

Caring for Caregivers



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Introducing Our Guests



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139,000

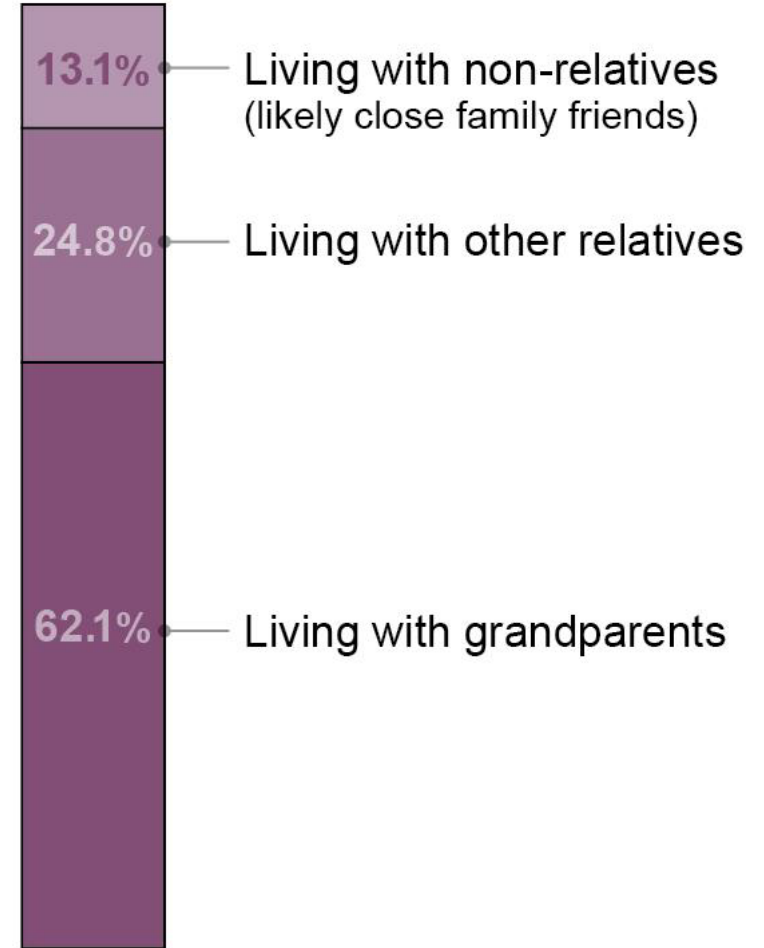
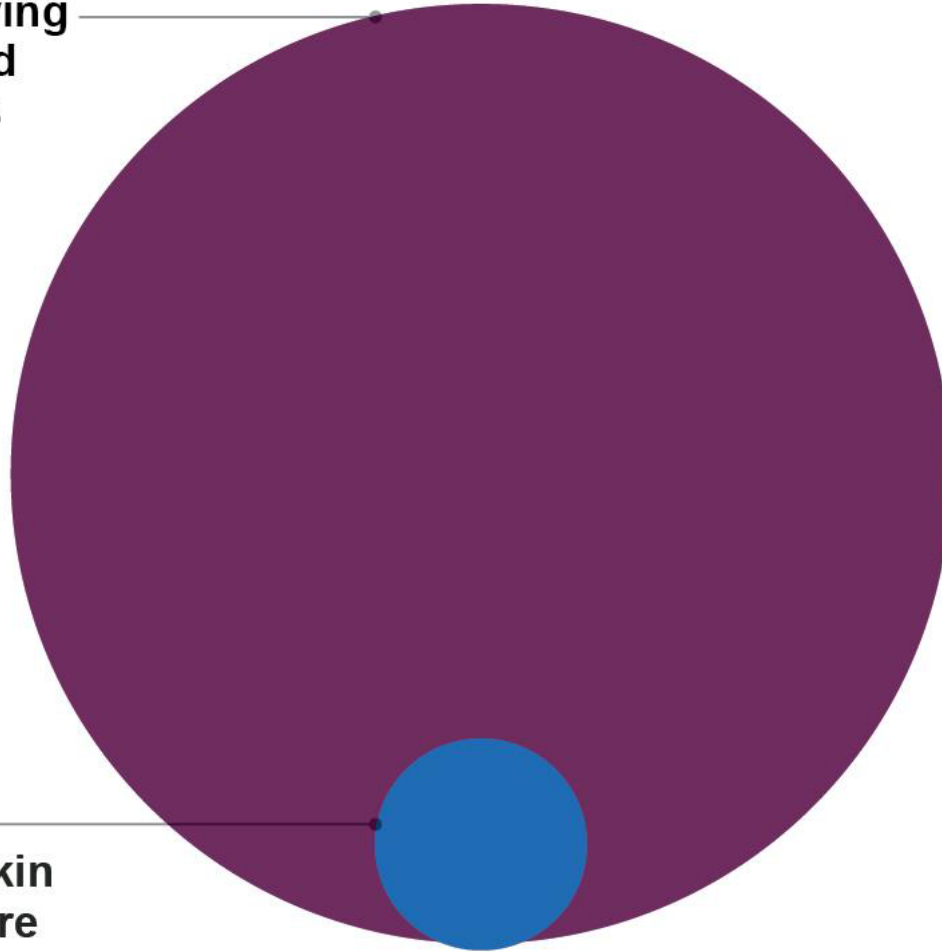
The number of children living with kin in foster care in 2018.

