

# Changes in Foster Home Licensing

New Levels of  
Licensure

**Session A**



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## Session A Objectives

When you complete this session, you will be able to:

- Explain the sunseting effects of Title IV-E Waiver.
- Describe the new licensure types.
- Explain the Level I child-specific licensure.
- Define fictive kin.
- Document fictive kin in FSFN.
- Describe Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP).

## Title IV-E Waiver

### Title IV-E Waiver

Title IV-E Demonstration Waiver allowed the department to:

- Waive certain provisions of the Title IV-E Social Security Act.
  - Use the funds for a wide variety of child welfare purposes rather than being restricted to eligible children in licensed foster care homes or institutions.
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### Title IV-E Waiver Expiration

The Title IV-E Waiver has been extended until September 2019. The expiration will result in the loss of approximately \$90 million dollars in revenue that fund the CBC's services for families and positions.

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### Path Forward

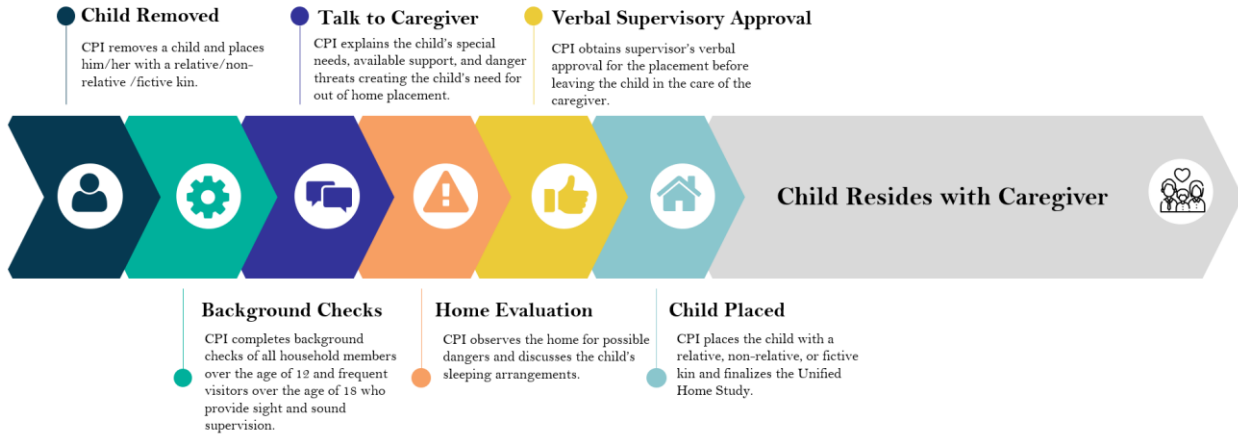
With the sunseting of the Title IV-E Waiver, DCF, in conjunction with FCC, implemented the **Path Forward** statewide initiative to maximize additional federal funds in support of the child welfare system.

