of Williams County (to purchase beds for minor children), purchase of dressers for minor children	#1	Mortgage/ eviction assistance/rental payment, rental deposit, emergency shelter, property taxes: \$2,500 in 12-month period Utilities, utility deposit, bulk fuel purchase: \$1,500 in 12-month period Appliance purchase/repair: \$1,500 in 12-month period Home repair: \$1,500 in 12-month period Bed Brigade/Dressers: One bed and one dresser per child (exceptions may apply) Payments cannot be made for more	At or below 200% FPL for the household size. *Emergency shelter may surpass a 5 day stay if verification of secure housing is received. For rent, there will be no limit on how far back dates of service are when paying off past balances, provided it does not exceed the \$2,500 limit. Rent may be paid for an upcoming month when also approving back due rent, if client provides adequate reason for need. For utilities, there will be no limit on how far back dates of services are when paying off past balances, provided it does not exceed the \$1,500 limit.	Individuals or families with minor children. Also available to non-custodial parents.	Modified JFS 3800
Soft Services: homebuyer education, financial fitness, budgeting classes, predatory lending seminars, home maintenance courses, financial counseling to prevent or respond to foreclosure, prevention services					
*Internet may be paid if the utility company will not waive the charge to stop disconnection of other necessary utilities. Internet may also be paid if it benefits the AG in job-search, or a minor child needs the internet to complete homework.					

			than 4 consecutive months.			
GAS VOUCHER: Provided to assist those who are employed/under-employed to retain employment by removing barriers to employment.						
Hard Services: If employment is within 10 miles round trip of home, a \$30 gas voucher will be issued. If employment is between 10-50 miles round trip of home, a \$40 gas voucher will be issued. Any employment greater than 50 miles round trip from home will be issued a \$50 gas voucher.	#2	Up to 4 gas vouchers per 6-month eligibility period	At or below 200% FPL for the household size. Must work at least 20 hours per week.	Employed individuals with minor children. Also available to non-custodial parents.	Modified JFS 3800	
JOB RELATED SERVICES: Provides incidental job related expenses necessary to obtain and maintain employment.						
Hard Services: Tools and equipment necessary for employment, work clothing (including uniforms), cost of textbook/work supplies, testing for state licenses, board certification, commercial drivers' licenses, incidental expenses relating to job search, other related services resulting from assessment/evaluation	#2	Up to \$750 in a 12-month period.	At or below 200% FPL for the household size. Must provide verification of current job or job guarantee.	Employed individuals Recently employed individuals Under employed individuals Individuals who are unemployed	Modified JFS 3800	
VEHICLE REPAIR PROGRAM: Assures an AG member will not lose a job or be unable to start a job because their vehicle needs repaired.						
Hard Service: Vehicle repairs, towing – For vehicle repair, the client must provide an estimate for cost of repair.	#2	Up to \$2500 in a 12-month period.	At or below 200% FPL for the household size. Must work at least 20 hours per week. Client must have valid driver's license & car insurance.	Employed individuals with minor children. Also available to non-custodial parents.	Modified JFS 3800	
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES: Eliminates barriers to gaining transportation so that an AG member will not lose, or be unable to start, a job.						
Hard Service: Driver's education, driver's license fee, license reinstatement fees, license plate fees, vehicle registration, vehicle insurance (up to, but not exceeding 4 months), vehicle payment.	#2	Up to \$1500 in a 12-month period.	At or below 200% FPL for the household size.	Employed individuals, or individuals who are seeking employment.	Modified JFS 3800	

*No reinstatement fees for any DUI convictions or for licenses revoked by the Child Support Enforcement Agency.					Also available to non-custodial parents.	
FAMILY STABILIZATION SERVICES: Provided resources for emergent needs so that children can be cared for in their homes/homes of relatives.						
Hard Service: Bedding, furniture (child-specific), children's clothing, appliances (non-entertainment), school expenses, school supplies	#1, 3, 4	Up to \$1500 in a 12-month period.	At or below 200% FPL for the household size.	Individuals or families with minor children.	Modified JFS 3800	
Soft Service: Mediation services, counseling (non-Medicaid covered services), parenting services/classes, services to pregnant women and their partners, budgeting classes, legal services to establish legal guardianship, background checks for the purpose of placement approval, fingerprinting, post-finalization adoption services (excluding medical expenditures), specialized equipment/home modification for Special Needs population, visitation and exchange services, specialized training for caregiver, graduation expenses for youth (non IV-E youth)						
PEST EXTERMINATION/MOLD REMEDIATION: Provided to meet an emergent need so that children can be cared for in their homes/homes of relatives.						
Hard Service: Lice eradication, bed bug extermination, pest extermination, mold remediation	#2	Up to \$1,500 in a 12-month period.	At or below 200% FPL for the household size.	Individuals or families with minor children.	Modified JFS 3800	
FAMILY PRESERVATION & REUNIFICATION: Provides services used to protect children, prevent neglect and/or abuse of children, and preserve families.						
Soft Services: Respite care (in home or out of home), home visits, case management, home-based services for families (provided by WCJFS staff), wraparound services (non-financial support), family preservation, family reunification services/supports, Kinship Care, enrichment and support programs for youth, mentoring services, community outreach, information and referral, differential response activities that provide reasonable efforts to prevent removal, post-finalization adoption services, life skills supports, adoption services/support	#1	Exempt from caps.	At or below 200% FPL for the household size. (See Appendix, Section C for further information)	Individuals or families with minor children. Specified relative/custodian/guardians who are responsible for the day-to-day care and well-being of child(ren) on a long-term basis	Modified JFS 3800	

