



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Social Services

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

MICHAEL BECKETTS • Assistant Secretary for Human Services

December 31, 2018

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**DEAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF ADOPTION CHILD PLACING AGENCIES**

**ATTENTION: CHILD WELFARE SERVICES STAFF**

**SUBJECT: GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

**REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only**

As a strategy within North Carolina's Program Improvement Plan and in a continuous effort to evaluate and improve North Carolina's Guardianship Assistance Program, educational materials have been developed for kinship caregivers, foster parents, child welfare professionals and other stakeholders. This program will be referred to as the Kinship Care and Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP) to better reflect the intent and purpose of the program. KinGAP provides financial assistance for the care of children by kinship caregivers or foster parents who have assumed legal guardianship of eligible children in foster care.

North Carolina implemented guardianship assistance across the state in January 2017. Since that time, approximately 70 children have exited foster care to guardianship in which the guardian is receiving KinGAP payments. In partnership with UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work, educational resources have been developed to help kinship caregivers, foster parents and child welfare professionals better understand KinGAP and the eligibility criteria for the program. The goal is to bring more awareness to KinGAP and increase the number of children exiting foster care to guardianship who are eligible for guardianship assistance payments.

Please share these materials widely with kinship caregivers, foster parents, child welfare professionals, court personnel, and other stakeholders. The materials for kinship caregivers and foster parents will be posted on the Fostering NC website, [www.fosteringnc.org](http://www.fosteringnc.org), in early January.

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES • CHILD WELFARE SERVICES**

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If you have questions regarding KinGAP or the attached materials, please contact Erin Baluyot at (919) 527-6369 or [erin.baluyot@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:erin.baluyot@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,



Lisa T. Cauley  
Deputy Director for Child Welfare  
Division of Social Services

Cc: Michael Becketts, Assistant Secretary for Human Services  
Kristin O'Connor, Section Chief, Policy and Programs  
Erin Baluyot, Adoption Services Interim Manager  
CWS Team Leaders

Attachments:

1. KinGAP FACT Sheet for Child Welfare Professionals
2. KinGAP Informational Flyer for Caregivers
3. KinGAP Comparison Chart for Caregivers

CWS-51-2018