#### **Path Forward initiative includes:**

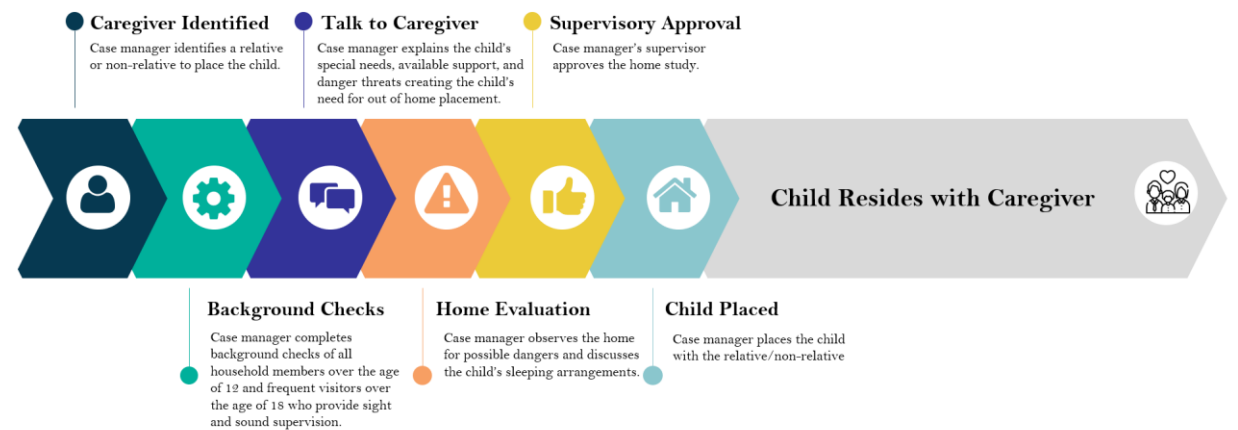
- Title IV-E Extended Foster Care (EFC) and Extended Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (EMAS)
  - Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) and Extended Guardianship Assistance Program (EGAP)
  - Title IV-E Eligibility Clean-up
  - Candidacy
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## Caregiver Benefits

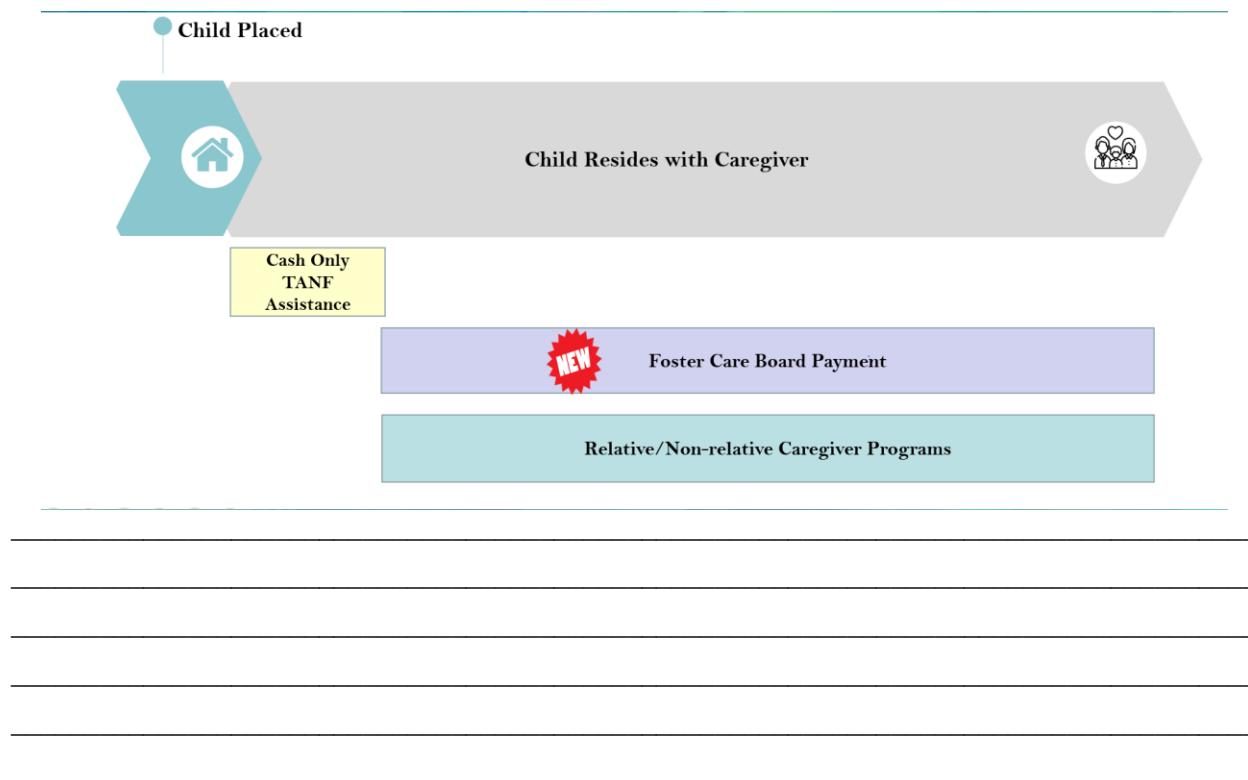
### Unified Home Study with Emergency Placement