Hard Services: Gas voucher (amount will be determined based on travel distance and frequency of visits to destination per Children Service's policy), birth certificates					
DISASTER ASSISTANCE: Provides services to those families who have sustained losses as a result of natural disasters. Provides financial assistance to help pay for emergency management of those who have suffered a devastating loss due to a disaster. For more information, visit www.williamscountyohio.gov					
Hard Services: Emergency shelter (hotel/motel stays), replacement of personal essentials (including, but not limited to: clothing, personal hygiene products, household items), smoke/mold remediation, rent/mortgage payments, utilities, deductibles on insurance claims	#1	Up to \$1,500, per instance of need. This does not count towards standard PRC benefits caps for the 12-month period.	At or below 200% FPL for the household size.	Individuals or families with minor children.	Modified JFS 3800
HOUSING COORDINATION SERVICES (NOCAC): Provides outreach to identify, address and educate the community on homelessness, for prevention and reduction of homelessness, and to increase the number of households.					
Soft Services: Funding is provided to NOCAC on a monthly basis to pay for a "Homeless Coordinator" to maintain an online resource guide, and provide outreach, trainings, and hold meetings regarding homelessness in Williams County.	#1	WCJFS can pay up to \$10,000 per program year towards these services.	None	Individuals or families with minor children who are experiencing homelessness.	None
TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT & CAREER ADVANCEMENT SERVICES (Administered through Ohio Works First): Provides mental job-related expenses necessary to obtain and maintain employment.					
Soft Services: Pre-job training (resume building, mock interviewing), job training & development, job placement & coaching, job & education fairs, vocational assessment or testing, development of resolution for barriers to employment, assistance with job search/job skills, contacting employers for job placement, literacy assessment, ABLE & GED preparation, short-term education expenses related to employment or job retention, education for women to non-traditional employment (construction, plumbing, electrician, etc), mentor services, WCJFS contracted transportation services (only upon approval by WCJFS Director or Administrator & determined on case-by-case basis), linguistic and other culturally appropriate services	#2	Up to \$750 for non-recurring, short-term benefits, not to exceed 4 months. Indirect services have no monetary value. Job skills, training and re-training, and college tuition assistance can be provided for up to 12 months. Transportation can be provided for up to 3 months.	At or below 200% FPL for the household size.	Recently employed individuals Under employed individuals Individuals who are unemployed	Modified JFS 3800
Hard Services: Dry cleaning of job-related clothing/uniforms, purchasing clothing or uniforms for work, purchase of safety equipment required for work, purchase of special tools and/or equipment					

required for employment, testing for state licenses, board certification, commercial drivers' license, incidental expenses relating to job search						
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Administered through Ohio Means Jobs). Provides an opportunity for collaboration among stakeholders, employers, and community development organizations to address economic development needs.						
Soft Services: Economic development activities that support the expansion and/or retention of employers, collect & distribute information about job opportunities and/or prospective changes in demand for specific occupations, provide information to job seekers of new job prospects & notifying employers of available personnel, provide job skills & remedial skill training for employees and potential employees through local community colleges, plan & develop financing for local organizations or community development corporations that employ TANF only recipients.	#2	No caps on soft services.	At or below 200% FPL for the household size.	Employed individuals. Under employed individuals Unemployment individuals who are seeking employment.	Modified JFS 3800	
YOUTH EDUCATION & SUPPORT SERVICES & FAMILY FORMATION (Administered through Ohio Means Jobs). Help communities prevent public assistance dependency amount funding generations by preventing out-of-wedlock pregnancies and encouraging the formation of two-parent families.						
Soft Services: Early childhood education, teen pregnancy prevention & campaigns, family planning (including birth control), abstinence education programs, pregnancy planning services, stay-in-school programs, after school programs, truancy prevention, mentoring & counseling, peer support, youth workforce preparation & employment programs, parenting skills training, premarital & marital counseling & mediation services, activities to promote parental access & visitation, initiatives to promote responsible fatherhood & increase the capacity of fathers to provide emotional & financial support for their children, paternity establishment counseling, crisis intervention services	#3, 4	No caps on soft services.	At or below 200% FPL for the household size.	Minor children	Modified JFS 3800	
TANF SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (Administered through Ohio Means Jobs). Enable low income, TANF-eligible Williams County youth to gain valuable work experience while earning a paycheck to meet basic needs.						
Soft Services: Payments to employers for wages ranging from state minimum wage up to a maximum of \$10/hour, payments to third parties to operate the program, recruitment and development of employers of the program, case management activities related to the program, job coaches & mentors' to	#1, 2	No caps on soft services. \$1,500 per year for hard services.	At or below 200% FPL for the household size.	Youth ages 14-17, as long as the youth is a minor child in a needy family & is in school.	Modified JFS 3800	

