

Kinship & Foster Care

Family First

December 20, 2019

Handouts

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United Way 2-1-1 Connecticut

My Resource List

Kinship Caregiver Support Groups

AGENCY: CATHOLIC CHARITIES - ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

LOCATION: CATHOLIC CHARITIES - ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD - INSTITUTE FOR THE HISPANIC FAMILY - EL CENTRO FAMILY CENTER

📍 45 Wadsworth Street, Hartford, CT ↗ 23.65 miles

Offers a support group for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

📋 **Eligibility:** Grandparents raising their grandchildren

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm

☎ 860-527-1124 (tel:860-527-1124)

🌐 [View Website \(http://www.ccaoh.org/\)](http://www.ccaoh.org/)

Grandparents as Parents Support Group (GAPS)

AGENCY: FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S AID

📍 75 West Street, Danbury, CT ↗ 24.05 miles

Support groups for grandparents or relatives who have the responsibility of raising their grandchildren or other relative's children meet Tuesday evenings and Friday mornings...

📋 **Eligibility:** Grandparents who are raising their grandchildren and relative caregivers of children; Resident of Bethel, Bridgewater, ...

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 8:30am-8pm; Sat: 9am-5pm

☎ 203-731-7927 (tel:203-731-7927)

🌐 [View Website \(http://www.fcaweb.org\)](http://www.fcaweb.org/)


Grand Family Housing Development for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (CRT Generations)


AGENCY: COMMUNITY RENEWAL TEAM


LOCATION: COMMUNITY RENEWAL TEAM - GENERATIONS HARTFORD GRANDFAMILY HOUSING


📍 35 Clark Street, Hartford, CT ↗ 24.64 miles

Rental apartments provided for grandparents raising grandchildren under age 18. Note: Grandparents must have legal custody of their grandchildren...

 **Eligibility:** Grandparents with legal custody of grandchildren under age 18; Income at or below 60% state median income

 **Hours:** M-F: 9am-5pm



 860-478-8426 (tel:860-478-8426)

 [View Website \(http://www.crtct.org\)](http://www.crtct.org)


Around Again

AGENCY: GRANBY, TOWN OF


LOCATION: GRANBY, TOWN OF - YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

 15 North Granby Road, Granby, CT  28.69 miles

Support group for grandparents who have the responsibility of raising their grandchildren meets every Thursday at 12noon at the Senior Center/Youth Services building at 15C North Granby Road in North Granby...

 **Eligibility:** Grandparents who have the responsibility of raising their grandchildren; Resident of Granby and surrounding towns

 **Hours:** M-F: 9am-4pm or by appointment



 860-844-5355 (tel:860-844-5355)

 [View Website \(http://www.granby-ct.gov\)](http://www.granby-ct.gov)


Grandparents Raising Grandchildren


AGENCY: GRANBY, TOWN OF


LOCATION: GRANBY, TOWN OF - SENIOR CENTER


 15C North Granby Road, Granby, CT  28.73 miles

Support group for grandparents raising their grandchildren meets Thursday at 12pm. Grandparents will be able to share friendships, ideas, and tips on being a parent again...

 **Eligibility:** Grandparents raising their grandchildren

 **Hours:** M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm or by appt.

 860-844-5352 (tel:860-844-5352)

 [View Website \(http://www.granby-ct.gov\)](http://www.granby-ct.gov)

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren/Kinship Caregivers

AGENCY: CHILD AND FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER

LOCATION: CHILD AND FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER - BRIDGEPORT OFFICE

📍 180 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, CT ↗ 29.78 miles

Support group for grandparents and other relative caregivers of children offers free workshops, emotional support and recreational activities to caregivers ages 55+ who are raising children...

📋 Eligibility: Grandparents and other relative caregivers of children

🕒 Hours: M: 8am-6pm; T,W,Th: 8am-8pm; F: 8am-5pm

📞 203-394-6529 ext. 3374 (tel:203-394-6529 ext. 3374)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.cfguidance.org>)

Kinship Caregiver Support Groups

AGENCY: BRIDGEPORT, CITY OF

LOCATION: BRIDGEPORT, CITY OF - AGING DEPARTMENT - DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER SENIOR CENTER

📍 307 Golden Hill Street, Bridgeport, CT ↗ 29.79 miles

Support group for grandparents or relatives who have the responsibility of raising their grandchildren or other relative's children...

🕒 Hours: M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm

📞 203-414-9625 (tel:203-414-9625)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.bridgeportct.gov>)

Kinship Caregiver Support Groups

AGENCY: SOUTH WINDSOR, TOWN OF

LOCATION: SOUTH WINDSOR, TOWN OF - ADULT AND SENIOR SERVICES

📍 150 Nevers Road, South Windsor, CT ↗ 32.21 miles

Offers a support group for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

📋 Eligibility: Grandparents who are raising their grandchildren

🕒 Hours: M-F: 8am-4:30pm

📞 860-648-6361 ext. 314 (tel:860-648-6361 ext. 314)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.southwindsor.org>)

Kinship Caregiver Support Groups

AGENCY: ENFIELD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER AT HENRY BARNARD SCHOOL

📍 27 Shaker Road, Enfield, CT ↗ 36.24 miles

Support group for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren meets monthly. Each month, parenting experts and resources will be available to answer questions on a variety of topics relating to when grandparents become parents...

☑ Eligibility: Grandparents raising their grandchildren

🕒 Hours: M-F: 8am-4:30pm

☎ 860-253-5144 (tel:860-253-5144)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.enfield-ct.gov/frc>)

Kinship Caregiver Support Groups

AGENCY: MANSFIELD, TOWN OF

LOCATION: MANSFIELD, TOWN OF - YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

📍 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT ↗ 45.73 miles

Support group for grandparents or relatives who have the responsibility of raising their grandchildren or other relative's children meets monthly...

☑ Eligibility: Resident of Mansfield; Grandparent or relative caregiver

🕒 Hours: M-W: 8:15am-4:30pm; Th: 8:15am-6:30pm; F: 8am-12n...

☎ 860-429-3319 (tel:860-429-3319)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.mansfieldct.org>)

Connecticut's National Family Caregiver Support Program

AGENCY: SENIOR RESOURCES - AGENCY ON AGING - EASTERN CONNECTICUT

📍 19 Ohio Avenue, Suite 2, Norwich, CT ↗ 50.51 miles

Family Caregiver Support Program offers information to caregivers about available resources; assistance to caregivers in accessing services; caregiver counseling, training, and peer support; adult respite care, which may include limited home-based respite...

☑ Eligibility: Family caregivers of adults ages 60+; Grandparents and relative caregivers, ages 55+ of children ages 0 through 59 with...

🕒 Hours: M-F: 8:30am-4pm

☎ 860-887-3561 (tel:860-887-3561)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.seniorresourcesec.org>)

Relatives As Parents Online Facebook Group

AGENCY: ANNIE C. COURTNEY FOUNDATION, INC.

📍 15 Boyden Street, 2nd Floor, #8, Waterbury, CT ↗ 2.14 miles

Online Facebook group for relative caregiver (through adoption or transfer of guardianship) in Connecticut. Families must call the office before their request to join the group is approved...

📋 Eligibility: Relative caregiver (through adoption or transfer of guardianship) in Connecticut

🕒 Hours: Hours vary

☎ 475-235-2184 (tel:475-235-2184)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.anniec.org>)

Grandparents as Parents (GAPS)

AGENCY: WESTERN CONNECTICUT AREA AGENCY ON AGING

📍 84 Progress Lane, Waterbury, CT ↗ 7.62 miles

Agency contractors provide legal information and assistance to grandparents or other kinship caregivers (ages 55+) caring for grandchildren or minor children...

📋 Eligibility: Ages 55+; grandparents or other kinship caregivers of minor children; other eligibility criteria may apply; call for sp...

🕒 Hours: M-F: 8am-4pm

☎ 800-994-9422 (tel:800-994-9422)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.wcaaa.org>)

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group

AGENCY: NAUGATUCK YMCA

📍 284 Church Street, Naugatuck, CT ↗ 7.86 miles

Support group for grandparents raising their grandchildren meets monthly in Naugatuck. Monthly meetings will include guest speakers who will address issues unique to grandparents...

📋 Eligibility: Grandparents raising their grandchildren

🕒 Hours: M-F: 5:30am-9pm; Sat: 7am-4pm; Sun: 10am-3pm (Nov...

☎ 203-729-9622 (tel:203-729-9622)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.naugatuckymca.org>)

Kinship Caregiver Support Groups

AGENCY: EDADVANCE

LOCATION: EDADVANCE - TORRINGTON OFFICE

📍 57 Forest Court, Torrington, CT ↗ 14.42 miles

Support group for grandparents or relatives who have the responsibility of raising their grandchildren or other relative's children meets on the third Saturday of the month at 10:30am...

☑ **Eligibility:** Grandparents or relatives who have the responsibility of raising their grandchildren or other relative's children

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 7:30am-5:30pm

☎ **860-806-1410 (tel:860-806-1410)**

🌐 **View Website (<http://edadvance.org/>)**

Kinship Caregiver Support Groups

AGENCY: NEWTOWN PARENT CONNECTION, INC.

📍 2 Washington Square, Newtown, CT ↗ 17.39 miles

Support group for grandparents and caregivers who are raising children in a diverse situation meets every Tuesday at 10:30am.

☑ **Eligibility:** Support group for grandparents and caregivers who are raising children in a diverse situation

☎ 203-270-1600 (tel:203-270-1600)

🌐 **View Website (<http://www.newtownparentconnection.org>)**

Grandparents Wisdom Circle

AGENCY: CHARTER OAK INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

📍 425 Oakwood Avenue, West Hartford, CT ↗ 21.24 miles

Family therapist led support group for grandparents raising or have helped raise their grandchildren. Children are welcome.

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 8am-6pm

☎ 860-233-4701 (tel:860-233-4701)

🌐 **View Website (<http://www.bridgefamilycenter.org>)**

Kin Care

AGENCY: CROMWELL, TOWN OF

LOCATION: CROMWELL, TOWN OF - YOUTH SERVICES

📍 41 West Street, Cromwell, CT ↗ 22.51 miles

Support group for grandparents and relatives raising their kin meets on the second Thursday of the month at 12noon.

☑ **Eligibility:** Grandparents and relatives raising their kin



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Groups

AGENCY: UNITED SERVICES

LOCATION: UNITED SERVICES - WAUREGAN OFFICE

📍 303 Putnam Road, Wauregan, CT ↗ 61.68 miles

Support and education groups for grandparents raising their grandchildren meet on the second Monday of the month from 6-7pm at United Services, 303 Putnam Road, Wauregan and the fourth Monday of the month from 6-7:30pm at United Services, 140 North Frontage...

📋 Eligibility: Grandparents raising their grandchildren

🕒 Hours: M-W,F: 8:30am-5pm; Th: 8am-8pm

☎ 860-564-6100 (tel:860-564-6100)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.unitedservicesct.org>)



🕒 Hours: M-F: 8:30am-4pm

☎ 860-632-3474 (tel:860-632-3474)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.cromwellct.com>)

Parents 2nd Time Around

AGENCY: SALVATION ARMY - GREATER HARTFORD SOUTH END COMPLEX

LOCATION: SALVATION ARMY - GREATER HARTFORD SOUTH END COMPLEX - HUMAN SERVICES BUREAU

📍 217 Washington Street, Hartford, CT ↗ 23.40 miles

Monthly support group for grandparents and relative caregivers who are raising their grandchildren or kin. Child care and a meal is provided during support group...

📋 Eligibility: Grandparents and relative caregivers ages 55+ who are raising their grandchildren or relative kin full-time; Resident o...

🕒 Hours: M-F: 8:30am-4pm

☎ 860-543-8413 ext. 113 (tel:860-543-8413 ext. 113)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.salvationarmyct.org>)

AARP Grandparent Information Center

AGENCY: AARP CONNECTICUT

📍 21 Oak Street, Suite 104, Hartford, CT ↗ 23.53 miles

The Grandparent Information Center is a clearinghouse for information on caring for grandchildren, including referrals to local support groups, legal services, family support service, and for other grandparent caregiver related issues...

🕒 Hours: M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm

☎ 866-295-7279 (tel:866-295-7279)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.aarp.org>)

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

AGENCY: GROTON, TOWN OF

LOCATION: GROTON, TOWN OF - HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT - FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

📍 2 Fort Hill Road, Groton, CT ↗ 57.20 miles

Support group for grandparents raising their grandchildren meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at the Groton Public Library, Room 1, 52 Newtown Road in Groton...

🕒 Hours: M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm

☎ 860-441-6760 (tel:860-441-6760)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.groton-ct.gov>)



United Way 2-1-1 Connecticut

My Resource List

Relatives As Parents Online Facebook Group

AGENCY: ANNIE C. COURTNEY FOUNDATION, INC.

📍 15 Boyden Street, 2nd Floor, #8, Waterbury, CT ↗ 2.14 miles

Online Facebook group for relative caregiver (through adoption or transfer of guardianship) in Connecticut. Families must call the office before their request to join the group is approved...

📋 **Eligibility:** Relative caregiver (through adoption or transfer of guardianship) in Connecticut

🕒 **Hours:** Hours vary

☎ 475-235-2184 (tel:475-235-2184)

🌐 [View Website \(http://www.anniec.org\)](http://www.anniec.org)



Adventures in Adoptive Parenting

AGENCY: ANNIE C. COURTNEY FOUNDATION, INC.

📍 15 Boyden Street, 2nd Floor, #8, Waterbury, CT ↗ 2.14 miles

On-line adoptive parent group open to all adoptive parents. Parents share the joys and issues that are often the same or closely mirror each other...

📋 **Eligibility:** Parents whose adoption has been finalized by the courts

🕒 **Hours:** Hours vary

☎ 475-235-2184 (tel:475-235-2184)

🌐 [View Website \(http://www.anniec.org\)](http://www.anniec.org)



Temporary Family Assistance (TFA)

AGENCY: SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF

LOCATION: SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF - WESTERN REGIONAL, WATERBURY

📍 249 Thomaston Avenue, Waterbury, CT ↗ 3.29 miles

Time limited cash assistance program, for very low income eligible families provides monthly cash for basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing and employment assistance...



☑ **Eligibility:** Families with children under 18, pregnant women may qualify if no other means of support are available; Must be U.S. ci...

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 8am-4:30pm; Benefits Center line hours: 7:30...

☎ **855-626-6632 (tel:855-626-6632)**

🌐 **View Website (<https://portal.ct.gov/DSS>)**

Grandparents and Other Kinship Caregivers Assistance

AGENCY: CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES (CLS)

LOCATION: CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES - WATERBURY SITE

📍 **85 Central Avenue, Waterbury, CT** ↗ 3.79 miles

Legal information and assistance for grandparents and other kinship caregivers of minor children. Services include assistance with obtaining public benefits; education and special education services; custody and visitation issues; DCF related matters;...

☑ **Eligibility:** Grandparents or other kinship caregivers of minor children; Other eligibility criteria may apply; Call for specific inf...

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 9am-5pm

☎ **800-413-7797 (tel:800-413-7797)**

🌐 **View Website (<https://ctlegal.org>)**

Kinship Grants/Respite Grants for Relative and Non-Relative Caregivers

AGENCY: WATERBURY, CITY OF

LOCATION: WATERBURY, CITY OF - PROBATE

📍 **49 Leavenworth Street, Waterbury, CT** ↗ 4.09 miles

Two funds for income eligible relatives or non-family who were granted guardianship of a child by a Regional Children's Probate Court OR a Superior Court:1) KINSHIP GRANT provides up to \$500 per child per year (with an annual family cap of \$2000) for...

☑ **Eligibility:** Income restrictions (Custodial relative or non-family member who must have qualified for a probate court fee waiver at ...

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 8:45am-4:45pm

☎ **203-755-1127 (tel:203-755-1127)**

🌐 **View Website (<http://www.waterburyct.org/>)**

Grandparents as Parents (GAPS)

AGENCY: WESTERN CONNECTICUT AREA AGENCY ON AGING

84 Progress Lane, Waterbury, CT 7.62 miles

Agency contractors provide legal information and assistance to grandparents or other kinship caregivers (ages 55+) caring for grandchildren or minor children...

Eligibility: Ages 55+; grandparents or other kinship caregivers of minor children; other eligibility criteria may apply; call for sp...

