

# Kinship Care Literature Review

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## Alabama

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AL

Toll-Free: 1-844-425-2546

<https://navigator.alabama.gov/>

[Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association Kinship Booklet](#)

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## ARIZONA KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES (AKSS), ARIZONA

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Case Management, Information Sessions, Support Groups, Guardianship Clinics**  
Implemented as part of a 2012 Family Connections grant, AzCA, Kinship Navigators provided formal and informal kin caregivers with information and referrals. Caregivers could also participate in Kinship Information Sessions for information on the child welfare dependency process and permanency options; Guardianship Clinics to receive assistance from a lawyer in completing guardianship packets for the courts; and weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly peer-led support groups, among other services. Clients self-selected from an array of services based on their family's needs. Caregivers utilizing multiple services had cases opened for "Open Case Navigation services" through the program.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. The goal of AKSS is to contribute to the increased safety, permanency, and well-being of formal and informal kinship care by: 1) Ensuring kinship families have access to benefits which they are eligible, 2) Providing linkage to needed legal services, 3) Navigating existing community support systems, 4) Strengthening kinship families involved in the child welfare system, and 5) Enhancing other community-based and government responses for kinship families.

### TARGET POPULATION

Relative kin caregivers and their kin children in formal and informal arrangements in four Arizona counties: Pima, Maricopa, Pinal, and Cochise.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

The outcome study focused on Open Navigation cases using a within group pre-post comparison design. Open Navigation cases were examined longitudinally at intake and at two follow-up data points, ranging from 6-months to 24 months post baseline survey.

### DATA MEASURES

- Family Needs Scale (Adapted) •
- New General Self Efficacy Scale (NGSE) •

## STUDY FINDINGS

### Family Needs Scale (Adapted)

Child Welfare Administrative Data TANF-Child Only Data

- Significant decrease in need to pay for utility bills
- Significant decrease in need for getting special travel equipment for your child(ren)
- Significant decrease in need for time to take care of oneself
- Significant decrease in need for short-term or temporary relief (i.e., respite care) for caring for your children
- Significant decrease in need for finding future care for children

### New General Self-Efficacy Scale (NGSE)

- Significant increase in efficacy for “You can remain calm when facing difficulties because you can rely on your coping abilities”

### Child Welfare Administrative Data

- Findings were non-significant

### TANF-Child Only Data

- Significant increase in caregiver receipt of TANF-Child Only cash assistance on an annual basis

## SOURCE

LeCroy & Milligan Associates, Inc. (2015). *Arizona Kinship Support Services, Final Progress Report. October 2012-September 2015*. Retrieved from

[https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb\\_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27TITLE+ph+is+%27%27Arizona+Kinship+Support+Services%27%27%27%29&m=4&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27TITLE+ph+is+%27%27Arizona+Kinship+Support+Services%27%27%27%29&m=4&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29)

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 2

This study utilized a quasi-experimental design, where participants were assigned to an intervention or comparison condition through a non-random process, based on whether their caregiver received the AKSS KN intervention or received DCS services as usual. The intervention group includes 1,462 children whose families received AKSS KN services during the study time frame (10/1/2012 to 10/15/2018) to assess their permanency outcomes at least 12 months post their last receipt of AKSS KN service (i.e., KN case closure). The comparison group includes 9,832 children who were in custody of Arizona DCS during the study time frame and whose families received DCS services as usual. All children in the study had exited DCS custody on or before 10/16/2019. The overall research question is: What impact does AKSS KN services have on child permanency

outcomes measured by Arizona DCS administrative data, compared to a baseline equivalent group of children whose families received DCS standard services?

## DATA MEASURES 2

- AZ DCS Administrative Data

## STUDY FINDINGS 2

This quasi-experimental study utilized Arizona DCS administrative data to examine permanency outcomes for children of families served by the AKSS KN intervention, compared to a baseline equivalent group of children whose families received DCS services as usual. Children in the AKSS KN intervention group were significantly more likely to have achieved sustained favorable child permanency outcomes at 12 months or more post KN case closure than children in the DCS comparison group. The findings of this study contribute to the growing body of literature on the favorable and significant effects of KN programs on children and families with child welfare involvement, and build the evidence base for the AKSS KN program model.

## SOURCE 2

Schmidt, M. C. & Treinen, J. (2021). *Outcomes of the Arizona kinship support services: Impact of kinship navigation on child permanency outcomes*. Lecroy & Milligan Associates, Inc. Retrieved from [https://www.lecroymilligan.com/\\_files/ugd/4d0a9d\\_922b64e3d3a34896bcff77999b73222e.pdf](https://www.lecroymilligan.com/_files/ugd/4d0a9d_922b64e3d3a34896bcff77999b73222e.pdf)

# KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM - FAMILY CONNECTIONS MODEL GRANTEE, ARIZONA

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### Key characteristics: Information, Referrals, Advocacy Services

The Kinship Navigator Program 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 responsible services to kinship families based on family needs. The program model is designed to empower families to support and advocate for one another and therefore, foster interdependence and a natural support system.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. The goal of the Kinship Navigator Program is to 1) provide caregivers with information, referrals, and advocacy services; 2) assist caregivers in identifying and removing barriers to services receipt; 3) ensure kinship families have access to benefits for which they are eligible, including TANF child only grants and respite care services; 4) provide linkages the 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; 5) assist caregivers in utilizing existing community resources and support systems, including educational, health, mental health systems; 6) improve caregivers' social support systems; 7) improve family resources; 8) promote child safety, permanency, and well-being; 9) develop strong collaborative working

relationships with groups and agencies that work kinship caregivers, such as local and state child welfare offices; and promote effective partnerships among public and private agencies to ensure kinship caregivers families are served; 10) educate the community, including services providers and faith-based organizations about the needs of kinship care families and available resources and services.