compensation expenses, FICA, direct supervision & training costs, transportation costs to/from worksites Hard Services: Work-related items such as uniforms, tools, licenses, or certifications *Non-allowable expenses for this program include: the cost of health insurance for youth, meals, laptops, performance bonuses or lump sum payments to the participants.				Youth ages 14-17 that have a minor child & are considered needy. Youth in the temporary or permanent custody of a Public Children Services Agency (PCSA) who are placed in a licensed foster care setting, that are between the ages of 14-17 if they are a full-time student. The youth served may be non-custodial parents if they are meeting PRC program eligibility requirements & have a minor child.	
Financial Case Management (Administered through NQAC and Storehouse 4 Hope): Provide assistance to low-income families so that they can obtain self-sufficiency.					
Soft Services: Payment to contracted third party to administer financial case management services to PRC eligible clients who need support with budgeting, with the end goal being to achieve financial stability.	#1, 2	No caps on soft services.	At or below 200% FPL for the household size.	Individual or families with minor children. Also available to non-custodial parents.	Modified JFS 3800
Kinship Navigator Services: Provide support and assistance to legal guardians/custodians or specified relatives of minor children who are not able to be cared for by their biological parents or stepparents.					
Soft Services: Information and referral, comprehensive information and access to legal services, comprehensive information and access to childcare, comprehensive information and access to financial assistance, evaluation, and reporting	#1	No caps on soft services.	At or below 200% FPL for the household size. At least one child in the household must be a kinship care placement. (See Appendix, Section A for further information)	Specified relative/custodian/guardians who are responsible for the day-to-day care and well-being of child(ren) on a long-term basis.	Modified JFS 3800
Legal Custody Transfer: Provide support and assistance to legal guardians/custodians or specified relatives of minor children who are not able to be cared for by their biological parents or stepparents.					

Hard Service: Attorney and related fees for legally transferring custody of children	#1	\$3,000 in 12-month period.	At or below 200% FPL for the household size. Must not be contested; all parties must agree. (See Appendix, Section B for further information)	Specified relative/custodian/guardians who are responsible for the day-to-day care and well-being of child(ren) on a long-term basis.	Modified JFS 3800
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Reviewed and Approved:

9-25-23

Fred Lord, Director of Williams County Job & Family Services Date

In accordance with ORC Section 5108.07, the Williams County Board of Commissioners affirms that the Williams County Job and Family Services has complied with ORC Chapter 5108 in adopting this statement of policies.

WILLIAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ken A. Helbert

9-28-23

Leys-Hilbert

Date

Bob [Signature]

9-28-23

Date

Barb Wierall

Terry Rummel

9-28-23

Date

Terry Rummel

Williams County Job and Family Services – Prevention, Retention, Contingency Plan

APPENDIX

A. Kinship Navigator Services

Kinship Navigator Services are designed to provide support and assistance to legal guardians/custodians, or specified relatives of minor children who are not able to be cared for by their biological parents or stepparents. Kinship services can be provided to those who are responsible for the day-to-day care and well-being of a child(ren) on a long-term basis.

“Guardian” as defined in section 5107.02 of the Revised Code means; an individual that is granted authority by a probate court pursuant to Chapter 2111 of the Revised Code, 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.

“Custodian” as defined in section 5107.02 of the Revised Code means; an individual who has legal custody, as defined in section 2151.011 of the Revised Code of a minor child or comparable status over a minor child created by a court of competent jurisdiction in another state.