Hours: M-F: 8am-4pm

800-994-9422 (tel:800-994-9422)

[View Website \(http://www.wcaaa.org\)](http://www.wcaaa.org)

Connecticut's National Family Caregiver Support Program

AGENCY: WESTERN CONNECTICUT AREA AGENCY ON AGING

84 Progress Lane, Waterbury, CT 7.62 miles

National Family Caregiver Support Program offers information to caregivers about available resources; assistance linking caregivers to available services; individual counseling; caregiver training; adult respite care to caregivers of family members ages...

Eligibility: Family caregivers of adults ages 60+; Grandparents and relative caregivers, ages 60+ of children up to and including ag...

Hours: M-F: 8am-4pm

800-994-9422 (tel:800-994-9422)

[View Website \(http://www.wcaaa.org\)](http://www.wcaaa.org)

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group

AGENCY: NAUGATUCK YMCA

284 Church Street, Naugatuck, CT 7.86 miles

Support group for grandparents raising their grandchildren meets monthly in Naugatuck. Monthly meetings will include guest speakers who will address issues unique to grandparents...

Eligibility: Grandparents raising their grandchildren

Hours: M-F: 5:30am-9pm; Sat: 7am-4pm; Sun: 10am-3pm (Nov...

203-729-9622 (tel:203-729-9622)

[View Website \(http://www.naugatuckymca.org\)](http://www.naugatuckymca.org)

Grandparents/Relatives Raising Children Education and Support Program

AGENCY: PLAINVILLE, TOWN OF

LOCATION: PLAINVILLE, TOWN OF - SENIOR CENTER

📍 200 East Street, Plainville, CT ↗ 12.28 miles

Support and educational group for grandparents or relatives who have the responsibility of raising their grandchildren or other relative's children meet monthly...

📋 **Eligibility:** Open to all individuals who are legally responsible for or caring for children

🕒 **Hours:** M: 9am-6pm; T-Th: 9am-5pm; F: 9am-1pm

☎ 860-747-5728 (tel:860-747-5728)

🌐 [View Website \(http://www.plainvillect.com/\)](http://www.plainvillect.com/)

Kinship Caregiver Support Groups

AGENCY: EDADVANCE

LOCATION: EDADVANCE - TORRINGTON OFFICE

📍 57 Forest Court, Torrington, CT ↗ 14.42 miles

Support group for grandparents or relatives who have the responsibility of raising their grandchildren or other relative's children meets on the third Saturday of the month at 10:30am...

📋 **Eligibility:** Grandparents or relatives who have the responsibility of raising their grandchildren or other relative's children

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 7:30am-5:30pm

☎ 860-806-1410 (tel:860-806-1410)

🌐 [View Website \(http://edadvance.org/\)](http://edadvance.org/)

Temporary Family Assistance (TFA)

AGENCY: SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF

LOCATION: SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF - WESTERN REGIONAL, TORRINGTON

📍 62 Commercial Boulevard, Torrington, CT ↗ 15.43 miles

Time limited cash assistance program, for very low income eligible families provides monthly cash for basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing and employment assistance...

📋 **Eligibility:** Families with children under 18, pregnant women may qualify if no other means of support are available; Must be U.S. ci...

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 8am-4:30pm; Benefits Center line hours: 7:30...

☎ 855-626-6632 (tel:855-626-6632)

🌐 [View Website \(https://portal.ct.gov/DSS\)](https://portal.ct.gov/DSS)

Grandparents and Other Kinship Caregivers Assistance

AGENCY: CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES (CLS)

LOCATION: CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES - NEW BRITAIN SITE

📍 16 Main Street, 2nd Floor, New Britain, CT ↗ 16.44 miles

Legal information and assistance for grandparents and other kinship caregivers of minor children. Services include assistance with obtaining public benefits; education and special education services; custody and visitation issues; DCF related matters;...

📋 **Eligibility:** Grandparents or other kinship caregivers of minor children; Other eligibility criteria may apply; Call for specific inf...

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 9am-5pm

📞 800-233-7619 (tel:800-233-7619)

🌐 [View Website \(https://ctlegal.org\)](https://ctlegal.org)

Kinship Caregiver Support Groups

AGENCY: NEWTOWN PARENT CONNECTION, INC.

📍 2 Washington Square, Newtown, CT ↗ 17.39 miles

Support group for grandparents and caregivers who are raising children in a diverse situation meets every Tuesday at 10:30am.

📋 **Eligibility:** Support group for grandparents and caregivers who are raising children in a diverse situation

📞 203-270-1600 (tel:203-270-1600)

🌐 [View Website \(http://www.newtownparentconnection.org\)](http://www.newtownparentconnection.org)

Temporary Family Assistance (TFA)

AGENCY: SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF

LOCATION: SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF - NORTHERN REGIONAL, NEW BRITAIN

📍 30 Christian Lane, New Britain, CT ↗ 17.78 miles

Time limited cash assistance program, for very low income eligible families provides monthly cash for basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing and employment assistance...

📋 **Eligibility:** Families with children under 18, pregnant women may qualify if no other means of support are available; Must be U.S. ci...

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 8am-4:30pm; Benefits Center line hours: 7:30...

☎ 855-626-6632 (tel:855-626-6632)
🌐 View Website (<https://portal.ct.gov/DSS>)

Kinship Grants/Respite Grants for Relative and Non-Relative Caregivers

AGENCY: CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL CHILDREN'S PROBATE COURT

📍 1501 East Main Street, Suite 203, Meriden, CT ↗ 18.19 miles

Two funds for income eligible relatives or non-family who were granted guardianship of a child by a Regional Children's Probate Court OR a Superior Court:1) KINSHIP GRANT provides up to \$500 per child per year (with an annual family cap of \$2000) for...

☑ **Eligibility:** Income restrictions (Custodial relative or non-family member who must have qualified for a probate court fee waiver at ...

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm

☎ 203-235-1014 (tel:203-235-1014)
🌐 View Website (<http://www.ctprobate.gov/Pages/Kinship-and-Grandparent-Respite-Fund>)

Connecticut's National Family Caregiver Support Program

AGENCY: AGENCY ON AGING OF SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

📍 117 Washington Avenue, Suite 17, North Haven, CT ↗ 18.70 miles

Family Caregiver Support Program offers information to caregivers about available resources; assistance linking caregivers to available services; individual counseling; caregiver training; adult respite care to caregivers of family members ages 60+; and...

☑ **Eligibility:** Family caregivers of adults ages 60+; Grandparents and relative caregivers, ages 55+, of children up to and including a...

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm

☎ 203-785-8533 (tel:203-785-8533)
🌐 View Website (<http://www.aoascc.org>)

Kinship Grants/Respite Grants for Relative and Non-Relative Caregivers

AGENCY: PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

📍 186 Newington Road, West Hartford, CT ↗ 20.16 miles

- Two funds for income eligible relatives or non-family who were granted guardianship of a child by a Regional Children's Probate Court OR a Superior Court:1) KINSHIP GRANT provides up to \$500 per child per year (with an annual family cap of \$2000) for...

Eligibility: Income restrictions (Custodial relative or non-family member who must have qualified for a probate court fee waiver at ...

Hours: M-F: 8am-5pm

860-231-2442 (tel:860-231-2442)

View Website (<http://www.ctprobate.gov>)

Grandparents Wisdom Circle

AGENCY: CHARTER OAK INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

425 Oakwood Avenue, West Hartford, CT 21.24 miles

Family therapist led support group for grandparents raising or have helped raise their grandchildren. Children are welcome.

Hours: M-F: 8am-6pm

860-233-4701 (tel:860-233-4701)

View Website (<http://www.bridgefamilycenter.org>)

Kinship Grants/Respite Grants for Relative and Non-Relative Caregivers

AGENCY: NEW HAVEN REGIONAL CHILDREN'S PROBATE COURT

873 State Street, New Haven, CT 21.96 miles

Two funds for income eligible relatives or non-family who were granted guardianship of a child by a Regional Children's Probate Court OR a Superior Court:1) KINSHIP GRANT provides up to \$500 per child per year (with an annual family cap of \$2000) for...

Eligibility: Income restrictions (Custodial relative, or non-family member who must have qualified for a probate court fee waiver at...

Hours: M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm

203-946-6492 (tel:203-946-6492)

View Website (<http://www.ctprobate.gov>)

Temporary Family Assistance (TFA)

AGENCY: SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF

LOCATION: SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF - SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE, NEW HAVEN

📍 50 Humphrey Street, New Haven, CT ↗ 22.07 miles

Time limited cash assistance program, for very low income eligible families provides monthly cash for basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing and employment assistance...

📋 **Eligibility:** Families with children under 18, pregnant women may qualify if no other means of support are available; Must be U.S. ci...

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 8am-4:30pm; Benefits Center line hours: 7:30...

☎ 855-626-6632 (tel:855-626-6632)

🌐 **View Website** (<https://portal.ct.gov/DSS>)

Connecticut's National Family Caregiver Support Program

AGENCY: NORTH CENTRAL AREA AGENCY ON AGING

📍 151 New Park Avenue, Box 75, Suite 15, Hartford, CT ↗ 22.06 miles

Family Caregiver Support Program offers information to caregivers about available resources, assistance linking caregivers to available services, individual counseling, and caregiver training...

📋 **Eligibility:** Eligibility to receive Respite and/or Supplemental Services for Elderly Individuals: The care recipient must be 60 year...

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm

☎ 800-994-9422 (tel:800-994-9422)

🌐 **View Website** (<http://www.ncaaact.org>)

Temporary Family Assistance (TFA)

AGENCY: SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF

LOCATION: SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF - SOUTHERN REGIONAL, MIDDLETOWN

📍 2081 South Main Street, Suite B, Middletown, CT ↗ 22.39 miles

Time limited cash assistance program, for very low income eligible families provides monthly cash for basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing and employment assistance...

📋 **Eligibility:** Families with children under 18, pregnant women may qualify if no other means of support are available; Must be U.S. ci...

🕒 **Hours:** M-F: 8am-4:30pm; Benefits Center line hours: 7:30...

☎ 855-626-6632 (tel:855-626-6632)

🌐 **View Website** (<https://portal.ct.gov/DSS>)

Kin Care

AGENCY: CROMWELL, TOWN OF

LOCATION: CROMWELL, TOWN OF - YOUTH SERVICES

📍 41 West Street, Cromwell, CT ↗ 22.51 miles

Support group for grandparents and relatives raising their kin meets on the second Thursday of the month at 12noon.

📋 Eligibility: Grandparents and relatives raising their kin

🕒 Hours: M-F: 8:30am-4pm

☎ 860-632-3474 (tel:860-632-3474)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.cromwellct.com>)

Parents 2nd Time Around

AGENCY: SALVATION ARMY - GREATER HARTFORD SOUTH END COMPLEX

LOCATION: SALVATION ARMY - GREATER HARTFORD SOUTH END COMPLEX - HUMAN SERVICES BUREAU

📍 217 Washington Street, Hartford, CT ↗ 23.40 miles

Monthly support group for grandparents and relative caregivers who are raising their grandchildren or kin. Child care and a meal is provided during support group...

📋 Eligibility: Grandparents and relative caregivers ages 55+ who are raising their grandchildren or relative kin full-time; Resident o...

🕒 Hours: M-F: 8:30am-4pm

☎ 860-543-8413 ext. 113 (tel:860-543-8413 ext. 113)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.salvationarmyct.org>)

AARP Grandparent Information Center

AGENCY: AARP CONNECTICUT

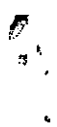
📍 21 Oak Street, Suite 104, Hartford, CT ↗ 23.53 miles

The Grandparent Information Center is a clearinghouse for information on caring for grandchildren, including referrals to local support groups, legal services, family support service, and for other grandparent caregiver related issues...

🕒 Hours: M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm

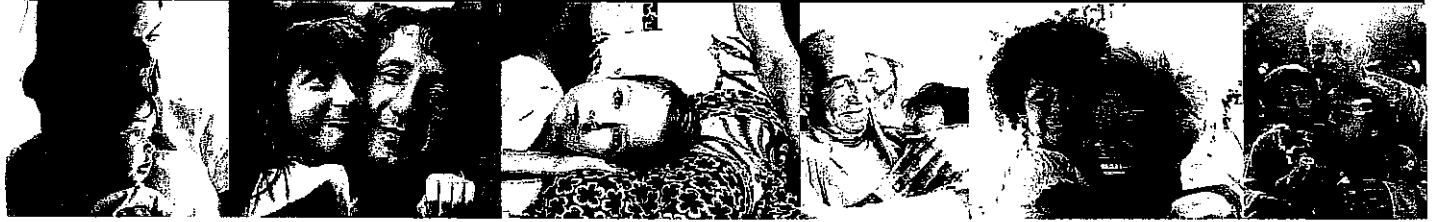
☎ 866-295-7279 (tel:866-295-7279)

🌐 View Website (<http://www.aarp.org>)



GRANDFACTS

STATE FACT SHEETS FOR GRANDFAMILIES



The GrandFacts state fact sheets for grandfamilies include state-specific data and programs as well as information about public benefits, educational assistance, legal relationship options and state laws. Visit www.grandfamilies.org to find this and all GrandFacts state fact sheets.

Connecticut

The Children

- 18,000 (2%) children live with a relative with no parent present.
- 56,299 (7.2%) children under 18 live in homes where householders are grandparents or other relatives.
 - 42,224 (5.4%) of these children live with grandparents.
 - 14,075 (1.8%) of these children live with other relatives.

The Grandparents

20,216 grandparents are householders responsible for their grandchildren who live with them. Of these:

- 6,466 (32.1%) do not have parents present.
- 12,555 (62.1%) are under age 60.
- 12,635 (62.5%) are in the workforce.
- 3,174 (15.7%) are in poverty.
- 4,185 (20.7%) have a disability.
- 7,035 (34.8%) are unmarried.
- Race/Ethnicity:
 - 10,047 (49.7%) are white (not Hispanic or Latino)
 - 4,771 (23.6%) are black or African American
 - 4,731 (23.4%) are Hispanic or Latino origin
 - 526 (2.6%) are Asian
 - 101 (0.5%) are American Indian or Alaska Native
 - 0 (0.0%) are Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - 465 (2.3%) are multiracial
 - 1,900 (9.4%) are some other race

Children in Kinship Foster Care

For data on children in kinship care within the child welfare system, see the **Child Trends fact sheet for Connecticut**.

www.childtrends.org

Programs That Can Help

Local programs that provide support, resources and assistance to grandfamilies can often be found by contacting your local school, area agency on aging, community center, faith-based organization or children's services office.

Key Programs in Connecticut**Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)**

Contacts: North Central Area Agency on Aging, 860-724-6443, www.ncaaact.org
Southwestern Connecticut Area Agency on Aging, 203-333-9288, www.swcaa.org
Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging, 203-757-5449, www.wcaaa.org
South Central Connecticut Area Agency on Aging, 203-785-8533, www.aoascc.org
Senior Resources of Eastern Connecticut, 860-887-3561, www.seniorresourcesec.org

Service Area: Statewide

Description: Supportive services through the National Family Caregiver Support Program, including respite services, support groups, counseling, case management, and information and referral.

Children's Law Center (CLC) of Connecticut

Website: www.clcct.org

Phone: 860-232-9993

Email: clc@clcct.org

Service Area: Statewide

Description: Three major programs: 1. Lawline (1-888-LAW-DOOR) open from 9-5 answering questions about family law issues affecting children. 2. Mediation service for low or no income families to help resolve their disputes regarding children. 3. Legal Representation for children of indigent families engaged in high conflict custody disputes in family court.

Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church - Grandparent Support Group

Contact: Reverend Keith King

Phone: 203-624-3028

Email: ctabernacle@frontier.com

Service Area: New Haven County

Description: Monthly support group meets the second Monday of the month at 11:00 am.

City of Hartford Health and Human Services Department

Website: www.hartford.gov/hhs/community-services

Phone: 860-757-4700

Email: acosm001@hartford.gov

Service Area: Hartford

Description: Monthly educational programs and support group meetings (English and Spanish), counseling, grandparent kinship fund, Making the Most of the Second Time Around (seven week course), information and referral, case management, and family-centered parenting education.

Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families (CAFACF)

Website: www.cafafct.org

Phone: 860-258-3400 or 1-800-861-8838 (toll-free)
KidHERO (recruitment line): 1-888-543-4376 (toll-free)
HelpLine (24 hour help and support for licensed parents): 1-888-223-2780 (toll-free)

Email: info@cafafct.org

Service Area: Statewide

Description: Helps foster, adoptive and relative caregiver families through support, training and advocacy. Many services including: Buddies (experienced foster, adoptive and relative parents) assigned to newly licensed parents, 24-hour HelpLine, and 32 modules of post-licensing training including CPR.

Connecticut 2-1-1 Database, State of Connecticut, Connecticut United Way

Website: www.211ct.org (Type in "Kinship Caregivers" or choose from drop down menu to locate CT resources)

Phone: Dial 2-1-1 toll-free anywhere in Connecticut or 1-800-203-1234 (toll-free)

Email: unitedwayservice@ctunitedway.org

Service Area: Statewide

Description: Online and telephone connection to local services, including those specifically for kinship families.

Connecticut State Department on Aging – Grandparents as Parents Support (GAPS) Network

Website: www.ct.gov/agingservices

List of GAPS Network support groups and services:

www.ct.gov/agingservices/lib/agingservices/pdf/ctgrandparentcaregiverssupportgroups.pdf

Phone: 860-424-5274 or 1-866-218-6631 (toll-free)

Email: Aging.sda@ct.gov

Service Area: Statewide

Description: An extensive network of support groups around the state. Also funds and oversees the AAAs.

Connecticut Legal Services

Phone: 1-800-453-3320 (toll-free)

Email: alebron@connlegalservices.org

Service Area: Statewide with offices in Bridgeport, New Britain, Middletown, New London, Stamford, Waterbury, and Willimantic

Description: Legal representation and advice to eligible kinship care families on family, housing, public benefits, special education, and consumer and elder law.

Family & Children's Aid

Website: www.fcaweb.org

Phone: 203-748-5689

Service Area: Central and Western CT (Danbury, Waterbury, New Milford, Bridgeport, New Britain, Torrington & Shelton)

Description: Grandparents as Parents Support group with monthly speakers on issues relevant to these families, child care and mentor programs.

Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc.

Website: www.ghla.org

Phone: 860-541-5000

Email: ghla@ghla.org

Service Area: Hartford County

Description: Free legal assistance to low-income elderly persons (age 60 and over); Spanish speaking staff.

Meriden Health Department – Grandparent’s Connection

Contact: Stephanie Jeremiah

Phone: 203-630-4223

Service Area: Meriden

Description: Education, support and socialization for grandparents raising their grandchildren. Meets at the Senior Center the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11:30 am.

Salvation Army – Grandfamilies Together

Website: <https://ctri.salvationarmy.org>

Contact: Major Lydia Pearson

Phone: 203-334-0995, ext. 104

Email: lydia.pearson@use.salvationarmy.org

Service Area: Greater Bridgeport

Description: Support group, and information and referrals to other community service providers.

Salvation Army Human Services Bureau

Website: <http://ctri.salvationarmy.org/SNE/HSB>

Contact: Lauren Fair

Phone: 860-543-8413 ext. 113

Email: Lauren.Fair@use.salvationarmy.org

Service Area: Greater Hartford (Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford, Bloomfield, Newington, Wethersfield, Windsor)

Description: Parents the Second Time Around Program, support groups, educational workshops, counseling, case management, youth services, and legislative advocacy.

Public Benefits

Federal and state public benefits programs can help with income, food, healthcare, home energy, telephone and other needs for those who are eligible. Eligibility requirements vary with each public benefit and sometimes are different from state to state. Some benefits are for the family and others are for children or older adults individually. Children are often eligible for public benefits even if their caregivers do not have

guardianship or legal custody. Relative caregivers may become eligible for benefits programs when their household size increases.

Help with Public Benefits

AARP Foundation's Benefits QuickLink

Benefits QuickLINK, powered by BenefitsCheckUp of the National Council on Aging, offers a free and private way to complete a questionnaire to find out if relatives and/or the children they are raising qualify for certain programs that pay for food, increase income and cover home and healthcare costs. The specific programs covered by the questionnaire in the website are listed below. Once the questionnaire is completed, the website generates a list of eligible programs and contact information.

www.aarp.org/quicklink

Benefits QuickLINK State and Federal Public Benefits	Benefits QuickLINK Public Benefits for Families Raising Children
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicare Savings Programs• Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage• Medicare Rx Extra Help• State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs (SPAP)• Medicaid for Aged, Blind, and Disabled• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)• Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)• Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)• State Property Tax Relief/Rebates• Supplemental Security Income (SSI)• Employment Programs• Telephone and Cellphone Assistance• Transportation Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicaid for Children• State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)• TANF-Child Only Grants• Supplemental Security Income for Children• Child Care Assistance

Benefits.gov

An official website of the federal government, this resource has state specific information on benefits, in addition to a screening tool to find out which programs you may be eligible to receive.

www.benefits.gov

Eldercare Locator

The National Eldercare Locator service helps you find your local area agency on aging and other state and local resources that can help with public benefits, local programs and other services for older adults.

1-800-677-1116 (toll-free)

www.eldercare.gov

Key Public Benefits: Income

Each state administers federal funds that provide cash assistance to families in need. Some states also offer other forms of financial assistance.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Financial assistance may be available to eligible children and their relative caregivers.

Connecticut Temporary Family Assistance (TFA)

Connecticut Department of Social Services

1-800-842-1508 (toll-free)

www.ct.gov/dss/

Generations United's Grand Resources:

A Fact Sheet for Grandparent and Relative Caregivers to Help Access Support through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program

www.gu.org/RESOURCES.aspx

Social Security

A multigenerational program, Social Security provides income benefits to adults, older adults and children. In addition to Retirement and Disability benefits, Survivor's Benefits are based on a child's parent's earnings and may help if a child's parents die. Your grandchild may also qualify for benefits based on your work record. The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program pays benefits to disabled adults and children who have limited income and resources. SSI benefits are also payable to people 65 and older without disabilities who meet the financial limits.

Online Directory - To find your local Social Security Administration office.

1-800-772-1213 (toll-free)

<https://secure.ssa.gov/>

Key Public Benefits: Nutrition

Relative caregivers and their families may be eligible for assistance with groceries, meals, infant formula and nutrition education. These are some of the key nutrition benefits programs and resources.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is the new name for the federal Food Stamp Program. It helps low-income individuals and families buy the food they need for good health. Although SNAP is the national name, your state may use a different name.

Connecticut Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Connecticut Department of Social Services

2-1-1 (toll free)

End Hunger Connecticut

860-560-2100

www.ctfoodstamps.org

Food and Nutrition Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Child Nutrition Program - The schools, early childhood education programs, child care centers, afterschool programs or other programs that children attend may offer free or reduced meals through the federal Child Nutrition Program, which provides breakfast, lunch, snacks, summer meals and milk. Contact the school,

center or program to ask if they participate in any of the child nutrition programs and how to apply. Relative caregivers should inform the program that they are raising the child and whether or not they are doing so through a court order.

Online State Directory - To find your state office that manages the Child Nutrition program.

www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Contacts/StateDirectory.htm

Women, Infant and Children (WIC) - States administer federal funds for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Online State Directory - To find your state office that manages the WIC program.

www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-contacts

Foodbanks

Organizations that provide free food and sometimes other items, such as diapers, to families in need.

Online State Directory - To find local food banks.

www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx

Key Public Benefits: Health Care

Relative caregivers and the children they are raising may be eligible for health insurance through Medicare and/or Medicaid and help with prescription drugs. **Benefits QuickLINK** can help you find these benefits.

www.aarp.org/quicklink

Health Insurance for Children

Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health and dental insurance for the children they are raising through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides health coverage to eligible children through both Medicaid and separate CHIP programs. CHIP and Medicaid are the national names, and your state may use different names.

Connecticut Health Care for Uninsured Kids and Youth (HUSKY)

Connecticut Department of Social Services

1-877-CT-HUSKY (1-877-284-8759) (toll-free)

www.ct.gov/hh/

Consent to Obtain Health Care

Even with insurance, consenting to health care for a child can be a challenge for relative caregivers who do not have legal custody. Some states have laws that allow these caregivers to "consent" to such treatment.

Grandfamilies.org Online Database - To see if your state has such a law.

www.grandfamilies.org/Search-Laws

Key Public Benefits: Tax Credits

The following information is about tax credits from the federal government available throughout the United States. Similar tax credits may exist in your state for state taxes. For example, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), 26 states and the District of Columbia offer a state tax credit based on the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and four states offer a Child Tax Credit. See CBPP's "Get it Back Campaign" for more information on state tax credits.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is an income tax credit for workers who do not have high incomes. It is a refundable tax credit, which means you could get a refund check from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) even if you don't earn enough to pay taxes.

Child Tax Credit is a tax credit for up to \$1,000 per dependent child. But, it is not refundable.

Additional Child Tax Credit may help if you don't owe enough taxes to benefit from the child tax credit. Unlike the child tax credit, this tax credit is refundable.

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit may help you if you've hired someone to help care for the child so you could work or look for work. If so, you may be able to claim up to \$3,000 in expenses per child.

Adoption Tax Credit can help if you have adopted your grandchild or other relative. It can give you a credit for the money you spent to adopt. If you adopted a child from the foster care system with special needs, you may be eligible for the maximum amount of credit for the year you adopted regardless of whether you had any qualifying expenses. If you did not adopt from the foster care system, you must have qualifying expenses like legal fees. This tax credit allows adoptive parents to claim up to \$13,460 per child.

Please note that tax credits themselves are not counted as income. They will not be counted when you apply for financial help.

Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) – To find out about tax credits in your state.

www.cbpp.org

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) – To find out more information about each of these tax credits

www.irs.gov

Education

The **U.S. Department of Education** offers a parent site that has a wide range of helpful information for parents *and* caregivers regarding children's education from early childhood through college, special needs, disabilities, language challenges and gifted students.

1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (toll-free)

www.ed.gov/parents



Connecticut State Department of Education
(860)713-6543
www.sde.ct.gov/sde/site/default.asp

Educational Enrollment

Relative caregivers can contact their local school district's administrative office or their local school to find out how to register the child and what paperwork is needed. Caregivers may need birth records, health records or previous school records. Some states have laws that allow relative caregivers without legal custody or guardianship to enroll the children they are raising in school. These laws are often called education "consent" laws, but they may be called something else in your state.

Grandfamilies.org Online Database - To find out if your state has an education consent law.
www.grandfamilies.org/Search-Laws

Early Intervention, Special Education and Related Services

The Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - From birth to age 21, children who have learning disabilities, physical disabilities or other special needs may be able to get early intervention, preschool and special education services in school through the federal IDEA. Services may include speech, physical and occupational therapies.

The IDEA requires that states identify, locate and evaluate all children ages 3 to 21 with disabilities who may need special education and related services. Once the evaluation team, which includes a child's caregivers, has decided if a child is eligible for early intervention, preschool or special education services, an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP; birth to three years of age) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP; three to 21 years of age) is developed and services should begin shortly.

Connecticut Bureau of Special Education
860-713-6912
Email: annelouise.thompson@ct.gov
www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?Q=320730&a=2678

Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center
1-800-445-2722 (toll-free)
www.cpacinc.org/hot-topics/child-find

Parent Centers across the country provide information to help parents *and* caregivers with children who have special education needs and disabilities.

Online State Directory - To find Parent Centers in your state.
www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/



Generations United's Grand Resources:
A Grandparent's and Other Relative's Guide to Raising Children with Disabilities
www.gu.org/RESOURCES.aspx

Early Childhood Education

Head Start and **Early Head Start** are early education programs for eligible children.

Online Directory - To find Head Start or Early Head Start centers in your state.

1-866-763-6481 (toll-free)

www.eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/HeadStartOffices

Child Care Aware provides information, resources and connection to local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&R) that help you find local child care.

Online Directory - To find your local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency.

1- 800-424-2246 (toll-free)

www.childcareaware.org/families/

Legal

The following legal relationships may be options for both those children exiting the foster care system and those outside the system. For those families who do not want to establish a legal relationship, consent and power of attorney laws are available in several states.

All of the following options are presented in general terms. This area of the law is created at the state level, so how these options are defined and which ones are available can vary significantly by state.

Adoption

With adoption, the relative caregiver becomes the parent in the eyes of the law. This fact makes access to services on behalf of the child the same as for any parent. Adoption ends all of the birth parents' rights and responsibilities, which means that birth parents cannot go to court later and reclaim those rights and responsibilities.

Adoption assistance payments may be available to relative caregivers who choose to adopt children in their care from the child welfare system.

North American Council on Adoptable Children - To get information about your state's subsidy, in addition to other adoption information.

www.nacac.org

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption - To find adoption resources that may be helpful to you.

www.davethomasfoundation.org

Guardianship

The biggest difference between adoption and guardianship is that guardianship does not take away all the birth parents' rights and responsibilities. Parents typically keep certain rights and the obligation to financially support the child. Unlike adoption, the parents can go back to court and ask for the guardianship to be ended. For caregivers, a guardianship allows them to access services on behalf of the child that otherwise might prove impossible while not changing family relationships, like making grandma legally mom.

Guardianship assistance payments may be available to relative caregivers who choose to get guardianship of the children in their care who are exiting the child welfare system.

www.grandfamilies.org - To find out more about whether your state has guardianship assistance.

 **Legal Custody**

Legal custody is similar to guardianship, but it is usually granted by a different court that has different procedures.

Other Options


In some states, relative caregivers who do not want or have a legal relationship to the children in their care have laws that make it possible to access health care treatment and educational services on behalf of the children without going to court.

For more information on all these options, and to see what exists in your state, see www.grandfamilies.org.

State Laws

Grandfamilies.org is a collaboration between Generations United, the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law and Casey Family Programs. It contains an easy-to-use, searchable database of state laws and legislation directly impacting kinship families. You will also find explanations of legal topic areas, practical implementation ideas, personal stories and many other resources.

Topics Covered:

- 
- Adoption
 - Care and Custody
 - Education
 - Federal Laws
 - Foster Care Licensing
 - Financial Assistance
 - Healthcare
 - Housing
 - Kinship Navigator Programs
 - National Family Caregiver Support Program
 - Notification of Relatives
 - Subsidized Guardianship

The online database of laws and legislation is at www.grandfamilies.org/Search-Laws.

If you have an update or a resource to be included in this or any of the other GrandFacts State Fact Sheets, please email grandfamilies@gu.org.

Acknowledgements

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Programs updated October 2019

Data Sources:

- Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center. 2013-2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). Estimates represent a three-year average. Accessed March 4, 2017. Retrieved from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7172-children-in-kinship-care?loc=1&loct=1#detailed/1/any/false/1491/any/14207,14208>
- U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Accessed March 4, 2017. Retrieved from https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_5YR_S1001&prodType=table
- U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Accessed March 4, 2017. Retrieved from https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_5YR_S1002&prodType=table



Connecticut State

Department of Aging and Disability Services

Grandparents as Parents Support

For information on Grandparent Support Groups call Infoline at 2-1-1

For information for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren contact the Area Agency on Aging in your area either by calling 1-800-994-9422 (in CT) or by visiting their website.

Area Agencies on Aging

Area Agencies on Aging are private, nonprofit planning agencies, each guided by its own Board of Directors and Advisory Council. Through funding provided by the State Department of Aging and Disability Services, each AAA receives Federal Older Americans Act (Title III) funds and State funds that are allocated to elderly service providers through a request for proposal process. AAAs fund the following services:

- Social Services
- Nutritional Services
- Disease Prevention & Health Promotion Services
- Family Caregivers Support Services
- Adult Day Care Aide Positions (to provide day care services to victims of Alzheimers's Disease and related dementia)

The five AAAs, listed below, may also provide direct services in the areas of community education, advocacy, case management, information and assistance, benefits counseling and training.

