

'Highlights' of the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) and (EGAP)

When will GAP go into effect in FSFN? The new FSFN functionality will go live on July 26, 2019.

Guardianship Assistance Program Overview:

- A Title IV-E benefits program that is available to guardians who commit to caring for a child long term through permanent guardianship.
- Offers financial assistance and other services, such as Medicaid, to the children and their relatives.
- Strengthens permanency for children discharged to permanent guardianship.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Child must be placed with a licensed relative or fictive kin (Level I) and be eligible to receive foster care board payments for at least 6 consecutive months.
 - Please note, GAP is **not** Levels of Licensure. Being licensed is a requirement to be eligible for GAP, but any caregiver can get licensed and never reach eligibility criteria for GAP. After licensure, a child may be reunified with the parents or adopted.
- The Permanent Guardianship Case Plan must include the required language (Ch.39.6225 – 10(a-g)).
- The caregiver must enter into a Guardianship Assistance Agreement for the child prior to the court discharging the child to Permanent Guardianship.

Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) Eligibility Overview



Child is placed with a relative or fictive kin.



Child is eligible for foster care board payments with relative/fictive kin for at least 6 consecutive months.



Case plan includes required language.



Guardian enters into a Guardianship Assistance Agreement for the child.



Court discharges the child with the guardian at permanent guardianship.



'Highlights' of the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) and (EGAP)

Available Caregiver Benefits:

- Monthly payment 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 exemption.
- Available for children living out of state.
- One-time payment to assist with costs of establishing permanent guardianship (\$2,000 nonrecurring).



Extension of Guardianship Assistance Program (EGAP) Overview:

- Available to caregiver who entered into an initial Guardianship Assistance Agreement (GAA) for a 16- or 17-year-old child.
- Available until 21 if the child participates in at least one or more qualifying activities (same qualifying activities as the Extension of Maintenance Adoption Subsidy and Extended Foster Care).
- Allows CBC lead agencies to provide additional support to relatives.