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.

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)

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