2,733,000

The number of children living with kin and not parents in 2018.

Children living with kin and not parents
2,733,000

Children living with kin in foster care
139,000



Source: GAO analysis of HHS's Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System data and U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement 1-Year Estimates. | GAO-20-434

Benefits of Kinship Care

- More positive behavioral development.
- Greater placement stability and fewer placement changes.
- Have a greater sense of satisfaction with their living arrangement.

Needs of Kinship Caregivers

Financial Insecurity, Assistance with concrete supports	Respite services
Lack of childcare	Difficulty meeting foster parent licensing requirements
Difficulty navigating courts for guardianship or custody rights	Healthcare needs for caregiver (physical and mobility issues for older caregivers)
Affordable Housing	Healthcare needs for children

Title IV-E Kinship Navigator (KN) Program

- In 2018, the Family First Prevention Services Act amended Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to allow title IV-E child welfare agencies to receive funding for kinship navigator programs that meet certain criteria.
- A KN program assists kinship caregivers in learning about, finding, and using programs and services to meet the needs of the children they are raising and their own needs.
- IV-E agencies can claim Federal Financial Participation at 50 percent.



Title IV-B Kinship Navigator Program

- Congress has appropriated \$20 million annually since 2018 to support the development, enhancement or evaluation of kinship navigator programs.
- All States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and 11 tribes have received this yearly funding.

Aleut Community of St Paul island (AK)	Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (MI)	Penobscot Indian Nation (ME)	Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation of Smith River (CA)
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (NC)	Mashpee Nation (MA)	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (WA)	
Cherokee Nation (OK)	Pascua Yaqui Tribe (CA)	Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community (AZ)	

Kinship Navigator Requirements

1

Coordinated with other state or local agencies that promote service coordination or provide information and referral services, including the entities that provide 2-1-1 or 3-1-1 information systems where available, to avoid duplication or fragmentation of services to kinship care families.

2

Planned and operated in consultation with kinship caregivers and organizations representing them, youth raised by kinship caregivers, relevant government agencies, and relevant community-based or faith-based organizations.

3

Establish information and referral systems that link kinship caregivers, kinship support group facilitators, and kinship service providers to

- relevant training to assist kinship caregivers in obtaining benefits and services
- relevant legal assistance and help in obtaining legal services;

4

Provide outreach to kinship care families, including by establishing, distributing, and updating a kinship care website, or other relevant guides or outreach materials. Promote partnerships between public and private agencies, across sectors and systems.

5

May establish and support a kinship care ombudsman with authority to intervene and help kinship caregivers access services. May support activities designed to assist kinship caregivers in obtaining benefits & other services to improve caregiving.



Illinois Extended Family Support Program

Helping Relative Caregivers Care for their
Relative's Children

Home of Relative

Unlicensed relative caregivers and the children in their care receive basically the same services as licensed caregivers, except that their monthly payment is 50% of the amount licensed caregivers receive.