## TARGET POPULATION

Kinship caregivers

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 1

Randomized controlled trial with 437 participants in Mercer and Ocean County, NJ. This study was designed to test whether more intensive services better met caregiver needs and improved outcomes for the caregiver and their child relative (kin) to the traditional kinship navigator program.

## DATA MEASURES 1

- Family Needs Scale (FNS)
- Parenting Stress Index - short form (PSI)
- Stress Index for Parents of Adolescents (SIPA)
- Client Satisfaction Question
- Rand Medical Outcomes Study Social Support Survey

## STUDY FINDINGS 1

Results indicate the relative effect of the more intensive intervention was mixed. Caregivers had many of their expressed needs met. Yet, the enhanced services group did not demonstrate: an increase in perceived social support, a reduction in caregiver stress, or an improvement in child behavior compared to the families receiving brief, traditional navigator services. Little difference was found in post-intervention involvement in the child welfare system. Limitations included the artificial six-month service window that may be unrealistically short, the failure to capture 14% of the post-intervention survey data despite repeated efforts on the part of staff, the lack of direct input from the kin children limiting an understanding of how they were directly impacted, minimal access to administrative data limiting an understanding of referral or placement events, and a short three-year project time frame that did not allow a sufficient interval to track the project families.

## SOURCE 1

**Feldman, L. H., & Fertig, A. (2013).** Measuring the impact of enhanced kinship navigator services for informal kinship caregivers using an experimental design. *Child Welfare, 92*(6), 41-62.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 2

One-group pretest-posttest study with 2956 participants (FL). The purpose of the present study is to seek to better understand if a community-based family support program, Kinship Services Network (KSN) [now called ***Kinship Navigator Program-Family Connections Grantee Model***], can improve the social support and family resource needs for kinship families and promote safety and permanence for children in informal kinship placements at a low cost.

## DATA MEASURES 2

- Family Support Scale (FSS)

- Family Resource Scale (FRS)
- Administrative Data

## STUDY FINDINGS 2

Results indicate participants in the program improved their adequacy of social support and improved family resource needs. Ninety-nine percent of participants' children did not enter the child welfare system at twelve-month follow-up, showing placement stability and child safety. KSN cost of service is less than half the costs associated with adjudicating a child dependent. Nonrelative foster care is 6x— (six times) and residential group care is more than 21x— (twenty-one times) as expensive as the KSN Program. Limitations included lack of control group and results may not be generalizable to other population of youth in foster care.

## SOURCE 2

**Littlewood, K. (2015).** Kinship Services Network Program: Five-year evaluation of family support and case management for informal kinship families. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 52, 184-191.  
doi:10.1016/j.chilyouth.2014.10.008

## Additional References

The Children's Home Society of New Jersey. (2012). *Kinship Cares final report*. Trenton, NJ: Author.  
LeCroy & Milligan Associates. (2015). *Arizona Kinship Support Services final progress report*. Tucson, AZ: LeCroy & Milligan Associates and Arizona's Children Association.  
New York State Kinship Navigator. (2016). *NYS Kinship Navigator Federal Demonstration Project*. Albany, NY: Author.

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# ENCORE PARENTING PROJECT (EPP), CALIFORNIA

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Case Management, Assessment Tools, Support Groups, Website, Toll-Free Number for Information & Referrals,**

The Encore Parenting Project was A 2009 Family Connections project comprised of traditional navigational services (information and referral) and enhanced navigational services (including short- term case management and referral to a support group for kinship caregivers), in addition to a website and toll-free number with centralized information and referrals. In order to provide navigational services, family strengths and needs assessments were conducted by a Kinship Navigator. A training program for kinship navigators was developed through partnerships with California State University of Long Beach and Grandparents as Parents and at the time of the final report, a "Strategies Guidebook" was still under development.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. The key intervention provided was navigation services to connect caregivers to community resources to help kinship families maintain self-sufficiency and placement stability.

## TARGET POPULATION

Relative and non-relative kinship caregiver families in two areas of Los Angeles County, California: San Gabriel Valley (SPA 3) and the South Bay/Harbor areas (SPA 8).

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

The outcome study used a single group, pre-post comparison design, comparing caregiver and child outcomes at baseline and a 6-month follow up period.