Eastern, Middlesex, Shoreline areas of CT

Senior Resources Agency on Aging
(860) 887-3561
19 Ohio Avenue, Norwich CT 06360

North Central areas of CT

North Central Area Agency on Aging
(860) 724-6443
151 New Park Avenue, Box 75, Hartford, CT 06106

South Central areas of CT

Agency on Aging of South Central CT
(203) 785-8533
117 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473

Southwestern areas of CT

Southwestern CT Agency on Aging
(203) 814-3698
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Western areas of CT

Western CT Area Agency on Aging
(203) 757-5449
Progress Lane, Waterbury, CT 06705

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Kinship & Family Respite Fund

Court-appointed guardians may be eligible to receive money from the Probate Courts through the Kinship Fund and Family Respite Fund programs. The guidelines for each fund are as follows:

The Kinship Fund makes grants to guardians in the amount of \$500 per child per year, up to a maximum \$2,000 per family. Grants must be used for the child or children for:

- Health (eyeglasses, dental care, hearing improvement treatment);
- Enrichment (school field trips, clubs, or sports fees, purchase of sports equipment, educational classes or tutoring, purchase of art supplies, materials for creative tasks, books);
- Development (clothing for social functions that mark developmental milestones, photographs or other memorabilia); and
- Basic needs (school clothes and supplies, coats, hats, mittens, boots, sneakers or closely related items)

The Respite Fund makes grants up to \$2,000 per year to guardians for respite. Guardians may use respite grants for the following purposes for children under their care:

- Housing (rent, mortgage interest, property taxes, maintenance, insurance);
- Food (groceries, school meals, restaurants);
- Transportation (public transportation and car purchase and financing costs, insurance, gasoline, maintenance);
- Clothing and personal care items;
- Education (tuition, books, supplies, uniforms, lessons, driver education classes);
- Child care (day care tuition, baby-sitting, summer camp, vacations, entertainment, recreational equipment, reading material); and
- Spending allowances

To be eligible for a Kinship or Family Respite Fund Grant, a guardian must meet all of the following requirements:

- Is serving as a guardian for a minor child as the result of an appointment by the Probate Court or Superior Court Juvenile Matters;
- Qualifies at the time of the grant application for a Probate Court fee waiver or is determined by a probate judge to be in need;
- Is not receiving benefits or subsidies from DCF; and
- Has submitted a grant application together with all required documentation

Grant amounts are determined by a probate judge and may vary depending upon available funding. A guardian may apply for grants in multiple years, provided that all eligibility requirements continue to be met. Applications are available at the clerk's office of the Probate Court or by clicking on the link below. **Please note: A fee waiver and decree appointing the applicant as guardian for the child must be submitted with the grant application.**

 [Kinship and Respite Fund Application](#)

Office of the Probate Court Administrator
186 Newington Road West Hartford, CT 06110
Telephone: 860-231-2442
Hours of Operation: 8am-5pm





Children's Matters

Forms

Fees

User Guides

Kinship & Respite Funds

Matters involving the care and guardianship of children are among the most sensitive and difficult the Probate Courts handle. With no room for error, courts must sort through family and socio-economic issues to determine outcomes that are in the best interests of the children. Probate Courts handle the following situations:

- removing unfit parents as guardians of their children;
- hearing the claims of fathers seeking to establish paternity;
- overseeing the financial accounts of a minor;
- terminating parental rights when parents cannot fulfill their responsibilities;
- granting adoptions; and
- emancipation of minors.

Regional Children's Probate Courts

Children's matters have grown in number and complexity over the years, prompting the first Regional Children's Probate Court to open in New Haven in 2004. The court unites personnel from surrounding Probate Courts and local and state agencies to ensure that children and their families can thrive in a secure, stable home environment. Highly trained staff that includes professionals in child development and family relations, called Probate Court officers, hold family conferences to develop the best care plans for the child and provide support and long-term monitoring. Six Regional Children's Probate Courts now operate in New Haven, Meriden, New London, Waterbury, Windham and Hartford. The courts won an Innovations Award from the Council of State Governments in 2006.

Guardianships

When a parent is incapable of caring for a child, the Probate Court must appoint somebody to take responsibility and provide a suitable home for the child. Family members, most often, come forward and assume custody of the child, but sometimes family members are not available or suitable for the task. In those situations, the court will often appoint a close family friend to care for the child.

For non-parent family members who are court-appointed guardians of children, the Probate Courts oversee two programs that provide small grants to help pay for school clothing, health services and enrichment programs for children, and transportation, daycare and housing for families. For details, including qualification requirements, click on the Kinship and Respite Funds button above.

Standby Guardians

Connecticut law permits a parent to designate a standby guardian of his or her child that takes effect on the occurrence of a specified contingency (for example, the parent's illness, death or absence from the country). Information and forms for the designation of standby guardians are available in English and Spanish.

[Standby Guardianship Forms](#)

[Formas de Tutor de Reserva de un Menor](#)

A standby guardian's responsibility to care for a child comes into effect only if the specified contingency occurs. At that time, the standby guardian must sign a statement, under penalty of false statement, that the contingency has occurred. The standby guardianship ceases when the contingency no longer exists or at the end of one year, whichever is sooner. If the parent dies while the standby guardianship is in effect, the guardianship ceases 90 days after death.

Unlike other forms of guardianship, the Probate Court is not involved in the designation of a standby guardian. Standby guardianship forms are not filed with a Probate Court.

For further information, please see C.G.S. sections 45a-624 to 624g.

The State of Connecticut has developed a Family Preparedness Plan to assist families who have concerns about immigration enforcement, particularly in regards to the possibility of the deportation or detainment of parents and guardians and the impact that it could have on their children. Completing the standby guardianship form is an important part of the plan. The Family Preparedness Plan can be found by following the link below:

[Family Preparedness Plan](#)

Paternity

An individual who claims to be the father of a child born out of wedlock may petition a Probate Court to establish the child's paternity. If the court finds that the individual is the child's father, his parental rights and responsibilities will be the same as those of the mother,

Office of the Probate Court Administrator

**186 Newington Road
West Hartford, CT 06110-2320**

Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas
Probate Court Administrator

Helen B. Bennet
Chief Counsel

Heather L. Dostaler
Attorney

Evan C. Brunetti
Attorney

Tel. (860) 231-2442
Fax (860) 231-1055

Hours
8:00 - 5:00
Monday - Friday

Alphabetical List of Probate Judges

Judge	Probate Court
Landgrebe, Martin F.	Housatonic
Lassman Fisher, Marianne	Greater Windsor
Lewis, Jeannine M.	Saybrook
Magistrali, Michael F.	Torrington Area
Mariano, Peter E.	Naugatuck
Marino, Joseph D.	Middletown
Maxham, Kathleen N.	Fairfield
McCaffrey, Carolyn L.	North Central CT
McGrath, John J., Jr.	Windham-Colchester
McNamara, Jeffrey A.	Niantic Regional & NLRCP
Norris, Charles K.	Norwich
O'Grady, Daniel W.	Northern Fairfield County
Osterndorf, William P.	Darien-New Canaan
Peoples, Sean M.	Glastonbury-Hebron
Randich, Robert A.	Newington
Riordan, Barbara Gardner	Tolland-Mansfield
Rosenberg, Max L.	Stratford
Rowe, Carolanne	Plainfield-Killingly
Rowe, T.R.	Trumbull
Schad, Leah P.	Northeast & NERCPC
Smith, Foye A.	Hartford
Stern, Douglas N.	Norwalk-Wilton
Streit-Kefalas, Beverly K.	Milford-Orange
Vaccarelli, Matthew P.	Waterbury & WRCPC
Wexler, Lisa K.	Westport
Wright, Philip A., Jr.	Wallingford & CCRCP
Yamin, Dianne E.	Danbury



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF THE
PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

186 NEWINGTON ROAD
WEST HARTFORD, CT 06110

PAUL J. KNIERIM
Probate Court Administrator

HELEN B. BENNET
Chief Counsel

HEATHER L. DOSTALER
Attorney

TEL (860) 231-2442
FAX (860) 231-1055
ctprobate.gov

PROBATE COURT-APPOINTED GUARDIANS, please return the completed applications with the information specified below or the applications **WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU**.

- _____ Completed Kinship/Respite applications. Be sure to include FULL NAMES and CURRENT ADDRESS and SIGN the applications
- _____ Completed fee waiver form, including the total number of household members. If employed, include copies of two latest paychecks stubs.
- _____ Signed guardian's affirmation (*Children's names go on the lines next to "RE."*)
- _____ A COPY (NO ORIGINALS) of the MOST RECENT Probate Court decree.
- _____ A COPY of Photo identification such as a driver's license or Department of Motor Vehicles-issued photo identification card.

SUPERIOR COURT FOR JUVENILE MATTERS-APPOINTED GUARDIANS, please return the completed applications with the information specified below or the applications **WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU**.

- _____ Completed kinship and respite applications. Please be sure to include FULL NAMES and CURRENT ADDRESS and SIGN the applications
- _____ Completed fee waiver form, including the total number of household members
- _____ Signed guardian's affirmation
- _____ A COPY of the guardianship decree from Superior Court with a date stamp from the Superior Court Clerk current within 30 days
- _____ A COPY of Photo identification such as a driver's license or Department of Motor Vehicles-issued photo identification
- _____ A statement from DCF's area office confirming that the guardian is not receiving a DCF subsidy. ***If the guardian is receiving a DCF subsidy, the guardian will not be eligible for the grants.***

Send completed applications and supporting documentation to:

By mail:
Kinship and Respite Application Review Team
State of Connecticut Office of the Probate Court Administrator
186 Newington Road
West Hartford, CT 06110

By fax:
(860) 231-1055

Questions: (860) 231-2442

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
COURT OF PROBATE

To: Court of Probate, District of _____ District No. _____

Re: _____
(Name of Child)

(Name of Child)

(Name of Child)

GUARDIAN'S AFFIRMATION

I affirm that I am presently the guardian of the minor child(ren)/youth named above. I intend to continue as the guardian of the child(ren)/youth. No other person has physical custody or claims to have custody with respect to the child(ren)/youth and there is no proceeding pending in any other court regarding the child(ren)/youth.

Guardian: _____
(Signature required)

Date: _____

DO NOT RECORD

2) The liabilities/debts of the petitioner's household are (excluding above mortgages/loans):

- a) Credit card balance.....
- b) Other (specify).....

3) The estimated monthly expenses of the petitioner's household are:

- a) Rent/Mortgage.....
- b) Property Taxes.....
- c) Utilities.....
- d) Food.....
- e) Medical and Dental.....
- f) Insurance premiums (medical, auto, home, etc.).....
- g) Clothing.....
- h) Child Care.....
- i) Car loan.....
- j) Minimum monthly credit card payment.....
- k) Other transportation costs (bus, gasoline).....
- l) Other (specify).....

Total Monthly Household Expenses (Items 3a through 3l above).....

The undersigned requests that the court grant a waiver of fees and expenses in the above matter for which the petitioner may be responsible because the petitioner is indigent and unable to pay the fees and expenses.

The representations made in this petition are made under the penalty of false statement.

Signature

Title (if applicable)

Type or Print Name

Date

For Court Use Only

COURT OF PROBATE,

DISTRICT NO.

PRESIDING JUDGE: Hon.

The foregoing request having been presented to the court, the COURT FINDS that the petitioner:

is indigent and entitled to a waiver of fees and expenses as requested above. is not indigent.

WHEREFORE, it is ORDERED and DECREED that a waiver of fees and expenses for which the petitioner may be responsible is: granted. denied.

Dated at _____, Connecticut, on [Month, Day, Year]

.....
Judge

5

6

8

Family First – Kinship and Foster Care Workgroup

Department of Children and Families

Contracted Services

Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach / Assertive Continuing Care	Integrated Care & Family Support	Sibling Connections
Adopt a Social Worker	Intensive Family Preservation	Specialized Mentoring Program
ASSERT Treatment Model	Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)	Start Program for Youth and Young Adults
Care Coordination	Juvenile Review Board	Statewide Family Organization
Care Management Entity	Juvenile Review Board Enhancements	Supportive Housing for Families
Career Enhancement Training	MDFT	Supportive Work Education and Transition Program (SWETP)
Caregiver Support Team	MDFT: Quality Assurance	Survivor Care
Child Abuse Centers for Excellence	MDFT Residential	Therapeutic Child Care - Trauma Informed
Cognitive Behavior Intervention for Trauma in Schools	Mental Health Consultation to Child Care	Therapeutic Child Care
Community Support for Families	Mobile Crisis Intervention	Therapeutic Foster Care
Community Support Team: Specialized Services	Mobile Crisis - Statewide Call Center	Therapeutic Foster Care Medically Complex
Community Transition Program	MST - Building Stronger Families	Therapeutic Group Home
Connecticut Access Mental Health	MST - Building Stronger Families QA	Transitional Services for Emerging Adults
Crisis Stabilization	MST: Consultation and Evaluation	Wendy's Wonderful Kids
Early Childhood Services (Child First)	MST - Emerging Adults	Work Learn/Youth Program
Early Childhood Services (Child First) - Consult & Evaluation	MST - Emerging Adults QA	Zero to Three
Elm City Project Launch	MST - Intimate Partner Violence	
Extended Day Treatment	MST - Problem Sexual Behavior	
Family Based Recovery	MST - Problem Sexual Behavior QA	
Family Based Recovery: QA	Multidisciplinary Examination (MDE) Clinic	
Family and Community Ties	Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT)	
Family Support	New Haven Trauma Coalition	
Fatherhood Engagement Services	One on One Mentoring	
Fatherhood Engagement Services: Incarcerated	Outpatient Psychiatric Clinic for Children	
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	Parenting Class	
First Episode Psychosis Program	Parenting Support Services	
Foster and Adoptive Parent Support	Performance Improvement Center	
Foster Care and Adoptive Family Support Group	Permanency Placement Services Program – (PPSP)	
Foster Family Support	Reunification and Therapeutic Family Time	
Foster Parent Support Medically Complex	SAFE Family Recovery	
Functional Family Therapy	Short Term Assessment Respite (STAR) Home	
IICAPS - Consultation and Evaluation	Short-term Family Integrated Treatment (S-FIT)	

**COMPARISON BETWEEN SUBSIDIZED TRANSFER OF GUARDIANSHIP AND ADOPTION
(UPDATED 12.31.18)**

	Subsidized Transfer of Guardianship	Adoption
Legal Status	<p>Subsidy only permitted when reunification or adoption is not an appropriate permanency option.</p> <p>Regular STOG (Subsidized Transfer of Guardianship) A youth age 14 and older must be consulted about the STOG plan. The child must be placed in the home for 6 months following licensure of the proposed guardian. Parents can petition the court to regain custody.</p> <p>Permanent STOG (Subsidized Transfer of Guardianship) A youth age 12 and older must consent to the plan of permanent guardianship. Permanent guardianship requires a TPR ground. The child must be placed in the home for a minimum of one year and the proposed guardian must concurrently be licensed for 6 months. Once finalized the birth parents cannot petition the court to regain custody.</p> <p>Reference CGS Section 17a-126</p>	<p>Adoption is a permanent legal relationship involving the complete severance of all parental rights of the birth parents.</p> <p>A youth age 12 and older must be in agreement and sign the adoption consent court paperwork.</p>
Decision Making for Child	<p>STOG guardians make all decisions regarding school, medical treatment and consent for major life decisions regarding the child, subject only to court orders.</p>	<p>Reference CGS Section 17a-117-120</p> <p>Adoptive parents have all the rights and responsibilities of a parent. Adoption allows for all decision making by the adoptive parents.</p>
Process	<p>The subsidized guardianship packet for the child/youth in placement must be approved by OCHYP prior to the court entering the final STOG disposition.</p>	<p>The application and signed Adoption contract along with collateral supporting documentation must be approved by OCHYP prior to the family signing off and prior to the court entering the final Adoption disposition.</p>
Successor Guardian	<p>The Department must request that the caregiver identify a successor guardian who may receive the subsidy when the caregiver is unable to continue to care for the child due to death, severe disability or serious illness.</p>	<p>No statutory ability to identify a successor for Adoption.</p>