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Goal of the Extended Family Support Program (EFSP)

To assist the relative caregiver so that they can provide a stable home where they can care for their relative's child.



Grandparents often step up to the plate to help family members. They account for more than 60% of kinship caregivers.

EFSP Target Population



- Relative or fictive kin
- Live together for more than 14 days
- Relative caregiver seeks the services
- Not part of a DCFS case
- Parent not in the home

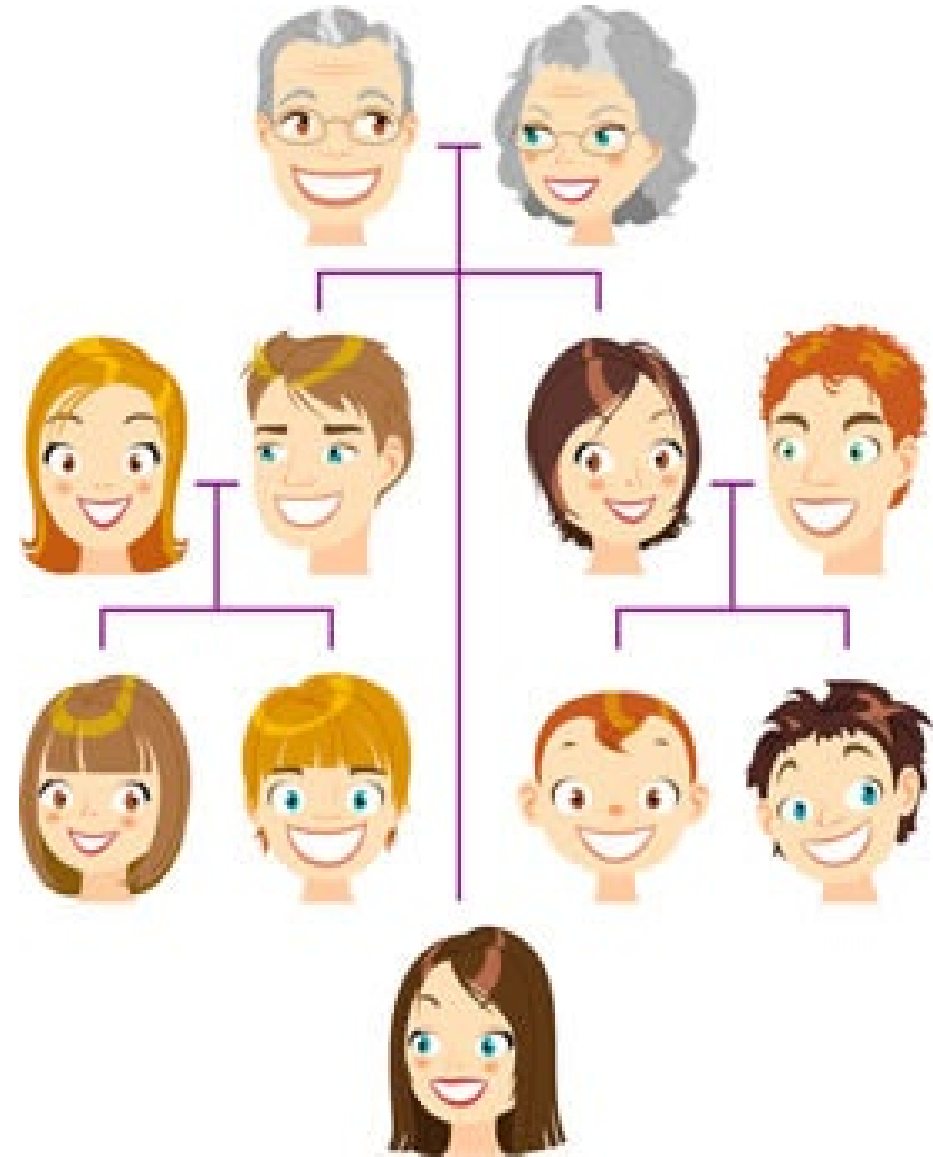
Poll Question

Note: If you are unable to see and/or answer the poll question, you are most likely using the Zoom Web Client. Please download the Zoom Desktop Client to enable all features of this webinar.