### Unified Home Study with Planned Placement



## Available Caregiver Benefits




## Relative/Non-Relative Caregiver Program vs. Level I-Child Specific Foster Home

	 Relative/Non-Relative Caregiver Program	 Level I Foster Home
Time Frame	60 – 90 days	60 days
Home Study	✓	✓
Payment Rate	\$242-\$298	\$333
Child Support	✓	✗
Educational Support	✗	✓
Additional Resources	✗	✓
Additional Case Mgmt.	✗	✓
Completed Through	ACCESS	Local CBC Licensing

# Foster Home Licensing

## Levels of Licensure:

There are five types of licensure in new levels of licensure (409.175, F.S.).

- **Level I** - Child Specific Foster Home 
- **Level II** - Non-Child Specific Foster Home (Currently Traditional Foster Home)
- **Level III** - Safe Foster Home for Human Trafficking
- **Level IV** - Therapeutic Foster Home
- **Level V** - Medical Foster Home

[illegible]

## Level I-Child Specific Foster Home

### Level I-Child Specific Foster Home Licensed Individuals

**Relatives** are defined as a person who is related by the whole or half-blood, by affinity, or by adoption. Examples include grandparents, great-grandparents, siblings, first cousins, aunt, uncle, great-aunt, great-uncle, niece, or nephews.

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**Fictive kin** are individuals who are unrelated to the child by either birth or marriage but has such a close emotional relationship with the child that he or she may be considered part of the family. Godparents and close family friends can be documented as fictive kin.

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**Non-relatives** are the individuals who are unrelated to the child by birth or marriage but has an existing relationship with the child or the family. This may include; teachers, neighbors, coaches, and people outside of 5 degree.

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**Determination of non-relative vs. fictive kin depends on the degree of relationship between the caregiver and child.**



## Documenting Fictive Kin in FSFN

### Maintain Case – Relationship Tab

The screenshot displays the 'Florida Safe Families Network' interface. The 'Case' section shows 'Last/Provider: Starrell' and 'First: Mommy'. The 'Relationships' tab is active, showing a list of 'Subject(s)' with dropdown menus for each. A relationship dropdown menu is open, listing various roles such as 'Brother-Half', 'Cousin', 'Fictive Kin', and 'Mother-Adoptive'. The 'Subject(s)' list includes 'Starrell, Mommy', 'Starrell, Mommy', 'Starrell, Mommy', 'Starrell, Andrew', 'Starrell, Jared', and 'Starrell, Wesley'.

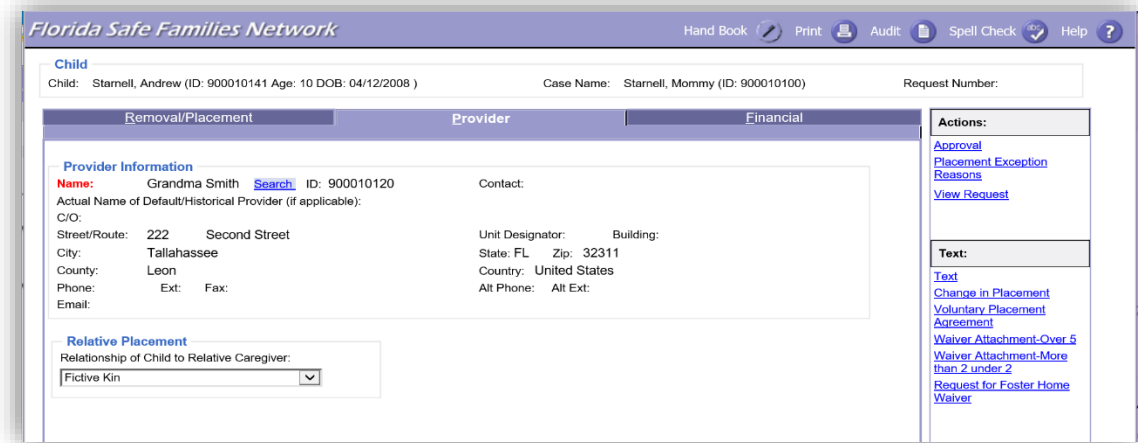
The Relationship Tab on the Maintain Case Page now allows documentation of Fictive Kin. The system will generate Fictive Kin for the reverse relationship.