**COMPARISON BETWEEN SUBSIDIZED TRANSFER OF GUARDIANSHIP AND ADOPTION
(UPDATED 12.31.18)**

<p>Financial Assistance (subsidized programs only)</p>	<p>STOG guardian may receive a subsidy that shall be negotiated up to 100% of the foster care rate. The subsidy continues until the youth is age 18, or up to age 21 if the youth remains in full time attendance at a secondary school, technical school, college or state-accredited job training program.</p> <p>An annual subsidy review is completed for all STOG cases. For all medically complex children an updated 2101 is required from the primary medical provider. Should the child no longer be medically complex the subsidy will be reduced to the basic rate. Yearly compliance will be required to confirm the youth is residing with the caregiver, enrolled full time and attending a secondary or post-secondary educational program.</p>	<p>Families must be licensed as foster/adoption. A child must be certified as having "special needs" per the DCF-416 form for Certification of Special Needs Status prior to adoption in order to be eligible for a financial subsidy. Adoptive parents may receive a subsidy that shall be negotiated up to 100% of the foster care rate. The financial subsidy continues until the child's 18th birthday. All youth adopted from age 16-18 will receive a monthly subsidy until their 21st birthday provided they are attending a full time post-secondary education program.</p> <p>A bi-annual subsidy review is completed for all adoption cases. For all medically complex children an updated 2101 is required from the primary medical provider. Should the child no longer be medically complex the subsidy will be reduced to the basic rate.</p>
<p>Medical Coverage</p>	<p>STOG- medical coverage is available to the youth up to their 18th birthday.</p> <p>For CT residence STOG Youth age 18-21 medical assistance may be available.</p> <p>For Out of State residence STOG Youth age 18-21, eligibility is determined by the state in which they reside.</p>	<p>Adoption- medical coverage is available to the youth up to their 18th birthday.</p> <p>For CT residence Adoptive Youth age 18-21 medical assistance may be available.</p> <p>For Out of State residence Adoptive Youth age 18-21, eligibility is determined by the state in which they reside.</p>
<p>College Assistance</p>	<p>There is no college assistance provided by DCF for STOG Subsidies.</p>	<p>Within available state appropriations, youth adopted after 12/31/04 are eligible for financial assistance with tuition, room and board up to but not exceeding the in-state cost of the University of Connecticut, up until a Bachelors Level. This amount may be indexed for inflation. Youth must apply for FAFSA (available federal and state grants) and scholarships to qualify for the above. Each semester, students are responsible to provide OCHYP a copy of their semester grades and</p>

**COMPARISON BETWEEN SUBSIDIZED TRANSFER OF GUARDIANSHIP AND ADOPTION
(UPDATED 12.31.18)**

		<p>overall GPA. Overall GPA requirement is 2.0 to remain in good standing. Each year the youth is required to contribute \$500 toward their own education and provide the receipts to OCHYP.</p> <p>Youth must be enrolled prior to the age of 21 years old in a post-secondary program and attending a full time educational program in order for the OCHYP to pay for their education until the age of 23 years old.</p>
<p>Is the case with DCF open or closed?</p>	<p>Closed in the Area Office. A STOG subsidy case remains open at DCF Central Office under OCHYP with an assigned processing technician for financial and review purposes only.</p>	<p>Closed in the Area Office. An Adoption subsidy case remains open at DCF Central Office under OCHYP with an assigned processing technician for financial and review purposes only.</p>
<p>Post-Adoption Support/Post-Subsidized Guardianship Services</p>	<p>Post STOG/TOG support is available until the child/youth turns age 18 through the Adoption Assistance Program at #860-679-4006.</p> <p>Up to age of 18, a guardian may request DCF Voluntary Services through the Careline #1-800-842-2288</p> <p>Guardians may call the OCHYP at DCF Central Office for help with direct deposit, lost checks and some issues related to the child's medical card.</p>	<p>Post-Adoption support is available until the child/youth turns age 18 through the Adoption Assistance Program at #860-679-4006. Support is also available through the Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families (CAFAF) at 860-258-3400.</p> <p>Up to the age of 18, an adoptive parent may request DCF Voluntary Services through the Careline #1-800-842-2288.</p> <p>Adoptive families may call OCHYP at DCF Central Office for help with direct deposit, lost checks, and some issues related to the child's medical card.</p>

ACF

Administration for
Children and Families

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families

1. Log No: ACYF-CB-IM-19-01

2. Issuance Date: February 4,
2019

3. Originating Office: Children's Bureau

4. Key Words: Family First Prevention Services Act; National
Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: State and Tribal Agencies Administering or Supervising the Administration of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act

SUBJECT: National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

LEGAL AND RELATED REFERENCES: Public Law (P.L.) 115-123

PURPOSE: To issue National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

BACKGROUND:

Legislative Context. The President signed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Public Law (P.L.) 115-123 into law on February 9, 2018. P.L. 115-123 includes the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) in Division E, Title VII. Section 50731 of the FFPSA directs HHS to identify "identify reputable model licensing standards with respect to the licensing of foster family homes" (as defined in section 472(c)(1) of the Social Security Act (the Act)). In response to this directive, the Children's Bureau is issuing the National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards.

Federal Register Notice on Proposed National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards (proposed model standards). The Children's Bureau published proposed model standards in the Federal Register for a 60 day comment period on August 1, 2018 ([83 FR 37495](#)). The comment period ended on October 1, 2018. In response, we received 1,273 comments, including comments from states, Indian tribes/consortiums, organizations representing state or tribal interests, national public advocacy groups, private providers, private citizens, and universities.

INFORMATION:

Final National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards (final model standards). The final model standards and summary are contained in Attachment A. We note in the endnotes of Attachment A where we made revisions, and provide clarification.

We retained the same eight categories in the final model standards as proposed because they cover the essential components of licensing a foster family home to ensure: 1) the applicant has the capacity to care for a child in foster care, and 2) the physical home of the family is appropriate and safe for a child in foster care. Consistent with the proposed model standards, the final model standards strike a balance between allowing for individual circumstances, while establishing minimum requirements. Our general approach in finalizing the proposed model standards was to retain more stringent standards that ensure the safety and well-being of children placed in a foster family home. We believe this approach is appropriate given that the title IV-E agency has placement and care of a child in foster care and thus, has a duty to protect the child. We also gave considerable deference to the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards in deciding whether to modify the standards.

Overall, we received comments on all of the proposed model standards, however, there was not a high volume of comments or concerns for any specific standards from our title IV-E agency grantees, with the exception of the transportation standards (which we modified and is addressed in the footnotes). Many of the comments we received from title IV-E agencies recommended changes to address very specific circumstances (e.g., extreme rural conditions or unique regional cultural practices related to alternate cooking and refrigeration and water supply). Others noted differences between individual state/tribal standards from the proposed model standards, and many comments noted barriers for relative placements. The vast majority of comments were from private citizens objecting to the proposed model standards regarding immunizations for children who are foster family home members. We also received requests to define numerous terms such as functional literacy, household pet, operable (regarding fire extinguishers), and a child with a severe disability. We did not revise the proposed model standards to address most of these specific circumstances or provide additional definitions because: 1) there is no federal requirement for title IV-E agencies to adhere to the final model standards (see Title IV-E Plan Requirement section below), and 2) title IV-E agencies may waive non-safety licensing standards for relative foster family homes (see section 471(a)(10)(D) of the Act). Therefore, title IV-E agencies may design licensing standards to meet the unique geographical, cultural, community, legal and other needs of the state or tribe, such as promoting relative placements. However, in many areas where commenters requested clarification (e.g., requirements for above-ground swimming pools, the use of phone calls and videoconferencing to contact references, and whether Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training must include a certification), we provided additional information in the endnotes to the final model standards.

As a reminder, section 471(a)(10) of the Act requires title IV-E agencies to develop plans that provide for the establishment and maintaining of standards for foster family homes and child care institutions. These standards must be reasonably in accord with related standards developed by national organizations, including standards related to admission policies, safety, sanitation, protection of civil rights, and permit the use of the reasonable prudent parent standard.

Title IV-E Plan Requirement:

In ACYF-CB-PI-18-07, we instructed title IV-E agencies to submit a title IV-E plan amendment providing specific and detailed information about:

- Whether the agency foster family home licensing standards are consistent with the final model licensing standards identified by HHS and if not, the reason for the deviation, and
- Whether the agency waives non-safety licensing standards for relative foster family homes (pursuant to waiver authority provided by section 471(a)(10)(D) of the Act), and if so, how caseworkers are trained to use the waiver authority and whether the agency has developed a process or provided tools to assist caseworkers in waiving these non-safety standards to quickly place children with relative (section 471(a)(36) of the Act).

We instructed title IV-E agencies to submit this amendment no later than March 31, 2019 (unless a legislative delay or a delay for tribes, tribal organizations or consortia is approved by the Secretary for the title IV-E agency). Title IV-E agencies should use the final model standards in Attachment A to this Information Memorandum (IM) to complete the title IV-E plan in accordance with ACYF-CB-PI-18-07. Title IV-E agencies are not required to submit any information in response to this IM.

INQUIRIES TO: Children's Bureau Regional Program Managers

/s/

Jerry Milner
Acting Commissioner
Administration on Children, Youth
and Families

Attachments:

Attachment A – National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

Attachment B – Children's Bureau Regional Program Managers

Disclaimer: IMs provide information or recommendations to States, Tribes, grantees, and others on a variety of child welfare issues. IMs do not establish requirements or supersede existing laws or official guidance.



Licensing Standards



**generations
united**
Because we're stronger together



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

The American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law

The ABA is the largest voluntary professional association in the world with nearly 400,000 members. The ABA Center on Children and the Law improves children's lives through advances in law, justice, knowledge, practice and public policy by focusing on child abuse and neglect, child welfare and protective services system enhancement, family preservation, adolescent health and other child protective legal issues.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private philanthropy that creates a brighter future for the nation's children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow.

Generations United

Generations United is a national membership organization focused solely on improving the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational collaboration, public policies, and programs for the enduring benefit of all. For well over a decade, Generations United's National Center on Grandfamilies has been at the forefront of national efforts to support grandfamilies through federal and state legislative testimony and briefings, publications, training, and technical assistance.

National Association for Regulatory Administration

The National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) is an international professional organization dedicated to promoting excellence in human care regulation and licensing through leadership, education, collaboration, and services. NARA represents all human care licensing, including adult residential and assisted living, adult day care, child care, child welfare and program licensing for services related to mental illness, developmental disabilities and abuse of drugs or alcohol.

Published 2014, UPDATED 2018

The American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law, Generations United, and the National Association for Regulatory Administration gratefully acknowledge the Annie E. Casey Foundation for their support of this project.

The views expressed herein have not been approved by the House of Delegates or the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association and, accordingly, should not be construed as representing the policy of the American Bar Association. The American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law is a program of the Young Lawyers Division.

Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards

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Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards

Purpose Statement

The American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Generations United and the National Association for Regulatory Administration have developed **Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards** that, for the first time, help ensure children in foster care are safe while also establishing a reasonable, common-sense pathway to enable more relatives and non-related caregivers to become licensed foster parents.

These standards, which are the only comprehensive national guidelines, fill a previous void by giving the federal government a set of clear and practical requirements to reference and guide states in their efforts to license homes. Under federal law, states have extraordinary flexibility to create family foster home licensing standards, and the law requires only that states develop guidelines “reasonably in accord” with national organizations’ recommendations.

Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards help ensure that children in foster care:

- live in safe and appropriate homes under child welfare and court oversight,
- receive monthly financial assistance and supportive services to help meet their needs, and
- can access the permanency option of assisted guardianship in the states and tribes that participate in the federal Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP).

The Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards, which encompass all the necessary components to license a family foster home, are flexible enough to respond to individual circumstances, but most importantly they help ensure that children in out-of-home care have safe and appropriate homes. These standards should not be considered “minimum” criteria, but instead should be adopted as all the criteria necessary to license a safe home.

The standards are accompanied by an interpretative guide and crosswalk tool. The guide summarizes the purpose of each standard, and provides instructions necessary for compliance determinations. The crosswalk tool is designed to assist states compare and align their current standards with the model standards.

While we acknowledge that not all states will be able to implement this model in its entirety without any modifications, we challenge all states to use it to assess their own standards and ultimately to align their standards with this model. For the development and implementation of tribal foster care standards, please refer to the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) materials at <http://www.nicwa.org>.

In creating these model licensing standards, our hope is that all children, regardless of the state in which they live, will be in homes that have met the same reasonable and achievable safety standards.

Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards

Principles

- (1) Family foster home licensing standards should be reasonable and achievable and based on the need to find a safe and appropriate home for each child in out of home care.
- (2) Each child in state or county custody needs to be in a licensed home (recognizing that courts can still order a child to be placed in a specific, unlicensed home).
- (3) Family foster home licensing standards should promote the opportunity for adults to apply to become foster parents. The licensing process should be based on an assessment of abilities and continued desire to care for children in out of home care. Not everyone will be able to meet the needs of abused or neglected children.
- (4) The licensure of family foster homes is typically a distinct process with different standards than the placement of children in family foster homes. These processes must work together to ensure that children in out of home care are placed in the best homes for them.
- (5) Family foster home licensing standards should be flexible and reflect community standards and cultural considerations. If necessary, the agency should assist the applicant with costs associated with meeting the standards.
- (6) The licensure of family foster homes should recognize that family systems change over time and therefore assessments must be ongoing.
- (7) Family foster home licensing standards must be distinct from licensing standards for child care and adult care settings. Family foster homes should not also be licensed as child care or adult care settings.
- (8) Family foster home licensing standards are necessary to promote safety and consistency in licensing assessments and to give licensors the tools to make good decisions. Over regulation should be avoided.
- (9) The role of regulation is intended to help safeguard vulnerable individuals who are unable to protect themselves. Rules and the regulatory process must be respectful of the individuals being regulated and, in turn, be respected by them and by the public.
- (10) When working with American Indian and Alaska Native families, public and private agencies should consult with tribes and nearby urban Indian organizations with expertise in recruiting and licensing tribal family homes.

Attachment A

National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

Subject Standards	Standards and Summary
<p>Foster Family Home Eligibility – Threshold Requirements</p>	<p>A. Foster Family Home Eligibility: A foster family home license includes the following:</p> <p>a. Threshold Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Applicants must be age 18 or older. ii. Applicants must have income or resources to make timely payments for shelter, food, utility costs, clothing, and other household expenses prior to the addition of a child or children in foster care. iii. Applicants must be able to communicate with the child, the title IV-E agency, health care providers, and other service providers.¹ iv. At least one applicant in the home must have functional literacy, such as having the ability to read medication labels.
<p>Summary – Foster Family Home Eligibility – Threshold Requirements</p>	<p>The foster family home eligibility standards provide threshold requirements for licensing a foster family home to assess the applicant's: 1) age, 2) financial stability, 3) ability to communicate with the child, agency, and providers, and 4) literacy.</p> <p>The minimum age for applicants is 18. Applicants must be financially stable to meet their family's needs prior to placing a foster child in the home. The communication standards are flexible in that applicants must be able to communicate with the title IV-E agency, service providers, and a child in foster care. At least one applicant in the home must have functional literacy to ensure at least one applicant reads and writes at the level necessary to participate effectively in the community in which they live.</p>
<p>Foster Family Home Eligibility – Physical and Mental Health</p>	<p>b. Physical and Mental Health: All applicants must have recent (conducted within the prior 12 months) physical exams from a licensed health care professional that indicate that the applicants are capable of caring for an additional child or children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. All household members must disclose current mental health and/or substance abuse issues. ii. All household members must provide information on their physical and mental health history, including any history of drug or alcohol abuse or treatment.