Guardianship

- Most kinship caregivers seek guardianship.
- It empowers caregivers.
- It protects children.
- Guardianship is a primary goal of EFSP.



Legal Rights Prior to Obtaining Guardianship

- Caregivers have very limited rights.
- Caregivers have difficulty obtaining some services.
- Parents can seek custody.
- Parents can seek to have guardianship reversed.



Criteria to Provide Services to Obtain Guardianship

- Approval after criminal background check.
- Parent cannot object.



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EFSP Services

- Short-term intervention
- Guardianship advocacy
- Entitlements advocacy
- Enroll children in school
- Referrals for needed services
- Cash assistance



EFSP Approximate Cost

- \$1,300 to open the case
- \$300 to seek guardianship
- \$300 to obtain guardianship
- \$200 for second risk assessment
- \$200 if ineligible or don't want services



EFSP Success

We reviewed children served in SFY17. More than 4 years later:

- 1.7% placed in care
- 9.4% part of intact case
- 84% of those intact cases had a different caregiver



Kinship Navigator Task Force



Providing information and support to relative caregivers and those who assist and advocate for them.

GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP
SUPPORT NETWORK
A National Technical Assistance Center



GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK

A National Technical Assistance Center

- \$10 million for 5 years, awarded as a cooperative agreement in September 2021, overseen by the Administration for Community Living (ACL)
- Generations United has worked on behalf of and with grandfamilies/kinship families since 1997
- Purpose is to provide technical assistance to the array of government agencies – aging, child welfare, disability, education, housing, Medicaid and Medicare, nutrition, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – and organizations that serve kinship families, including kinship navigator programs
- Not designed to help the families directly – will improve systems for families now and into the future



National Partners



Subject Matter Experts

Alexandra Ashbrook, JD

Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)

Terry Cross, DHL

National Indian Child Welfare Association
(NICWA)

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University of Washington

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National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

GRAND Voice Gail Engel

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Volunteers of America (VOA)

Marina Nitze

New America Foundation Fellow

Melinda Perez-Porter, JD

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)

**Heidi Redlich Epstein, JD, MSW and
Emily Peeler, JD, MSW**

American Bar Association (ABA)