### Unified Home Study – Relationship to Caregiver

The screenshot shows the 'Florida Safe Families Network' interface for a 'Unified Home Study'. The 'Demographics' tab is selected, displaying a table of 'Children Associated'. The table has columns for 'Names (Person ID)', 'DOB', 'Age', 'Relationship to Caregiver', and 'Court Case Number'. Three children are listed: 'Starrell, Andrew (900010141)', 'Starrell, Jared (900010142)', and 'Starrell, Wesley (900010143)', all with a 'Fictive Kin' relationship. The 'Case Information' section shows 'Case ID: 900010100' and 'Case Name: Starrell, Mommy'.

The Demographics tab of the Unified Home Study allows for Fictive Kin and Non-Relative in the Relationship to caregivers drop down of the Children Associated group box.

## Out-of-Home Placement – Relationship of Child to Relative Caregiver



**Florida Safe Families Network**

Hand Book Print Audit Spell Check Help ?

**Child**  
 Child: Starnell, Andrew (ID: 900010141 Age: 10 DOB: 04/12/2008 ) Case Name: Starnell, Mommy (ID: 900010100) Request Number:

**Removal/Placement Provider Financial**

**Provider Information**

**Name:** Grandma Smith [Search](#) ID: 900010120 Contact:

Actual Name of Default/Historical Provider (if applicable):

C/O:

Street/Route: 222 Second Street Unit Designator: Building:

City: Tallahassee State: FL Zip: 32311

County: Leon Country: United States

Phone: Ext: Fax: Alt Phone: Alt Ext:

Email:

**Relative Placement**

Relationship of Child to Relative Caregiver:  
 Fictive Kin

**Actions:**

[Approval](#)  
[Placement Exception](#)  
[Reasons](#)  
[View Request](#)

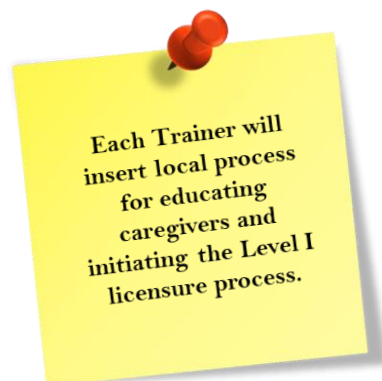
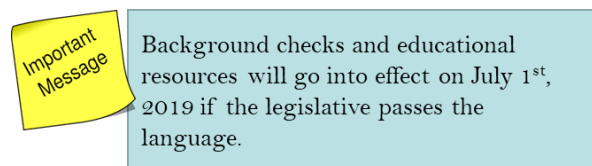
**Text:**

[Text](#)  
[Change in Placement](#)  
[Voluntary Placement Agreement](#)  
[Waiver Attachment-Over 5](#)  
[Waiver Attachment-More than 2 under 2](#)  
[Request for Foster Home Waiver](#)