Subject Standards	Standards and Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. The title IV-E agency may require further documentation and/or evaluation to determine the suitability of the home. iv. All children who are household members must be up to date on immunizations consistent with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (ACIP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), unless the immunization is contrary to the child's health as documented by a licensed health care professional. v. All household members who will be caregivers of infants must have an up-to-date pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine consistent with the recommendations of the ACIP, unless the immunization is contrary to the individual's health as documented by a licensed health care professional.ⁱⁱ All household members who will be caregivers of infants and children with special medical needs must have an up-to-date annual influenza vaccine consistent with the recommendations of the ACIP, unless the immunization is contrary to the individual's health as documented by a licensed health care professional.ⁱⁱⁱ
<p>Summary - Foster Family Home Eligibility - Physical and Mental Health</p>	<p>The physical and mental health standards ensure each applicant is physically, mentally, and emotionally capable of caring for an additional child or children through a required physical exam from a licensed health care professional conducted within the prior 12 months. Household members must provide a health history, including any history of drug or alcohol abuse or treatment, and must disclose any current mental health or substance abuse issues. The model also includes language clarifying that the title IV-E agency may require additional documentation or evaluation in this area to determine whether the home is suitable (as may be necessary to fully understand whether the mental or physical health of an applicant or household member would be relevant to licensing).</p> <p>In addition, the physical and mental health standards include immunization requirements to prevent exposing children in foster care to potentially-life threatening communicable diseases. These requirements apply unless the immunization is contrary to the individual's health as documented by a licensed health care</p>

Subject Standards	Standards and Summary
	<p>professional. For children who are household members, the model requires that they be up to date on immunizations consistent with the recommendations of the AAP, the ACIP, and the AAFP.^{iv}</p> <p>Consistent with the recommendations of the ACIP, all household members who will be caregivers of infants must have an up-to-date pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine and annual influenza vaccine, and all household members who will be caregivers of children with special medical needs must have an up-to-date annual influenza vaccine.</p>
<p>Foster Family Home Eligibility – Background Checks</p>	<p>c. Background Checks</p> <p>i. Applicants must submit to criminal record and child abuse and neglect registry checks as required in section 471(a)(20) of the Social Security Act (the Act).</p>
<p>Summary – Foster Family Home Eligibility - Background Checks</p>	<p>The background check standards mirror the requirements under section 471(a)(20)(A) and (B)(i) of the Act which requires title IV-E agencies: 1) to perform criminal record checks (fingerprint-based checks of national crime information databases (as defined in section 534(f)(3)(A) of title 28, United States Code) for any prospective foster parent, 2) to check any child abuse and neglect registry maintained by a state or tribe for information on any applicant and on any other adult living in the prospective foster family home, and 3) to request a check of any other child abuse or neglect registry in a state or tribe in which any such applicant or other household adult has resided in the preceding five years.</p> <p>In accordance with section 471(a)(20)(A)(i) and (ii) of the Act, the title IV-E agency must not grant final approval to the applicant if a criminal record check reveals a felony conviction for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child abuse or neglect, • Spousal abuse, • A crime against children (including child pornography), • A crime involving violence, including rape, sexual assault, or homicide, but not including other physical assault or battery, and • Physical assault, battery, or a drug-related offense within the last five years.
<p>Foster Family Home Eligibility –Home Study</p>	<p>d. Home Study: Applicants must have completed an agency home study, which is a written comprehensive family assessment to include the following elements:</p> <p>i. At least one scheduled on-site visit to assess the home to ensure that it meets the state, tribal</p>

Subject Standards	Standards and Summary
	<p>and/or local standards applicable to the safety and care of the home;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. At least one scheduled in home interview for each household member to observe family functioning and assess the family's capacity to meet the needs of a child or children in foster care; iii. The title IV-E agency has discretion on whether to interview or observe each household member based on his or her age and development; and iv. Multiple applicant references that attest to the capability of the applicant to care for the child, including at least one from a relative and one from a non-relative.
<p>Summary- Foster Home Eligibility – Home Study</p>	<p>We propose broad home study standards that requires the title IV-E agency to conduct in-person and on-site interviews and obtain references for all applicants. An applicant must have completed an agency home study, including at least one scheduled on-site visit to the home, at least one scheduled in home interview for each household member, and multiple applicant references (including at least one from a relative and one from a non-relative). The model standards specify that the title IV-E agency has discretion on whether to interview or observe each household member based on his or her age and development. For example, if a title IV-E agency were to adopt this model standards as written, this would give the title IV-E agency flexibility to observe rather than interview an infant or severely developmentally disabled child.^v</p>
<p>Foster Family Home Health and Safety – Living Space</p>	<p>B. Foster Family Home Health and Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Living Space: The home must be a house, mobile home, housing unit or apartment occupied by an individual or a family. The home must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. An adequate supply of safe drinking water; ii. A properly operating kitchen with a sink, refrigerator, stove, and oven; iii. At least one toilet, sink and tub or shower in operating condition; iv. Heating and/or cooling as required by the geographic area, consistent with accepted community standards and in safe operating condition; and v. A working phone or access to a working phone in close walking proximity.

Subject Standards	Standards and Summary
<p>Summary – Foster Family Home Health and Safety – Living Space</p>	<p>These standards apply to the foster family home itself, which includes the grounds and all structures found on the grounds. These standards are written broadly to: 1) address the large amount of variance in home hazards across jurisdictions, and 2) prevent potential biases against rural or urban families. These standards are divided into two sections: Living Space and Condition of the Home.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">a. Living Space</p> <p>The living space standards are flexible in order to determine that the applicant's dwelling (house, mobile home, housing unit, or apartment) includes basic essentials such as: adequate safe drinking water (which may include water from a municipal drinking source, a private well, or other source), properly operating kitchen facilities, a properly operating toilet, sink, and tub or shower^{vi}, heating and/or cooling, and a working phone (or access to a working phone in walking distance).</p>
<p>Foster Family Home Health and Safety – Condition of the Home</p>	<p>b. Condition of the Home: The applicant's home, grounds, and all structures on the grounds of the property must be properly maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition and in a reasonable state of repair within community standards. The interior and exterior must be free from dangerous objects and conditions, and from hazardous materials. The home must meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Have adequate lighting, ventilation and proper trash and recycling disposal, if recycling is available; ii. Be free from rodents and insect infestation. iii. Proper water heater temperature; iv. Weapons and ammunition (separately) stored, locked, unloaded, and inaccessible to children; v. Pets are vaccinated in accordance with state, tribal and/or local law; vi. Have conditions that prevent the child's access, as appropriate for his or her age and development, to all medications, poisonous materials, cleaning supplies, other hazardous materials, and alcoholic beverages; vii. Swimming pools,^{vii} hot tubs, and spas must meet the following to ensure they are safe and hazard free (and additionally must meet all state, tribal and/or local safety requirements):

Subject Standards	Standards and Summary
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swimming pools must have a barrier on all sides. 2. Swimming pools must have their methods of access through the barrier equipped with a safety device, such as a bolt lock. 3. Swimming pools must be equipped with a life saving device, such as a ring buoy. 4. If the swimming pool cannot be emptied after each use, the pool must have a working pump and filtering system. 5. Hot tubs and spas must have safety covers that are locked when not in use.
<p>Summary – Foster Family Home Health and Safety – Condition of the Home</p>	<p>b. Condition of the Home</p> <p>The condition of the home standards address the overall condition and safety of the home to ensure it is safe and in a reasonable state of repair considering the community where the home is located. Housing must be safe and clean. The interior and exterior must be free from dangerous objects and conditions, and from hazardous materials (meaning that any danger presented by these objects, conditions or materials must be mitigated). The home must have adequate lighting, ventilation, proper water temperature, and proper trash and recycling disposal (if recycling is available where the home is located). The home must be free from rodents and insect infestations, and pets must be vaccinated in accordance with state, tribal and local law. The standards include specific safety requirements for weapons, pools, hot tubs and spas as these pose a particular preventable danger to children. Weapons and ammunition must be (separately) stored, locked, unloaded, and inaccessible to children. Swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas must meet the listed requirements to ensure they are safe and hazard free (and additionally must meet all state, tribal and/or local safety requirements). Further, the home must have conditions which prevent the child's access to all medications, poisonous materials, cleaning supplies, other hazardous materials, and alcoholic beverages as appropriate for his or her age and development. For example, this could include measures such as age-appropriate use of high shelving, child safety locks on cabinets, child-resistant medication packaging, and/or a locking liquor cabinet.</p>
<p>Foster Family Home Capacity</p>	<p>C. Foster Family Home Capacity: The total number of children in foster care in a foster family home must not exceed six consistent with section 472(c)(1)(A)(ii)(III) of</p>

Subject Standards	Standards and Summary
	<p>the Act. Per section 472(c)(1)(B) of the Act, the number of foster children cared for in a foster family home may exceed this numerical limitation at the option of the title IV-E agency for any of the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To allow a parenting youth in foster care to remain with the child of the parenting youth; b. To allow siblings to remain together; c. To allow a child with an established meaningful relationship with the family to remain with the family; and d. To allow a family with special training or skills to provide care to a child who has a severe disability.
<p>Summary - Foster Family Home Capacity</p>	<p>The foster family home capacity standards mirror the requirements at section 472(c)(1)(A)(ii)(III) of the Act that the total number of children in foster care in a foster family home, must not exceed six, unless an exception outlined in section 472(c)(1)(B) of the Act applies.</p>
<p>Foster Family Home Sleeping Arrangements</p>	<p>D. Foster Family Home Sleeping Arrangements: Applicants must provide a safe sleeping space including sleeping supplies, such as a mattress and linens, for each individual child, as appropriate for the child's needs and age and similar to other household members. Foster parents must not co-sleep or bed-share with infants.</p>
<p>Summary - Foster Family Home Sleeping Arrangements</p>	<p>The sleeping arrangement standards ensure that children in foster care sleep in safe and comfortable sleeping spaces with appropriate furnishings to meet their basic needs and ensure privacy. Applicants must provide age-appropriate sleeping supplies, such as a mattress and linens for each child. All children in the home must be treated equitably, meaning each child has sleeping arrangements similar to other household members. For example, children in foster care should not sleep in public living spaces if other children have their own bedrooms. Further, sleeping arrangements should be age and developmentally appropriate for the children who are placed in the home. Co-sleeping or bed-sharing, when a parent(s) and infant share a sleeping surface (such as a bed, sofa or chair), is prohibited.</p> <p>We included this prohibition because approximately 3,500 infants (children under 12 months of age) die annually in the United States from sleep-related causes, such as sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed.^{viii} Both bed sharing with infants and sleeping with infants sleeping on couches or armchairs increase the risk of infant death, including SIDS, entrapment, and suffocation. Room-sharing, i.e., when an infant shares a room with a parent(s), but sleeps on a separate</p>

Subject Standards	Standards and Summary
	<p>sleeping surface is not prohibited as it is considered a safe sleep practice that is linked to a reduced risk of SIDS.</p>
<p>Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety, and Evacuation Plans</p>	<p>E. Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety, and Evacuation Plans: The applicant must have emergency preparedness plans and items in place as appropriate for the home's geographic location. The applicant's home must meet the following fire safety and emergency planning requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Have at least one smoke detector on each level of occupancy of the home and at least one near all sleeping areas; b. Have at least one carbon monoxide detector on each level of occupancy of the home and at least one near all sleeping areas;^{ix} c. Have at least one operable fire extinguisher that is readily accessible; d. Be free of obvious fire hazards, such as defective heating equipment or improperly stored flammable materials; e. Have a written emergency evacuation plan to be reviewed with the child and posted in a prominent place in the home; f. Maintain a comprehensive list of emergency telephone numbers, including poison control, and post those numbers in a prominent place in the home; and g. Maintain first aid supplies.
<p>Summary - Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety, and Evacuation Plans</p>	<p>The standards help protect children and household members from harm in the event of an emergency, a fire, or a need to evacuate. The standards are written broadly allowing them to be tailored to unique emergencies, such as natural disasters, that may occur in specific jurisdictions. The applicant's home must have at least one smoke detector and one carbon monoxide detector on each level of occupancy of the home and at least one of each near all sleeping areas, as well as an operable fire extinguisher. The home must be free of obvious fire hazards, and have first aid supplies. The applicant must post a written evacuation plan in a prominent place in the home (e.g., on a refrigerator or family bulletin board), and review it with the child. Safety procedures and emergency plans, and the communication thereof, increase the probability of safety and injury prevention for household members. Emergency readiness information provided by the Department of Homeland Security is available at http://www.ready.gov.</p>

Subject Standards	Standards and Summary
Transportation	F. Transportation: Applicants must ensure that the family has reliable, legal and safe transportation. Reliable transportation includes a properly maintained vehicle or access to reliable public transportation; if a privately-owned vehicle owned by the applicant's family or friends is used to transport the child in foster care, legal transportation includes having a valid driving license, insurance and registration; and safe transportation includes safety restraints as appropriate for the child. ^x
Summary-Transportation	The transportation standards focus broadly on the applicant having a reliable, legal, and safe mode of transportation for a child in foster care to attend appointments, visitation, and meetings. The standards allow for safe transportation arrangements with family friends, and teen household members as appropriate.
Training	G. Training: Applicants must complete pre-licensing training on the following topics: rights, roles, responsibilities and expectations of foster parents; agency structure, purpose, policies, and services; laws and regulations; the impact of childhood trauma; managing child behaviors; first aid (including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) ^{xi} for the ages of the children in placement) and medication administration; and the importance of maintaining meaningful connections between the child and parents, including regular visitation. Foster parents must participate in ongoing training to receive instruction to support their parental roles and ensure the parent is up to date with agency requirements. Further, this training may also include child-specific training and/or may address issues relevant to the general population of children in foster care.
Summary - Training	The training standards include both pre-licensing and ongoing training and include mandatory pre-licensing training topics. The purpose of the pre-licensing training standards is to provide information to applicants so they can make an informed decision about their commitment to foster a child. In addition, the pre-service training is to prepare the applicant to be licensed as a foster parent. The ongoing training is to ensure the foster parents receive ongoing instruction to support their parental roles and remain up to date on policies, requirements, and services. Therefore, there are no mandatory training topics, as these depend on agency priorities and specific individual foster parent needs or the needs of specific populations of children in the state's or tribe's foster care system.
Foster Parent Assurances	H. Foster Parent Assurances: Applicants must agree to comply with their roles and responsibilities as discussed with the title IV-

Subject Standards	Standards and Summary
	<p>E agency once a child is placed in their care. The title IV-E agency must require assurances including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Applicants will not use corporal or degrading punishment. b. Applicants will not use any illegal substances, abuse alcohol by consuming it in excess amounts, or abuse legal prescription and/or nonprescription drugs by consuming them in excess amounts or using them contrary to as indicated. c. Applicants and their guests will not smoke in the foster family home, in any vehicle used to transport the child, or in the presence of the child in foster care. d. Applicants will adhere to the title IV-E agency's reasonable and prudent parent standard per section 472(c)(1)(A)(ii)(I) of the Act.
<p>Summary - Foster Parent Assurances</p>	<p>There are four foster parent assurances broadly written to apply across title IV-E jurisdictions which cover corporal punishment, alcohol and drug use, the reasonable and prudent parent standard and smoking. Assurances help a potential foster family to have a clear understanding of expectations prior to approval as a foster family home, cover behaviors which cannot always be verified as part of the home study and typically are expectations after a home is licensed in caring for a child. Title IV-E agencies may wish to develop additional assurances as appropriate to their jurisdiction.</p>

ⁱ We removed "in the child's own language" in response to comments about the availability of communication aids, non-verbal communication and other efforts to address language barriers. Contrary to our intention, the model standards appeared to exclude these forms of communication.

ⁱⁱ We added the Tdap vaccine as a model requirement for caregivers of infants, consistent with the ACIP recommendations. ACIP recommends that adults be vaccinated against pertussis (whooping cough) as part of the Tdap vaccination every 10 years (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/adult/adult-combined-schedule.pdf>). Further, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that adults who are not up to date on their pertussis vaccine receive a Tdap vaccination at least two weeks before coming into close contact with an infant (<https://www.cdc.gov/features/pertussis/index.html>).

ⁱⁱⁱ We added the annual influenza vaccination as a model requirement for caregivers of infants and caregivers of children with special medical needs. ACIP recommends that all adults be vaccinated for influenza annually (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/adult/adult-combined-schedule.pdf>). Further, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention puts special emphasis on the importance of influenza vaccination for household contacts and caregivers of children less than five years old, and particularly household contacts of children less than six months old; and household contacts and caregivers of persons with medical conditions that put them at higher risk for severe complications from influenza (https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/rr/rr6703a1.htm?s_cid=rr6703a1_w).

^{iv} The recommendations of the ACIP are generally adopted and supported by the AAP and the AAFP, which both currently have representation on the ACIP (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/members/index.html>).

v The model standards do not specify how the references must be verified, meaning that, under the model, a reference could be obtained in writing, over the phone, through email or text, video chat, etc.

vi The model standards do not require that the toilet, sink and shower or tub be in a single room.

vii We did not intend that the term "swimming pool" would include temporary wading pools or "kiddie pools."

viii The AAP recommendation is supported by multiple agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration (<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/hhs-agencies-express-support-infant-safe-sleep-recommendations>).

ix The United States Consumer Products Safety Commission recommends installing a carbon monoxide detector in the hallway near every separate sleeping area of the home (<https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Carbon-Monoxide-Information-Center/Carbon-Monoxide-Questions-and-Answers-/>).

x We revised the standards and summary to remove references to "only adults in the home" providing transportation. We agreed with commenters who expressed concerns that this is overly restrictive and unrealistic, and could be read to exclude safe transportation arrangements with family friends, caseworkers, and teen household members. We also made edits to clarify that the license, insurance, and safety restraint requirements apply only to privately-owned vehicles of the applicants, family or friends that are used to transport a child in foster care.

xi We did not intend that training on CPR would necessarily include completion of a CPR certification course.