GRAND Voice Sarah Smalls

Tyreasa Washington, PhD, LCSW

Child Trends

Nancy Young, PhD

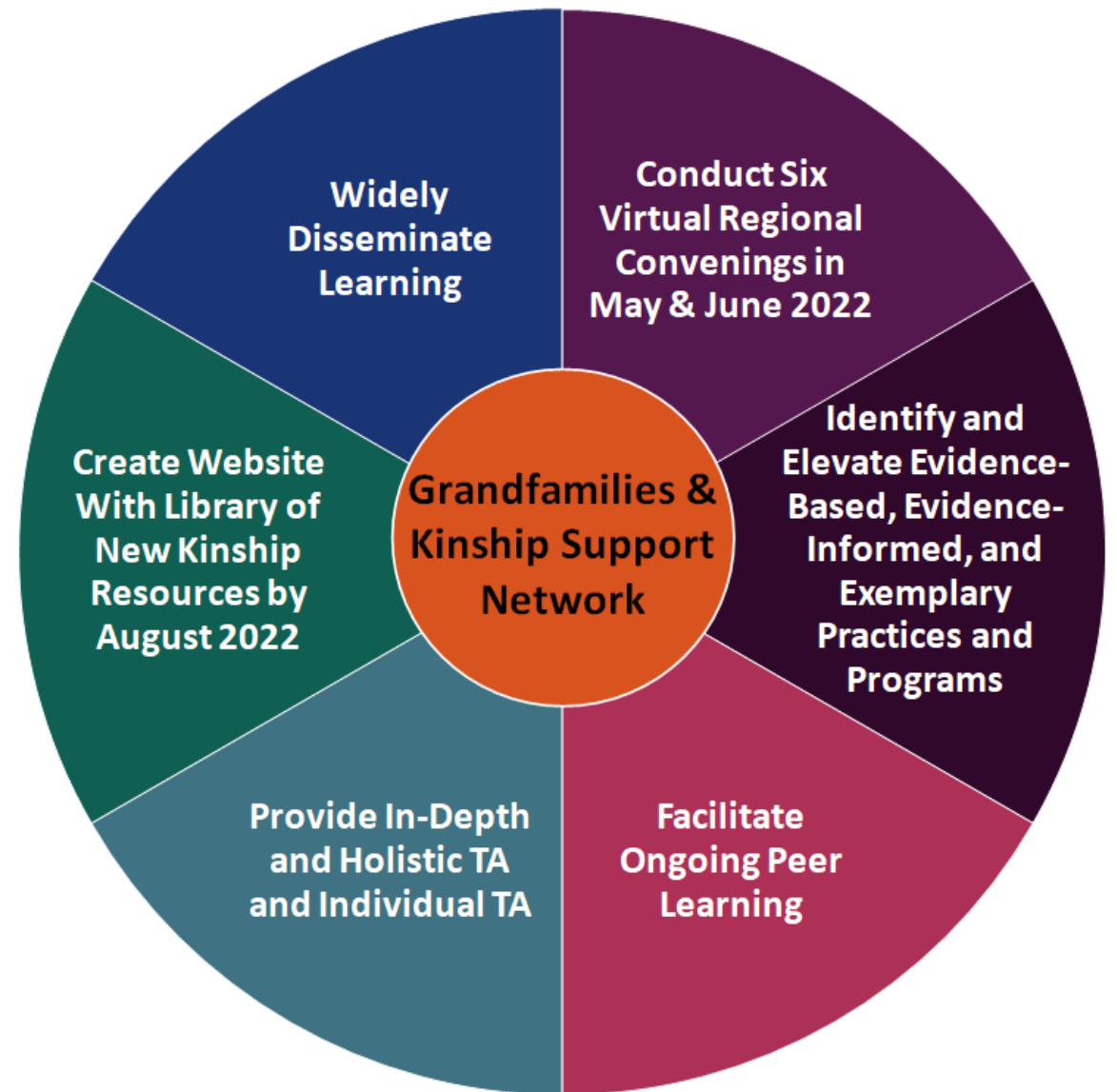
Children and Family Futures

Lisa Zetley, MD

American Academy of Pediatrics

Regional Convenings

- 53 virtual pre-convenings with each state, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and DC.
- Five regional convenings and NICWA Tribal convening all in May and June.
- Goals:
 1. To facilitate relationships across agencies and service providers to better support kinship families.
 2. To engage peer learning to reveal emerging kinship practices and programs, and pinpoint consistent challenges.
 3. To inform all the Network's future technical assistance, including resources developed.



Additional Technical Assistance



- Responding to individual requests for help from systems, kinship navigators, community-based nonprofits, and families – email Shalah Bottoms at sbottoms@gu.org.



- Creating new materials – [general fact sheet](#) is latest resource.



- Hosting webinar series starting in September with Dr. Terry Cross, NICWA, and Dr. Joseph Crumbley.

Stay Connected & Access Support

Sign up for our monthly newsletter.



Poll Question

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Discussion

Please type your questions into the Q&A box.

Resources

- **Finding and Supporting Kinship Caregivers**

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/kinship/findsupport/>

- **State Kinship Contacts – Child Welfare Information Gateway**

https://www.childwelfare.gov/organizations/?CWIGFunctionsaction=rols:main.dspList&&RS_ID=148&rlist=RCL&rolType=Custom&orderBy=state

- **PI-18-11: Title IV-E Kinship Navigator Program**

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/policy-guidance/pi-18-11>

- **PI-22-06: Title IV-B, subpart 2 Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Funding Available to Develop and Enhance or to Evaluate Kinship Navigator Programs**

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/policy-guidance/pi-22-06>

Resources

- **National and state specific charts comparing adoption and guardianship for kinship foster parents**

<https://www.gu.org/resources/adoption-and-guardianship-for-children-in-kinship-foster-care/>

- **GrandFacts state fact sheets, in English and Spanish, with kinship resources for each state and the District of Columbia**

<https://www.grandfamilies.org/State-Fact-Sheets>

- **Racial equity toolkits for serving Latino, African American and American Indian/Alaska Native Grandfamilies**

<https://www.gu.org/racial-equity-toolkits-featuring-grandfamilies/>

Contact Us

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