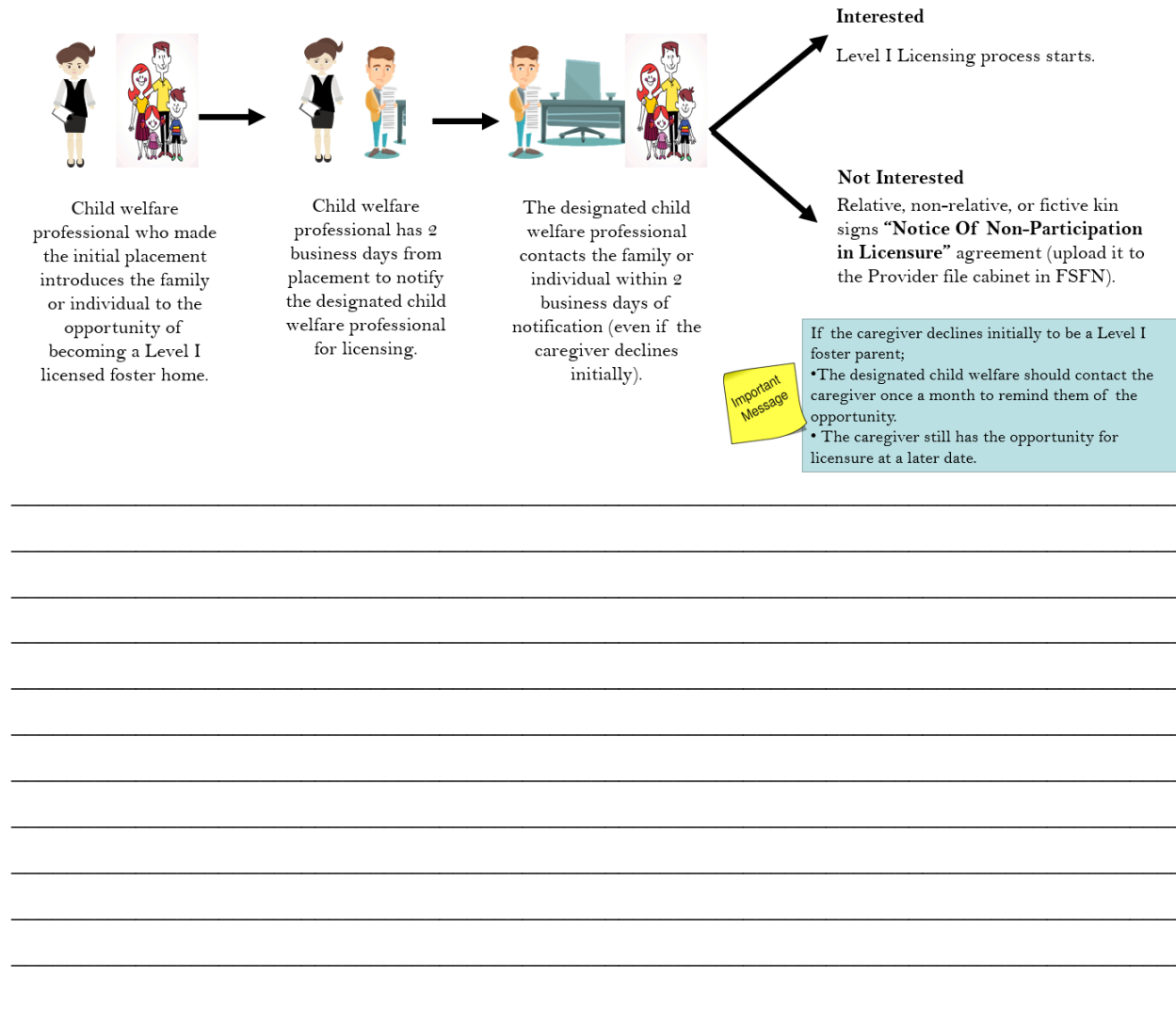
The Provider Tab of the Out of Home Placement page allows for documentation of Fictive Kin in the Relative Placement group box.