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Frequently Asked Questions
National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

On February 4, 2019, the Children's Bureau released final National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards (National Model), as required by the Family First Prevention Services Act. The Information Memorandum (ACYF-CB-IM-19-01) containing that Model is available at www.grandfamilies.org.

The Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First Act) requires states and tribes operating IV-E child welfare agencies to compare their foster home licensing standards against the National Model standards and report to the Children's Bureau in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on their comparison and practices related to waiving non-safety standards for relatives. The purpose is to try to eliminate barriers caused by state licensing standards so more relatives caring for children in foster care can become licensed and receive ongoing monthly financial assistance, supports and pathways to exit the system with monthly assistance.

The Family First Act builds on long-standing federal law that states must be "in accord" with national standards. Up until now, the federal government did not point to any such standards, so the states created their own standards without any national guidance. The varying state standards often cause unnecessary barriers for relatives to become licensed. HHS, in releasing a National Model pursuant to the Family First Act, has for the first time given states and tribes guidance that seeks to address these unnecessary barriers to licensing relatives and non-relatives.

(1) What must Title IV-E child welfare agencies do with the National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards?

In its July 9, 2018 Program Instruction (PI) and February 4, 2019 Information Memorandum (IM), the Children's Bureau further clarified the reporting procedure and is requiring IV-E agencies to submit a Title IV-E plan amendment (attachment X, of the pre-print) by **March 31, 2019**, and provide the following "specific and detailed" information:

- Are the agency's foster family home licensing standards consistent with the National Model? If not, why not?
- Does the agency waive non-safety licensing standards for relative foster family homes, as allowed by federal law? *If not, why not?*
- *Which standards are most commonly waived?*
- How are caseworkers trained to use the waiver authority?

- Is there a process or tools to assist caseworkers in waiving non-safety standards so they can place quickly with relatives?
- *What steps are being taken to improve caseworker training or the process?*

Please note: the questions listed here are from a reading of the Family First Act, the PI issued July 9, 2018, the Title IV-E plan pre-print attachment X, and the IM issued February 4, 2019. The PI and IM do not include the 3 italicized questions, and the pre-print attachment asks two of them, but not the final one about steps being taken to improve caseworker training. The Family First Act is clear in requiring states and tribes to answer all of the questions listed here.

(2) Is the final National Model similar to the proposed National Model released August 1, 2018 for public comment?

Yes, the final National Model is very similar to the proposed National Model. The modifications contained in the Final Model include:

- Allowing family friends and teen household members to drive the foster child, not just adults in the home, as is consistent with reasonable and prudent parent standards.
- Clarifying that foster parents can meet communication standards through communication aids and non-verbal means.
- Adding immunization requirements for caregivers, provided those immunizations are not contrary to the health of the caregiver.
- Explaining a few additional points raised in the public comment process, which can be found in the endnotes to the final National Model.

(3) How does the final National Model compare to the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards?

The Children's Bureau used the NARA Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards (NARA Model) as the "main source" for its proposed National Model, and then accorded it "considerable deference" in deciding whether to modify the proposed National Model. Although the National Model does not incorporate all of the NARA Model, it focuses on some of the most important NARA standards that address many of the licensing barriers faced by relatives. That focus is consistent with both the spirit of the Family First Act and the spirit with which the NARA drafters approached their "multiyear effort."

(4) Who developed the NARA Model, and why?

Generations United, the American Bar Association (ABA) Center on Children and the Law, and NARA, with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, developed the NARA Model. The process began with attorneys at Generations United and the ABA Center on Children and the Law researching all 50 states' licensing standards, along with standards found in national associations, including the Child Welfare League of America and the Council on Accreditation. This research informed the 12-month process of developing the standards in concert with NARA leadership, members and experienced licensors in Florida, Ohio, and Kansas. Input was also obtained throughout the process from other NARA members representing many states.

The primary purpose of the NARA Model is to help ensure children in foster care are safe while also establishing a reasonable, common-sense pathway to enable more relatives and non-relatives to become licensed foster parents. The NARA Model contains a complete set of the categories necessary to license a safe family foster home and is designed to eliminate unnecessary barriers caused by licensing standards that have more to do with lawsuits and middle-class ideals than licensing safe homes. Gone are standards such as requiring applicants to have high school diplomas, own their own cars, and have homes that meet strict square footage requirements.

(5) *Can IV-E agencies consider both the National Model and the NARA Model in assessing their standards as part of this process required by the Family First Act?*

Yes, the NARA Model and its tools can be used by IV-E agencies to help compare and align their standards. While neither the proposed nor final National Model incorporate all of the NARA standards or tools, nothing in the National Model contradicts them.

(6) *Will consulting the NARA Model provide IV-E agencies with further guidance?*

Yes, there are certain NARA definitions, principles, standards, and tools that will provide state and tribes with important guidance and additional clarity. The NARA Model is available free of charge at www.grandfamilies.org.

- **NARA Definitions:** The National Model uses the terms “community standards,” “functional literacy” and “household member” as in the NARA Model, but does not define them. The NARA definition section can be of help to IV-E agencies wanting to include their own definitions of these critical terms.
- **NARA Principles:** Ten principles in the NARA Model may be of help to states and tribes. Principle #5, for example, emphasizes the importance of cultural considerations in licensing homes and that “[i]f necessary, the agency should assist the applicant with costs associated with meeting the standards.” Such costs could include buying a required fire extinguisher or crib or fixing a hazard in the home.
- **NARA Standards:** A variety of standards in the NARA Model may assist states and tribes striving to improve their licensing standards. As an example, the NARA standards provide further guidance on implementing the federal Adam Walsh criminal background check requirements and how to assess foster parent applicants who are convicted of non-Adam Walsh crimes.
- **NARA Interpretative Guide:** The guide contains additional information to help licensors make their compliance determinations.
- **NARA Crosswalk Tool:** This tool is available as part of the NARA Model package. The NARA partners are also creating a new crosswalk tool that will have both the National Model and NARA Model standards side-by-side with a column for states and tribes to

insert their standards and compare. Expect it to be posted to www.grandfamilies.org in mid-February 2019.

(7) Does the National Model include emergency placement procedures for relatives?

No, the National Model does not include emergency placement procedures, also known as provisional licensing standards. The Children's Bureau did not reject such procedures or standards, they simply considered them outside the scope of the Family First Act's legislative requirements.

(8) How about the NARA Model? Does it have emergency placement procedures that IV-E agencies could consider?

Yes, the NARA Model does have a section on emergency placement procedures. Title IV-E agencies should consider including such emergency procedures as they are often the first step in the process for relatives to become fully licensed. Unlike unrelated foster parent applicants, children are usually placed with relatives prior to licensing. These standards allow a child to be placed safely with a relative virtually immediately after removal from the parents' home. The relative then completes the remaining licensing process while the child is in their home. Using this type of emergency procedures, a child can be placed safely with a relative right away and does not have to experience multiple placements.

(9) What about tribal considerations in this process?

As stated in the NARA Model, "[w]hen working with American Indian and Alaska Native families, public and private agencies should consult with tribes and nearby urban Indian organizations with expertise in recruiting and licensing tribal family homes." Furthermore, those developing tribal standards should refer to NICWA materials at www.nicwa.org.

(10) Is there any special guidance for therapeutic foster homes, whether related or not?

Yes, for licensing standards for therapeutic foster homes, please see *Foster Family-based Treatment Association Program Standards for Treatment Foster Care*, www.ffa.org.

If you have any questions concerning this document, please contact Ana Beltran, Special Advisor, Generations United at abeltran@gu.org.

Family First – Kinship and Foster Care Workgroup

CT General Statute 17a-98a

Sec. 17a-98a. Kinship navigator program. The Department of Children and Families, in consultation with the Departments of Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services and Developmental Services, shall establish, within available appropriations, a kinship navigator program. Such program shall ensure that: (1) When the Department of Children and Families determines that it is in the best interest of the child to be placed with a relative for foster care, the department informs the relative regarding procedures to become licensed as a foster parent, and (2) grandparents and other relatives caring for a minor child are provided with information on the array of state services and benefits for which they may be eligible, including the subsidy program established pursuant to section 17a-126. The Commissioner of Children and Families shall, within available appropriations, ensure that information on the array of services available under the kinship navigator program is accessible through the 2-1-1 Infoline program.

(P.A. 03-42, S. 1; P.A. 06-182, S. 2; P.A. 07-73, S. 2(a); 07-174, S. 2; P.A. 11-105, S. 1.)

History: P.A. 06-182 designated existing provisions as Subsec. (a) and amended same to change program name from “kinship foster care program” to “kinship navigator program”, add consultative role for Departments of Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services and Mental Retardation in establishment of program, and require that program ensure grandparents and other relatives are provided with information on array of state services for which they may be eligible and that information is accessible through 2-1-1 Infoline program, and added Subsec. (b) requiring Commissioner of Children and Families to report annually on program to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services; pursuant to P.A. 07-73 “Department of Mental Retardation” was changed editorially by the Revisors to “Department of Developmental Services”, effective October 1, 2007; P.A. 07-174 amended Subsec. (a)(2) to delete “related to such persons” and change “child” to “minor child”; P.A. 11-105 deleted former Subsec. (b) re annual report and made a conforming change, effective July 1, 2011.



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Compare Programs

Kinship Navigator Program - Arizona Kinship Navigator Program - Family Connections Grantee Model Kinship Navigator Program - Washington State

Program Information

Topic Area(s)

Kinship Caregiver Support Programs
Scientific Rating: **NR** Child Welfare Relevance: **1**

Topic Area(s)

Kinship Caregiver Support Programs
Scientific Rating: **NR** Child Welfare Relevance: **1**

Topic Area(s)

Kinship Caregiver Support Programs
Scientific Rating: **NR** Child Welfare Relevance: **1**

Child Welfare Outcomes

Not Specified

Child Welfare Outcomes

Not Specified

Child Welfare Outcomes

Not Specified

Brief Description

The **Kinship Navigator Program - Arizona** provides staff positions (Kinship Navigators) to assist kinship caregivers with understanding, navigating, and accessing the system of out-of-home care supports and services for children. Kinship navigators provide flexible and responsive services to kinship families based on family needs. Kinship navigators initially provide caregivers with information, referrals, and advocacy services. Navigators also assist caregivers in identifying and removing barriers to service receipt; accessing benefits for which they are eligible; accessing legal services; and utilizing existing community resources and support systems (such as health, financial, legal services, support groups, training, and emergency funds). The program model is designed to empower families to support and advocate for one another and therefore, foster interdependence and a natural support system. Through kinship navigation services, the program

Brief Description

The **Kinship Navigator Program - Family Connections Grantee Model** provides staff positions (Kinship Navigators) to assist kinship caregivers with understanding, navigating, and accessing the system of out-of-home care supports and services for children. Kinship navigators provide flexible and responsive services to kinship families based on family needs. Kinship navigators initially provide caregivers with information, referrals, and advocacy services. Navigators also assist caregivers in identifying and removing barriers to service receipt; accessing benefits for which they are eligible; accessing legal services; and utilizing existing community resources and support systems (such as health, financial, legal services, support groups, training, and emergency funds). The program model is designed to empower families to support and advocate for one another and therefore, foster interdependence and a natural support system. Through

Brief Description

The **Kinship Navigator Program - Washington State** is a program that serves 30 counties and 8 tribes and provides a human services worker known as a Kinship Navigator that provides services to kinship care families in a single or multi-county area or for one of eight Tribes. The role of the Kinship Navigator is to connect grandparents and relatives who are raising children with community resources, such as health, financial, legal services, support groups, training, and emergency funds. Since many kinship care families are unaware of services for which they are entitled, Kinship Navigators also explain how to apply for federal and state benefits. The Kinship Navigator services help kinship care families establish or maintain greater self-sufficiency and long-term stability needed to keep their children out of foster care.

md to support kinship families and contribute to the increased safety, permanency, and well-being of youth in formal (i.e., placed in legal custody of government and placed into kinship care by the child welfare system) and informal (i.e., arrangements made by parents and other family members without child welfare or juvenile court involvement) kinship care.

Program Goals

The goals of the *Kinship Navigator Program* model are:

- Provide caregivers with information, referrals, and advocacy services
- Assist caregivers in identifying and removing barriers to service receipt
- Ensure kinship families have access to benefits for which they are eligible, including the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) child only grants and respite care services
- Provide linkages to needed legal services and legal informational factsheets on whether the state has health, educational consent laws, or other legal assistance for kinship caregivers accessing government programs
- Assist caregivers in utilizing existing community resources and support systems, including educational, health, mental health systems
- Improve caregivers' social support systems (e.g., professional agencies, support groups, parent groups, professional helpers, etc.)
- Improve family resources (e.g., basic needs items, money to pay for bills, tutoring resources, recreational activities, scholarships, etc.)
- Promote child safety, permanency, and well-being
- Develop strong collaborative working relationships with groups and agencies that work with kinship caregivers, such as local and state child welfare offices; and promote effective partnerships among public and private agencies to ensure kinship caregiver families are served
- Educate the community, including service providers and faith-based organizations about the needs of kinship care families and available resources and services

kinship navigation services. The program model seeks to support kinship families and contribute to the increased safety, permanency, and well-being of youth in formal (i.e., placed in legal custody of government and placed into kinship care by the child welfare system) and informal (i.e., arrangements made by parents and other family members without child welfare or juvenile court involvement) kinship care.

Program Goals

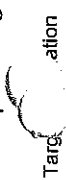
The goals of the *Kinship Navigator Program - Family Connections Grantee Model* are:

- Provide caregivers with information, referrals, and advocacy services
- Assist caregivers in identifying and removing barriers to service receipt
- Ensure kinship families have access to benefits for which they are eligible, including the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) child only grants and respite care services
- Provide linkages to needed legal services and legal informational factsheets on whether the state has health, educational consent laws, or other legal assistance for kinship caregivers accessing government programs
- Assist caregivers in utilizing existing community resources and support systems, including educational, health, mental health systems
- Improve caregivers' social support systems (e.g., professional agencies, support groups, parent groups, professional helpers, etc.)
- Improve family resources (e.g., basic needs items, money to pay for bills, tutoring resources, recreational activities, scholarships, etc.)
- Promote child safety, permanency, and well-being
- Develop strong collaborative working relationships with groups and agencies that work with kinship caregivers, such as local and state child welfare offices; and promote effective partnerships among public and private agencies to ensure kinship caregiver families are served
- Educate the community, including service providers and faith-based organizations about the needs of kinship care families and available resources and services

Program Goals

The goal of the *Kinship Navigator Program - Washington State* is:

- Help kinship care families establish or maintain greater self-sufficiency and long-term stability needed to keep their children out of foster care



Target Population

Kinship caregivers, such as grandparents, other relatives (aunts/uncles, older siblings, etc.), and "fictive kin," who are raising children (from birth to age 18) because the children's biological parents are unable to do so

Age Range

0 – 18 years old

Service Details

Child/Adolescent Services

This program does not directly provide services to children/adolescents.

Parent/Caregiver Services

This program directly provides services to parents/caregivers and addresses the following:

- Current primary caregiver of a relative's child(ren) who may need referral to needed services and resources

Intensity

The intensity of services depends on the needs of the kinship family. Typical contact consists of communication with or on behalf of client via telephone, text, or email as needed, a brief office visit with Kinship Navigator (average of 30 minutes), a home visit with Kinship Navigator (average of 1 hour), and the Kinship Navigation Case Opening (average of 1.5 hours). Caregivers can also attend support groups (1-2 hours per session) and education classes (1-2 hours per class), receive legal assistance (30 minutes to 2 hours). Events, such as Support Groups, Education, and Training Classes may be held weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly, depending on client interest, availability, and program resources.

Duration

Duration of services also depends on the needs of the kinship family. An open navigation case can range from 3 months to 2 years.

