



Implementation Beginning January, 2017

*Overview of the
Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP)*



What is the Guardianship Assistance Program?

- The purpose of the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) is to make funds available for the financial support of youth who are determined to be:
 - In a permanent family setting;
 - Eligible for legal guardianship; and,
 - Otherwise unlikely to obtain permanency
- GAP will reimburse for room and board at the same rate as the foster care board rates in accordance with N.C.G.S. 108A-49.1



Benefits of GAP



- Promotes a sense of belonging; helps youth stay connected to family and to their culture
- Increases stability and continuity
- Prevents youth from remaining in foster care when reunification and adoption are not appropriate permanency options
- Reduces agency supervision and intervention in children's lives once they are in a permanent family
- Does not require termination of parental rights for youth who have relationships with parents who cannot care for them
- Provides relatives and kin with assistance to care permanently for youth



GAP Eligibility



Court

- Determines that reunification and adoption are not appropriate permanency options

Young Person

- Has been placed in a licensed home for a minimum of 6 months
- Is in the placement responsibility of a county child welfare agency at the time of entry into GAP
- At least 14 years of age, but not older than 18 years of age
- Demonstrates a strong attachment to the prospective legal guardian and has been consulted about the arrangement

Prospective Guardian

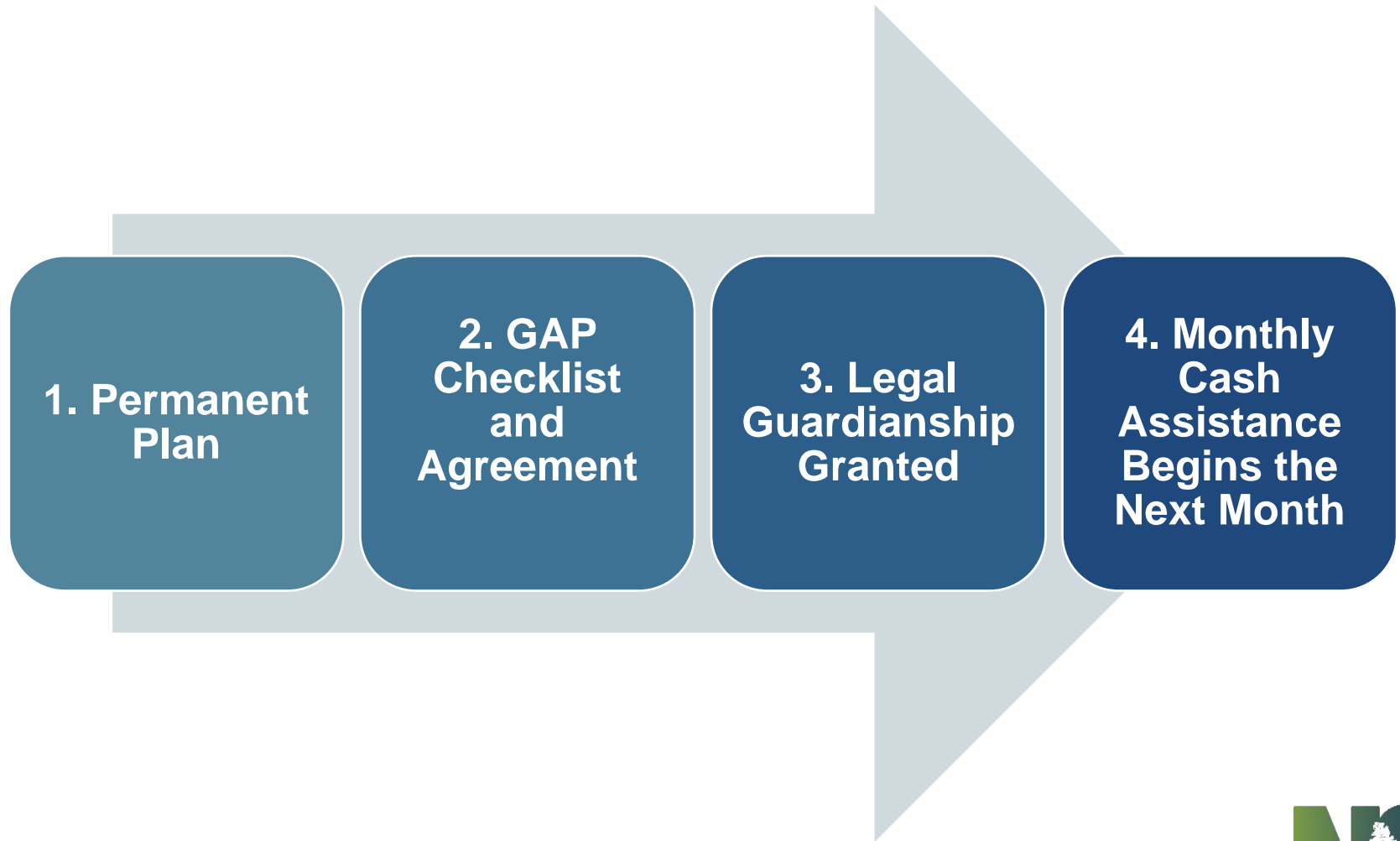
- Has a strong commitment to caring permanently for the youth
- Has entered into a guardianship assistance agreement with the county child welfare agency prior to the order granting legal guardianship

GAP Funding and Payments

- Payments:
 - Payments will be managed through the Child Placement and Payment System utilizing the DSS-5095
- IV-E:
 - Eligibility for GAP funding is based on foster care eligibility
 - A youth eligible for IV-E while in foster care will be IV-E eligible for GAP
 - A youth funded through State Foster Home Funds while in foster care will be eligible for IV-B for GAP



GAP Timeline



Questions? Comments?

