Family Matters

Providing Support to Kinship Care Providers
Introducing Our Presenters

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New Jersey Department of Children and Families

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Lead, Knowledge and Partnerships  
Children’s Bureau Learning and Coordination Center

FAMILY MATTERS: PROVIDING SUPPORT TO KINSHIP CARE PROVIDERS
The Child and Family Services Agency administers a robust kinship support program that engages relative caregivers (and potential relative caregivers) of children both inside and outside the foster care system. The Kinship Navigator Program will augment the existing services and supports that the Kinship Support unit offers with the intention of improving community and caregiver capacity to keep children safe and well in the homes of their relatives.
PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

Kinship Caregiver Help Line
Provides support and navigation for kinship caregivers. The help line will provide service referrals through linkage to nearby community-based resources that are equipped to address any number of needs. The help line can be reached at (866) FAMKIN 1 (866-326-5461) from 8:15am - 4:45pm. All calls will be returned within 24 hours or the next business day.

The Close Relative Caregiver Pilot Program/(CRC)
CRC provides a subsidy which will serve DC Kinship Caregivers. This monthly subsidy helps low-income DC residents who are raising their siblings, nieces, nephews, and cousins. If you have questions about close relative caregiver subsidies, send an email to cf sa.kinfirst@dc.gov or call Ms. Teresa Gibbs 202-727-5207.

Kinship Programming Advisory Committee (KinPAC)
KinPAC is a cross-sectional team of service providers and kinship caregivers who come together to share information about kin-care. Specifically, KinPAC will meet quarterly to coordinate campaigns for programs benefitting kinship families and discuss strategies around emerging issues impacting DC kinship families. We would love new members!!

Nowpow
Through Kinship Navigator Kinship staff will provide robust resources for relative caregivers inside and outside the foster care system, providing referrals and at time linkage to community services and community supports. We are striving to improve community and caregiver capacity to keep children safe and well in the homes of their relatives.

If you have questions, please send an email to cf sa.kinfirst@dc.gov or call 1-866-FAMKIN1 (326-5461).

PROGRAM COMPONENTS COMING SOON:

Support Group Facilitation
The Kinship Support Unit will facilitate support groups which will be co-facilitated by kinship caregiver. In addition, educational workshops and family enrichment events for kinship caregivers will be provided throughout the year.

Family Enrichment
The Kinship Support Unit and our Community Partners will host family enrichment activities and create opportunities for family enrichment and family fun.
New Jersey’s Kinship Navigator Program

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Kinship Wraparound Services

KNP Case Manager is assigned to a family

KNP Case Manager contacts family by phone to schedule home visit and obtain documents needed for eligibility

KNP Family Contact Form

KNP Case Manager holds home visit

If unable to contact family to schedule, or family is not home at time of visit, attempt to contact 3 times; if unsuccessful, close case

KNP Discharge Forms

KNP Case Manager shares information on resources (includes KWS Stipend, KLG services & other community resources)

If KWS eligible, complete remaining visit documents:
- KWS Strengths and Needs Assessment Form
- KNP Child Stability Assessment Form
- KWS Goal Plan

If caregiver does not meet income eligibility schedule for publicly subsidized services, stop visit, provide information and referrals; submit form to KNP Supervisor for review

Kinship Wraparound Services process continues on next page

Kinship Legal Guardianship

KNP Case Manager is assigned to a family

KNP Case Manager contacts family by phone to schedule home visit

KNP Family Contact Form

If unable to contact family to schedule, or family is not home at time of visit, attempt to contact 3 times; if unsuccessful, close case

KNP Discharge Forms

KNP Case Manager holds home visit

KNP Case Manager shares information on resources (includes KLG services, KLG subsidy & other community resources)

If caregiver does not meet income eligibility schedule for publicly subsidized services, stop visit, provide information and referrals; submit form to KNP Supervisor for review

Kinship Legal Guardianship process continues on next page
### Kinship Wraparound Services

- **After home visit is completed:**
  - KNP Case Manager completes:
    - KWS Funds Distribution Form
    - KNP Referral Form (if needed)
    - KNP Family Contact Form

- KNP Case Manager reviews all information collected from home visit with KNP Supervisor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KWS Goal Plan &amp; Stipend Application approved</th>
<th>KWS Stipend Application not approved; Goal Plan is closed and information &amp; Referrals provided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caregiver and Case Manager continue implementing KWS Goal Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNP distributes Stipend</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Kinship Wraparound Services process continues on next page

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### Kinship Legal Guardianship

- **KNP Supervisor reviews KLG Petition**

- KNP submits KLG Petition to Family Court

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KNP may or may not be notified by family of court date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- KNP makes follow-up call every 3 months to family to see if hearing date has been set or to learn about KLG determination from court

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KNP Family Contact Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KLG granted</th>
<th>KLG not granted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- KLG service closed

Kinship Legal Guardianship process continues on next page
Kinship Wraparound Services

KNP Case Manager completes 1st follow-up call (must be completed 2 weeks after the distribution of KWS Stipend) to follow up on KWS Goal Plan action items.