Target Population

Kinship caregivers, such as grandparents, other relatives (aunts/uncles, older siblings, etc.), and "fictive kin," who are raising children (from birth to age 18) because the children's biological parents are unable to do so

Age Range

0 – 18 years old

Child/Adolescent Services

This program does not directly provide services to children/adolescents.

Parent/Caregiver Services

This program directly provides services to parents/caregivers and addresses the following:

- Primary caregiver of a relative's child(ren) who may need referral to additional services and resources

Intensity

The intensity of services depends on the needs of the kinship family. Typical contact consists of communication with or on behalf of client via telephone, text, or email as needed, a brief office visit with Kinship Navigator (average of 30 minutes), a home visit with Kinship Navigator (average of 1 hour), and the Kinship Navigation Case Opening (average of 1.5 hours). Caregivers can also attend support groups (1-2 hours per session) and education classes (1-2 hours per class), receive legal assistance (30 minutes to 2 hours), and access an online resource portal which is available 24/7 for finding resources. Events, such as Support Groups, Education, and Training Classes may be held weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly, depending on client interest, availability, and program resources.

Duration

Duration of services also depends on the needs of the kinship family. An open navigation case can range from 3 months to 2 years.

Target Population

Grandparents and other relatives (aunts/uncles, older siblings, etc.), ages 18 and over, who are raising children because the children's parents are unable to do so

Age Range

N/A

Child/Adolescent Services

This program does not directly provide services to children/adolescents.

Parent/Caregiver Services

This program directly provides services to parents/caregivers and addresses the following:

- Raising a relative's child(ren) because the child(ren)'s parents are unable to do so

Intensity

Length of contact dependent on the needs of the grandparent or relative who is requesting help

Duration

No recommended duration of services, although follow-up recommended

Deliverings

This program is typically conducted in a(n):

- Public Child Welfare Agency (Dept. of Social Services, etc.)

Delivery Settings

This program is typically conducted in a(n):

- Adoptive Home
- Birth Family Home
- Foster / Kinship Care
- Community-based Agency / Organization / Provider
- School Setting (including: Day Care, Day Treatment Programs, etc.)
- Telehealth (Online, Telephone, Video, etc.)

Delivery Settings

This program is typically conducted in a(n):

- Community-based Agency / Organization / Provider

Training Details

Languages

Materials available in a language other than English:

- Spanish

Languages

Materials available in a language other than English:

- Spanish

Languages

Materials available in languages other than English:

- Cambodian
- Chinese
- Korean
- Laotian
- Russian
- Somali
- Spanish
- Vietnamese

Resources Needed

- Kinship Navigators as well as other designated staff, including program director, coordinators, supervisors, administrative support, and on-site child care providers
- Collaboration with government, public, nonprofit, and private community agencies serving kinship families, through either informal or formal (through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or data sharing agreement)
- Office space, classroom or training space, and childcare space
- Access to interpreters/translation services
- Trainers (subject-matter experts)
- Access to phones, computer, printer, the Internet, and a data management and reporting system
- Access to vehicle(s)

Resources Needed

- Kinship Navigators as well as other designated staff, including program director, coordinators, supervisors, administrative support, and on-site child care providers
- Collaboration with government, public, nonprofit, and private community agencies serving kinship families, through either informal or formal (through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or data sharing agreement)
- Office space, classroom or training space, and childcare space
- Access to interpreters/translation services
- Trainers (subject-matter experts)
- Access to phones, computer, printer, the Internet, and a data management and reporting system
- Access to vehicle(s)

Resources Needed

- Designated staff
- Office space
- Access to phones
- Computer
- Printer
- Internet access
- Reporting system
- Flyers or brochures
- Available interpreters/translation services
- Printing
- Access to vehicle

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ent and outreach methods and materials (e.g., flyers or brochures, toll-free caregiver resource line, website, or online resource portal)

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Minimum Provider Qualifications

Kinship Navigators should have a Bachelor's-level degree (preferably in social work, human services, or related field) or five years of related experience as a substitute, and two years paid or volunteer experience with families in kinship or foster care placements. Supervisors should have an advanced degree in social services and 2 years related experience.

Minimum Provider Qualifications

Kinship Navigators should have a Bachelor's-level degree (preferably in social work, human services, or related field) or five years of related experience as a substitute, and two years paid or volunteer experience with families in kinship or foster care placements. Supervisors should have an advanced degree in social services and 2 years related experience.

Minimum Provider Qualifications

- Navigators should have a Bachelor's-level degree (preferably in human services or related field) or five years of related experience as a substitute and two years paid or volunteer experience with families in kinship or foster care placements.
- A minimum of two years paid or volunteer experience working to provide direct services to kinship or foster care families or at least two years of college level courses in a relevant field (social work, human services, etc.) is recommended for Tribal Kinship Navigators.
- Can pass a criminal background check
- Has a driver's license

Manual

Yes, there is a manual that describes how to implement this program.

Training Available

Yes

Manual

Yes, there is a manual that describes how to implement this program.

Training Available

No

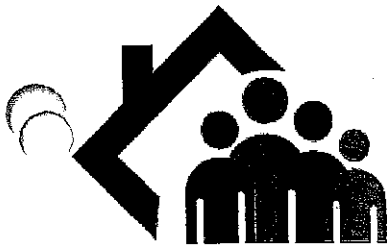
Manual

Yes, there is a manual that describes how to implement this program.

Training Available

No

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Kinship Interdisciplinary Navigation Technologically-Advanced Model (KIN-Tech)

Kinship Navigator
Programs

 Does not currently meet criteria

Kinship Interdisciplinary Navigation Technologically-Advanced Model (KIN-TECH) is a program designed to support kinship caregivers. Kinship caregivers are relatives who care for children that are not biologically their own, such as a grandparent caring for their grandchild. Kinship caregivers who participate in KIN-TECH can access resources through multiple channels. First, each kinship caregiver is connected to a kinship navigator. Kinship navigators are fellow kinship caregivers who have been hired to provide one-on-one peer support and encouragement. They also help to connect kinship caregivers to resources. Additionally, KIN-TECH offers a phone intake line where kinship caregivers can access and be referred to services. Support groups are also available to kinship caregivers, which cover topics such as how to budget family resources, navigate legal issues, and develop healthy relationships with the child. In the enhanced model of KIN-TECH, kinship caregivers have access to a web-based system (One-e-App). This system is designed to assist kinship caregivers with the benefit eligibility and application process. Kinship caregivers can also access supports from an interdisciplinary team who specialize in relevant topics such as legal matters, health services, education, and other social services.

Kinship Interdisciplinary Navigation Technologically-Advanced Model (KIN-Tech) does not currently meet criteria to receive a rating because no studies of the program achieved a rating of moderate or high on design and execution.

Sources

The program or service description, target population, and program or service delivery and implementation information was informed by the following sources: the program or service developer's website, the program or service manual, and the studies reviewed.

This information does not necessarily represent the views of the program or service developers. For more information on how this program or service was reviewed, visit the **Review Process (/review-process)** page or **download the Handbook (/themes/ffc_theme/pdf/psc_handbook_v1_final_508_compliant.pdf)**.

Target Population

Program or Service Delivery and Implementation

Dosage

Dosage varies based on length of caregiving. Support groups are typically offered on a monthly basis.

Location/Delivery Setting

Recommended Locations/Delivery Settings

KIN-TECH offers services over a phone intake line and through a web-based system, "One-e-App". Kinship caregivers are also able to participate in one-on-one meetings with kinship navigators and support groups in community spaces.

Education, Certifications and Training

Kinship navigators are select peer kinship caregivers who have experience maneuvering the challenges that many kinship families face. They receive training so that they are familiar with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) application and can help kinship caregivers use the "One-e-App". The interdisciplinary team is made up of individuals who are professionals with expertise in legal matters, health services, education, and other social services.

Program or Service Documentation

Book/Manual/Available documentation

Manuals can be requested on the KIN-Tech developer's **website (<https://mykinship.org/kinship-innovating-child-welfare/>)**.

Available languages

Materials are available in English.

Other supporting materials

Kinship Care Factsheet (<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f-kinshi/>)

Contact Information for Developers

Website: <https://mykinship.org/> (<https://mykinship.org/>)

Extent of Evidence

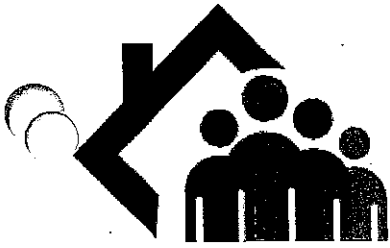
Studies Reviewed

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Children's Home Society of New Jersey Kinship Navigator Model

Kinship Navigator Programs

 Does not currently meet criteria

The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ) Kinship Navigator Model is designed to support kinship caregivers – relatives caring for children when their biological parents are unable to provide appropriate care. The program's long-term goals for children include safety, permanency and stability, and healthy development. For kinship caregivers, the long-term goals of the program are to empower caregivers to advocate for themselves and their children and to increase their use of protective factors.

This program supports kinship caregivers and children by pairing them with an Ombudsman. This Ombudsman serves as a professional advocate and is responsible for assessing family needs, developing family plans based on the family's needs, offering follow-up visits, providing hands-on linkages to resources, and offering encouragement. Ombudsmen typically work with kinship caregivers for four to six month windows, through home or office visits. The CHSofNJ Kinship Navigator Model also offers group support sessions to kinship caregivers, which focus on topics such as parenting skills.

Ombudsmen and their supervisors are expected to have a Bachelor's degree or higher and experience in topics related to child development, trauma, conflict resolution, separation and loss counseling, substance abuse, and group facilitation. Ombudsmen receive regular in-service training that covers topics such as trust building and strengths-based approaches for working with families. Supervisors are expected to monitor Ombudsmen and meet individually with them to provide additional training and feedback.

The Children's Home Society of New Jersey Kinship Navigator Model does not currently meet criteria to receive a rating because no studies of the program achieved a rating of moderate or high on design and execution.

Sources

The program or service description, target population, and program or service delivery and implementation information was informed by the following sources: the program or service developer's website, the program or service manual, and the studies reviewed.

This information does not necessarily represent the views of the program or service developers. For more information on how this program or service was reviewed, visit the **Review Process (/review-process)** page or **download the Handbook (/themes/ffc_theme/pdf/psc_handbook_v1_final_508_compliant.pdf)**.

Target Population

Program or Service Delivery and Implementation

Dosage

Most kinship families receive CHSofNJ Kinship Navigator services over a period of four to six months.

Location/Delivery Setting

Recommended Locations/Delivery Settings

One-on-one visits between kinship caregivers and Ombudsmen are typically conducted either in the family's home or at the agency office.

Education, Certifications and Training

Ombudsmen and their supervisors are expected to have a Bachelor's degree or higher and experience in topics related to child development, trauma, conflict resolution, separation and loss counseling, substance abuse, and group facilitation. Ombudsmen receive regular in-service training that covers topics such as trust building and strengths-based approaches for working with families. Supervisors are expected to monitor Ombudsmen and meet individually with them to provide additional training and feedback.

Program or Service Documentation

Book/Manual/Available documentation

CHSofNJ has created an instructional manual, which includes information needed for implementation of the program.

The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (2019). *Understanding and Implementing CHSofNJ's Kinship Cares Enhanced Navigator Model: A programmatic implementation guide to supporting and empowering grandparents and other relatives caring for kin children.*

Available languages

Materials are available in English.

Other supporting materials

Program Overview (https://www.chsofnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Program-Overview_CHSofNJ-Kinship-Cares_watermark.pdf)

Logic Model (https://www.chsofnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Logic-Model_CHSofNJ-Kinship-Cares_watermark.pdf)

Contact Information for Developers

Website: <https://www.chsofnj.org/kinship-and-kinship-navigator-services/>
(<https://www.chsofnj.org/kinship-and-kinship-navigator-services/>)

Phone: (609) 695-6274

Extent of Evidence

Studies Reviewed

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[Resources \(/resources\)](#)

Caregiver Support Teams overview

The Caregiver Support Team service is intended to prevent the disruption of foster care placements and increase stability and permanency by providing timely in-home interventions with kinship and core caregivers and the children in their care. For kinship families, this intensive in-home service is provided at the time the child is first placed with the family. The service will be available at critical points for the duration of the placement when additional supports are deemed necessary.

The primary identified population are kin caregivers and the child(ren) ages 0-18 placed in their care by DCF. However, the target population also includes caregivers involved in all types of DCF foster and pre-adoptive care.

All caregivers who are eligible for CST may receive up to six (6) months of in-home services

Hours of service:

- Home-based services (non-emergent), are M-F 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with flexibility of days and times to meet individual family needs, including weekends
- Emergency coverage by telephone 24 hours a day/7 days a week

Contact with foster families should occur weekly (e.g., a minimum of 4 contacts during the month). These visits can occur in a variety of settings, as appropriate and non-disruptive, including but not necessarily limited to the foster home, school, agency office, clinical milieu, and other community sites

The CST service provides in-home caregiver support services for DCF kinship, foster and pre-adoptive families. These services include, but are not limited to;

- Assessment of service needs of the family
 - Dynamics of the family system and impact of placement on all family members
 - Impact of intergenerational trauma on the family system
 - Tangible and concrete supports required to support placement stability
 - Family readiness for permanency including grief and loss related issues
 - Budgeting assistance
 - Challenges limiting/preventing the caregiver to successfully ensure child's participation in school, medical and mental health appointments, and other community supports/activities
 - Family's understanding of the basics of Department operations and other social service agency's involvement and related activities
 - The engagement of the caregiver with the child(ren) in placement
 - Co-parenting with the birth parents
- Assessment of the needs of the child
 - Impact of intergenerational trauma on child's development and behavioral implications
 - Readiness for permanency including grief and loss related issues
 - Immediate and longer term service needs
- Support plan development for the child and family addressing the above assessed issues
- Collaborate with DCF staff, caregivers and birth parents to determine a sustainable plan for sibling and family connections. Cultivation of a family's continuing natural supports
- The delivery or identification of caregiver training needs to address the above assessed issues
- Serve in the role of Kinship Navigator by;
 - Assisting kinship caregivers in learning about, finding, and using programs and services to meet their needs and the needs of the children they are caring for,
 - Promoting partnerships between public and private agencies, including schools, community based or faith-based organizations, and relevant government agencies, to increase their knowledge of the needs of kinship care families and to promote service coordination and referral services, including the entities that provide 2-1-1 information systems;

- Planning and operating 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;
- Assisting with eligibility and enrollment information for Federal, State, and local benefits;
- Participating in relevant training to assist kinship caregivers in meeting the needs of the children they are for and in obtaining benefits and services;
- Providing information relevant to legal assistance and help in obtaining legal services;
- Providing outreach to kinship care families including the provision of materials, brochures or guides; as well as ensuring agency websites are maintained and up to date with pertinent information and relevant community links to support services and information;
- Supporting kinship families in the ability to report any formal complaints to the Department's Office of the Ombudsman with authority to intervene and help kinship caregivers access services;
- Supporting any other activities designed to assist kinship caregivers in obtaining benefits and services to improve their caregiving
- The CST provider is permitted to purchase resources for families (i.e. books, DVD's, training materials, events to support and celebrate families); to assist families with initial placements including concrete goods such cribs, car seats, groceries etc.; and to help support the development and implementation of their own support group for kin and core families that would include childcare, space rental, food, and other training related materials. These discretionary funds are based on the CST provider's program capacity and staffing priorities.

In order to support an increase in family strength, resilience and the ability to manage family disruptions and risks, the CST provider(s) will work in collaboration and in an integrated fashion with other providers, including but not limited to:

- DCF Area Offices and Contractors
- Managed Service Systems and Systems of Care
- DMHAS Local Mental Health Authorities and private nonprofit Behavioral Health Service Providers
- DSS and other state agencies
- Housing programs, local housing authorities and supportive housing services
- The local public school system
- Early childhood programs
- Employment service providers
- Faith-based organizations
- Community Health Clinics and/or other healthcare providers
- Food and nutrition services including local food pantries and the state Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly called Food Stamps
- Juvenile Justice Services; and various formal and informal community-based services and supports
- Social services agencies dealing with substance abuse, domestic violence and other individual and family stressors
- Local law enforcement
- Other

The CST provider will establish and use linkages to natural supports, including faith-based and community grass roots organizations and groups and informal and non-traditional resources to accomplish the goals and objectives of this approach.