



## THE DEPARTMENT HAS TWO GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

1. The state funded guardianship assistance program (GAP)
2. The federal IV-E Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP)

There are different eligibility requirements for each program.

To find out if you are eligible for a guardianship assistance program, contact the child's foster care case manager from the custodial agency.

Distributed by:

This brochure was created by the ND Department of Human Services specifically for eligible families who may be interested in pursuing Guardianship for a child in foster care.

If you have further questions, please contact:

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES  
DIVISION**  
**701.328.2316, 711 (TTY)**

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**Dakota** | Human Services  
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## GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A GUIDE FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES TO ACCESS FUNDS TO SUPPORT A CHILD WHO IS EXITING FOSTER CARE TO A GUARDIANSHIP

## STATE FUNDED GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (GAP)

### WHAT IS STATE FUNDED GAP?

State funded program for children in foster care that provides monthly payment to the guardians

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- A child in North Dakota foster care under the custody of a Human Service Zone, Division of Juvenile Services or a Tribal Nation and,
- When reunification is ruled out,
- When adoption is ruled out,
- When one sibling is 12 years of age or older.

### MAINTENANCE PAYMENT?

- Payment is based on legislative appropriation
- Payment eligibility will be reviewed upon the child's 18th birthday
- Child is eligible for Medicaid if residing in North Dakota

## FEDERAL IV-E GUARDIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### WHAT IS FEDERAL IV-E GAP?

Federally funded program for children in foster care that provides monthly payment to the guardians

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Child meets all criteria identified on the State Funded GAP plus,
- Child must be IV-E eligible,
- Child must be placed for six consecutive months,
- Guardian must be a licensed foster parent who meets the definition of an identified relative by NDCC 50-11.

### MAINTENANCE PAYMENT?

- Established in conjunction with the department's guardianship rates
- Payment eligibility will be reviewed upon the child's 18th birthday
- Child is categorically eligible for Medicaid regardless of state of residence

## MORE DETAILS

### WHAT ARE SOME REQUIREMENTS OF THE GUARDIAN?

- Criminal background check
- Home study

### WHAT SERVICES OR SUPPORT ARE AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES AFTER A CHILD IS PLACED IN A GUARDIANSHIP?

The North Dakota Post Adopt – Post Guardianship Network is available to all guardianship families 844.454.1139

- The Chafee Program is available to those youth who experienced foster care at age 14 or older but are younger than 23 years of age.
- The Education and Training Voucher is available to youth who exited foster care to a kinship guardianship at age 16 or older.

### WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT A MINOR GUARDIANSHIP?

- Minor guardianship training via the supreme court website:  
<https://guardianship.ndcourts.gov/trainings/minor-guardianship-training/#login>
- NDCC 27-20.1
- CFS Policy 623-11