## Level I-Child Specific Foster Home

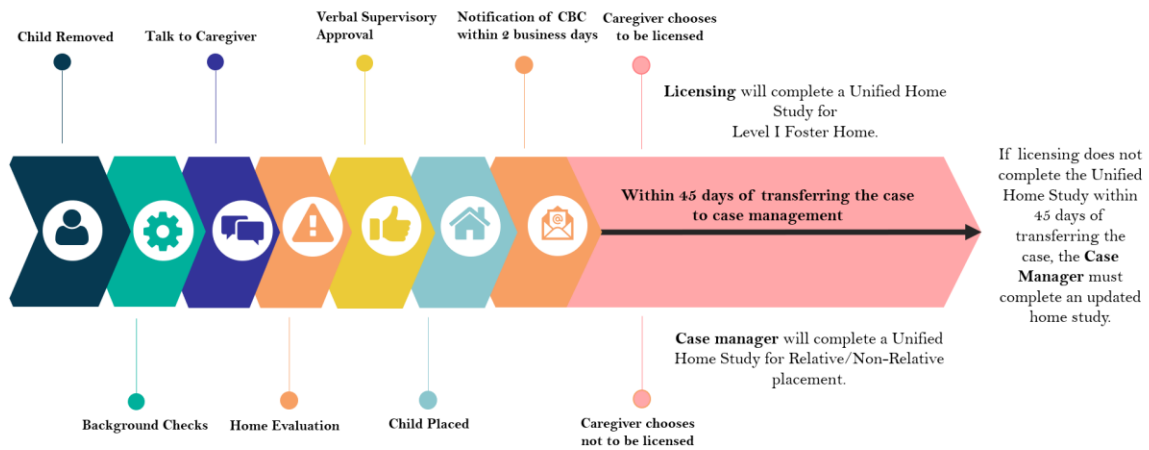
- A Level I-Child Specific Foster Home allows relatives/non-relatives/fictive kin to be paid a foster care board rate.
  - Level I-Child Specific Foster Home is a tailored process for relatives/non-relatives/fictive kin.
    - Background Checks (Chapter 39)
    - Waivable Non-safety Items
    - Streamlined Educational Resources
  - At initial placement, the CPI or Case Manager will provide an informational brochure to relatives/non-relatives/fictive kin and notify the designated child welfare professional for licensing.
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## Level I Foster Parent Inquiry

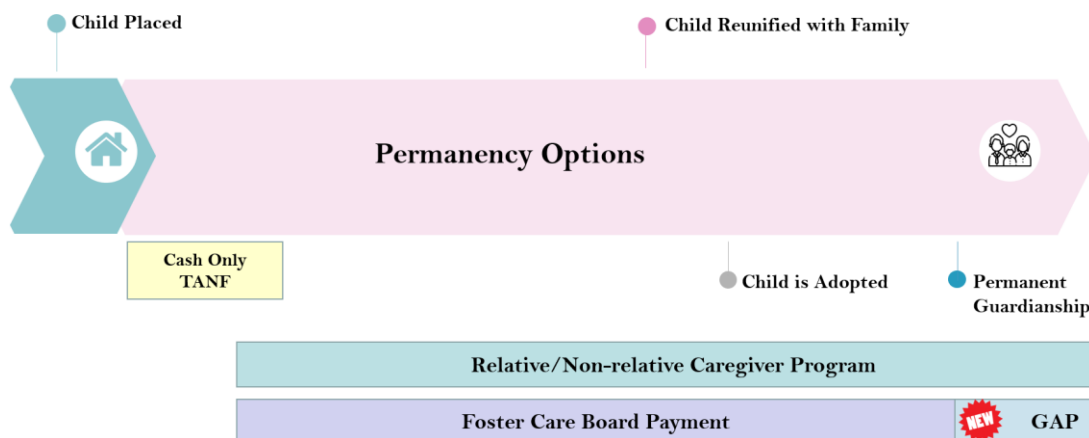


## What is New for Case Managers?



## Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP)

### Caregiver Benefits



### Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) Overview

- **Permanent Guardianship** is possible when reunification and adoption have been determined to not be in the child's best interest.
- **The Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP)** is a Title IV-E benefits program that is available to guardians who commit to care for a child long term.
- **GAP** benefits are provided to the court approved guardian following discharge to permanent guardianship.
- **GAP** benefits are paid to the guardian on behalf of the eligible child.
- **GAP** eligibility must be redetermined annually.

## Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) Eligibility

### To be eligible for GAP payments, a child:

- Has been placed with the guardian by the court,
- Is eligible for foster care room and board payments for at least 6 consecutive months with the current guardian, and
- It has been determined that reunification or adoption is not in the best interest of the child.

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### To be eligible for GAP payments, a guardian:

- Has committed to caring for a child long term,
- Has been licensed to care for the child,
- Enters into a guardianship assistance agreement for the child prior to discharging to permanent guardianship.

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## Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) Benefits

GAP benefits are:

- Monthly payments of \$333 for support of the child,
  - Medicaid benefits until 18 years of age (or 21 if eligible for Extension of Guardianship Assistance Program),
  - Tuition and fee exemptions,
  - Available for children who are living out-of-state,
  - One-time payment to assist with the costs of establishing permanent guardianship (\$2000 nonrecurring).
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## Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) Myths vs. Fact

**Myth:** Relatives, non-relatives, and fictive kin who are licensed automatically qualify for GAP.

**Fact:** The caregiver must receive foster care board payment for 6 consecutive months prior to discharge to permanent guardianship.

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**Myth:** Guardianship Assistance Program payments begin after the guardian is licensed.

**Fact:** The caregiver must receive foster care board payment for 6 consecutive months prior to discharge to permanent guardianship.

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**Myth:** GAP is a “new” permanency option for children.

**Fact:** GAP is a benefit for children that discharge to permanent guardianship.

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## Extended Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) Benefits

### Extended Guardianship Assistance Program (EGAP)

- Is available to guardians who entered into an initial Guardianship Assistance Agreement (GAA) for a 16 or 17-year-old child.
  - Has the purposes of
    - Reducing the risk of child remaining in foster care.
    - Providing additional financial support to guardians.
    - Allowing CBC lead agencies to provide additional support to guardians.
  - Is available to the child until 21 if the child participates in at least one or more qualifying activities.
  - Eligibility redetermination must be completed every 6 months.
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### Local Referral Process

Think about the following questions to determine your local referral process for relatives, non-relatives, or fictive kin.

- How much information will the child welfare professional share with caregivers?
- How will the child welfare professional who makes the initial placement contact the child welfare professional who is responsible for licensing?
- Who will talk to the caregiver?
- Which method will be used to contact the caregiver (e.g., home visit, phone call, etc.)?
- How will you follow up with the caregiver if the caregiver initially declines to be licensed?



Use Guardianship Readiness Assessment tool (GRA) to answer these questions.

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## Take Away

With the sunseting of the Title IV-E Waiver, DCF, in conjunction with FCC, implemented the **Path Forward** statewide initiative to identify federal funds to support the child welfare system. To draw more federal funding relatives, non-relatives, and fictive kin can receive foster care board payments.

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There are five levels of licensure with the new addition of the Level I-Child Specific Foster Home for relatives, non-relatives, and fictive kin.

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Level I-Child Specific Foster Home is tailored for relative/non-relative/fictive kin caregivers with modified background evaluation, waivable non-safety items, and streamlined educational resources. Background checks and reduced educational resources for Level I-Child Specific Foster Home will go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 if the legislature passes the language.

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Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) is a Title IV-E benefits program that is available to guardians who commit to caring for a child long term.

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A child is eligible for GAP payments when he/she is **closed out in permanent guardianship**, is placed with the guardian by court and receive for care board payments for at least 6 consecutive months with the current guardian.

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GAP benefits include monthly payments, Medicaid, out-of-state living expenses, and tuition and fee exemption.

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