“Specified Relative” as defined in section 5107.02 of the Revised Code means the following individuals who are age eighteen and older and have an established custodial relationship with the minor child:

1. The following individuals related by blood or adoption:
 - a. Grandparents, including grandparents with the prefix “great”, “great-great”, or “great-great-great”.
 - b. Siblings.
 - c. Aunts, uncles, nephews, and nieces; including such relatives with the prefix “great”, “great-great”, “grand”, or “great-grand”.
 - d. First cousins and first cousins once removed.
2. Stepparents and stepsiblings, and
3. Spouses and former spouses of individuals named in numbers (1) and (2) of this section

Assistance Group (AG) definition for Kinship Navigator- A child under age eighteen (18) and still attending secondary school or its equivalent and immediate household members, which includes the specified relative or legal guardian/custodian, spouses of the relative or legal guardian/custodian, and all children for whom the caregiver is responsible for and are living in the household. Other adult household members and children, for whom the relative, legal guardian, or care giver is not responsible for will not be considered as part of the assistance group when determining eligibility.

B. Legal Custody Transfer

In many situations that involve the risk for child abuse or neglect, the parent(s) are interested in transferring custody of the children to a relative. Relatives are willing to accept custody of the children in many cases but often do not have the financial resources to cover the costs associated with transferring custody. Covering the costs of non-contested custody transfers to relative/kinship families will prevent the children involved in these cases from entering the foster care system and ensure the child can remain with members of his/her family. This has benefits for the family, the youth, and the community. These kinship placements are preferred over foster care because they provide improved stability for the child, keeps the child with his/her family, and lead to better outcomes for the child.

Legal custody transfer meets TANF Purpose 1: To provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.

Assistance Group (AG) Definition for Legal Custody Transfer: A child under the age eighteen (18) or 18 and still attending secondary school or its equivalent and immediate family members in the household. Immediate family members include biological parents and step-parents, kinship caregivers (as defined below) who have custody of a minor child, biological and stepsiblings in the household. Other adult household members will not be considered as part of the AG.

Definition of Kinship Caregiver:

“Guardian” as defined in section 5107.02 of the Ohio Revised Code, means an individual that is granted authority by a probate court pursuant to Chapter 2111 of the ORC, 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.

“Custodian” as defined in section 5107.02 of the ORC means, an individual who has legal custody, as defined in section 2151.011 of the ORC, of a minor child or comparable status over a minor child created by a court of competent jurisdiction in another state.

“Specified Relative” as defined in section 5107.02 of the Revised Code means the following individuals who are age eighteen and older and have an established custodial relationship with the minor child:

1. The following individuals related by blood or adoption:

- a. Grandparents, including grandparents with the prefix “great”, “great-great”, or “great-great-great”.
- b. Siblings.
- c. Aunts, uncles, nephews, and nieces; including such relatives with the prefix “great”, “great-great”, “grand”, or “great-grand”.
- d. First cousins and first cousins once removed.

2. Stepparents and stepsiblings, and

3. Spouses and former spouses of individuals named in numbers (1) and (2) of this section.

C. Family Preservation and Reunification

Families who are at risk of having their family disrupted or relinquishing custody of a child to children services or need additional supports following reunification, if eligible, can access additional support services. Services under this section do not include Medicaid covered services.

Services under this section are designed to support the family as it addresses a crisis that puts the child(ren) at risk of child abuse or neglect.

Assistance Group (AG) definition for Family Preservation and Reunification: A child under age eighteen (18) who is still attending secondary school or its equivalent and immediate family members in the household. Immediate family members include biological parents and stepparents, kinship caregivers (as defined below) who have custody of a minor child, and biological and stepsiblings in the household. Other adult household members will not be considered as part of the AG.

Definition of Kinship Caregiver:

“Guardian” as defined in section 5107.02 of the Ohio Revised Code, means an individual that is granted authority by a probate court pursuant to Chapter 2111 of the ORC, 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.

“Custodian” as defined in section 5107.02 of the ORC means, an individual who has legal custody, as defined in section 2151.011 of the ORC, of a minor child or comparable status over a minor child created by a court of competent jurisdiction in another state.

“Specified Relative” as defined in section 5107.02 of the Revised Code means the following individuals who are age eighteen and older and have an established custodial relationship with the minor child:

1. The following individuals related by blood or adoption:
 - a. Grandparents, including grandparents with the prefix “great”, “great-great”, or “great-great-great”.
 - b. Siblings.
 - c. Aunts, uncles, nephews, and nieces; including such relatives with the prefix “great”, “great-great”, “grand”, or “great-grand”.
 - d. First cousins and first cousins once removed.
2. Stepparents and stepsiblings, and
3. Spouses and former spouses of individuals named in numbers (1) and (2) of this section.