- KNP Family Contact Form
- KWS Goal Plan
- KNP Referral Form

KNP Case Manager completes 2nd follow-up call (must be completed 30 days after the 1st follow-up call) to see if KWS Goal Plan is complete. If KWS Goal Plan needs further assistance, provide resources for other community-based agencies and close case.

- KNP Family Contact Form
- KNP Referral Form
- KWS Goal Plan
- KNP Discharge Forms

KWS service is closed and KNP Provider sends letter to family

- KNP Discharge Forms

Families may return to KNP as needed every fiscal year

Note: When no services (KWS and/or KLG) provided, KNP case must be closed

Kinship Legal Guardianship

KLG Subsidy process is explained and family is connected to local Board of Social Services to apply

Family decides to apply for KLG Subsidy at local Board of Social Services

Family decides not to apply for KLG Subsidy

KLG service closed

- KNP Discharge Forms

KLG service closed

- KNP Discharge Forms

Board of Social Services sends letter to KNP for annual KLG Subsidy redetermination; family is re-enrolled with KNP
Informal Kinship Care

Informal kinship care refers to arrangements made by parents and other family members without any involvement from either the child welfare agency or the juvenile court.


8 million
Number of children who live with a relative who is the head of the household

2.7 million
Number of children who are being raised by a relative or close family friend and do not have a parent living in the household

133,405
Number of children in foster care being raised by relatives
Building Off Your Family Support Infrastructure

- Parenting Education and Support
- Connection to services & concrete supports
- Childcare and child enrichment activities
- Home visiting
- Support groups
- Respite care
## TABLE 2

### Who Are Kinship Families?

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, kinship caregivers are more likely to be poor, single, older, less educated, and unemployed than families in which at least one parent is present.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Children Living With at Least One Parent</th>
<th>Children in Public and Private Kinship Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOUSEHOLD POVERTY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below the poverty line</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 200% of the poverty line</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EMPLOYMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caregiver employed</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed full time</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caregiver retired</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caregiver disabled</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RACE/ETHNICITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER CHARACTERISTICS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single parent</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caregiver age 50+</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No high school diploma</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Common Challenges for KNP Participants

**Children**
- Behavior Problems: 29%
- Special Education: 28%
- School Problems: 34%
- Disability/Chronic Illness 25%

**Family**
- Money to save, buy necessities and extras
- Time for self and spouse/friends
KNP Services Requested

**Offered**
- Financial Assistance 82%
- KLG Assistance 50%
- Case Management 44.5%

**Referred**
- Support Group 26%
- Childcare 24%
- Public Assistance 24%
- Housing 24%
- Family Counseling 23%
Evaluation Stages

- Formative Evaluation
- Practice Profile, Logic Model, Program Flow Chart, Trainings using National Implementation Research Network’s Implementation Science
- Evaluability Assessment including Process Evaluation, Fidelity Assessment and Continuous Quality Improvement
- Rigorous Experimental (or Quasi-Experimental) Evaluation
Evaluation Outcomes

- Child Stability
  - permanency, including continuity of relationships with family and friends

- Referral to Services
  - # of referrals

- Access to Services
  - knowledge of services, ability to access and utilization

- Family Functioning
  - adult well-being, including protective factors and empowerment
Putting It Into Policy and Practice
Discussion

Please type your questions into the chat box.
Resources

• **It’s All Relative: Supporting Kinship Care Discussion Guides and Video Series** (Capacity Building Center for States)

• **Engaging and Supporting Kinship Caregivers** (Child Welfare Information Gateway)

• "**Supporting Caregivers Through Kinship Navigator Programs**" (Children’s Bureau Express article)

• **wikiHow for Creating a Kin First Culture** (GrandFamilies.org)

• **Stepping Up for Kids: What Government and Communities Can Do to Support Kinship Families** (Annie E. Casey Foundation)

Upcoming Digital Dialogues

• **October 5**: Protective Factors for Domestic Violence Survivors: A Pathway to More Opportunities
  Register

• **November 16**: Economic Supports and CAN Prevention
  Registration Opens 10/25

New Resources from CBLCC

• Recorded sessions from the 22nd National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect are now available on the [NCCAN website](https://www.nccan.org)!
National Family Caregiver Support Program

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging (AoA) administers the program and provides funds to the states. They in turn fund Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to provide five categories of supportive services to grandparents and other relatives aged 55 and older who are raising children, in addition to family caregivers of older individuals.
Thank You!

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