## DATA MEASURES

- Encore Parenting Project Needs Assessment •
- Social Support Index •

## STUDY FINDINGS

### Encore Parenting Project Needs Assessment

- Findings were non-significant **Behavior Rating Index for Children (BRIC)**
- Findings were non-significant **Social Support Index**
- Findings were non-significant

### Family Needs Scale (Adapted)

Behavior Rating Index for Children Family Needs Scale (Adapted)

- Changes in individual items not reported
- Significant reduction of needs in the average score, with fewer needs being reported by caregivers at 6-months

## SOURCE

Aspiranet, Inc. (2012). *Encore Parenting: Navigating Generations. Final Progress Report*. Retrieved from [https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb\\_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27DOCS\\_DE2+ph+is+%27%27EPP%27%27%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27DOCS_DE2+ph+is+%27%27EPP%27%27%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29)

# UNITED WAYS OF CALIFORNIA 2-1-1-IFOSTER KINSHIP NAVIGATOR COLLABORATIVE, CALIFORNIA

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### Key characteristics: Web-Based Resource Portal, County Collaborative

Implemented as part of a 2012 Family Connections grant, this model includes two primary components: 1) a web-based resource portal operating as a self-service navigation tool that coordinated both public and private resources for kinship families based on their individual needs and preferences, and 2) a County Collaborative, functioning as a cross-systems collective of members from local kinship serving organizations supporting program outreach and leading localization of needed resources for kinship families.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. The goal of the project was to support placement stability, permanency, and well-being for children in kinship families by creating an innovative referral and service delivery solution comprised of 1) a web-based resource portal and 2) a County Collaborative.

## TARGET POPULATION

Formal and informal kinship families in three California counties: Monterey, Riverside, and San Bernardino.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

The outcome study measured change in caregivers and children at baseline, 6-months, and 12-month in a variety of measures including permanency, safety, and well-being.

## DATA MEASURES

- Family Needs Scale (Adapted)
- Short Form-10 Child Health Survey

## STUDY FINDINGS

### Family Needs Scale (Adapted)

- Significant decrease in need for legal assistance
- Significant decrease in need for help getting furniture
- Significant decrease in need for assistance related to benefits
- Significant decrease in need for dental care for family
- Significant decrease in need to belong to a caregiver group or club
- Significant decrease in need for someone to talk to about how things are going
- Significant decrease in need for time to do fun things with your family
- Significant decrease in need for someone to talk to about your child(ren)

### Short Form-12 Caregiver Health Survey

- Findings were non-significant **Short Form-10 Child Health Survey**
- Short Form-12 Caregiver Health Survey
- Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire
- Findings were non-significant

### Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

- Findings were non-significant

## SOURCE

United Ways of California. (2016). *United Ways of California 2-1-1-iFoster Kinship Navigator Collaborative Program: Evaluation Report 2016*. Retrieved from

[https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb\\_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27DOCS\\_DE2+ph+is+%27%27united+ways+of+california%27%27%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27DOCS_DE2+ph+is+%27%27united+ways+of+california%27%27%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29)

# YMCA KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM, CALIFORNIA

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Case Management, Website & Toll-Free Number for Referrals, Kinship Navigator Services, Assessment Tools**

The YMCA Kinship Navigator Program was a three-year Family Connections demonstration program that began in 2009. Four Kinship Navigators were stationed across four regions of San Diego County (Central, East, South, and North). The model included outreach, systems-level capacity building, and case management services. A website and toll-free number were created for caregivers to self-refer to the program, and referrals were also made by state and community agencies. Once caregivers are referred to a Navigator, the Navigator builds rapport and completes a Family Needs Scale to assess the caregiver's level of need. Navigators then provide information & referrals, make collateral contacts/advocate for the caregiver, provide service coordination/education services, and follow-up with caregivers to assess progress and ensure caregivers accessed needed services. A policies and procedures manual was developed to guide Navigators in their daily work.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. Kinship caregivers are less likely than foster parents to receive any form of financial support, parent training, peer support groups, or respite care, and also frequently lack experience in navigating the child welfare and social systems. To address these issues, the Kinship Navigator program offered dedicated navigators to connect families to support services, support the development of collaborative kinship networks, and link to kinship efforts county-wide.

## TARGET POPULATION

Voluntary kinship caregivers (child welfare does not have custody but may be involved in the placement of the child) in San Diego County.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

The outcome study used a repeated measures single group design, assessing family needs at intake and at a three-month follow-up period. The study analyzed change over time and the types and intensities of services offered. In addition, placement stability was measured by comparing the percentage of children in informal vs. formal kinship arrangements (e.g., guardianship, legal custody, etc.) at intake versus after receiving KN services.

## DATA MEASURES

- Family Needs Scale (Adapted)

## STUDY FINDINGS

### Family Needs Scale (Adapted)

- Findings were non-significant

## SOURCE

Harder + Company. (2013). *Navigating the System: Research Summary of the YMCA Kinship Navigator Program*. Retrieved from

[https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/CB\\_GRANTS/Record;jsessionid=6137A13FA3D25D1A4965EC13AE62FA19?rpp=25&upp=0&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27grant\\_state+%3D+%27%27CA%27%27%27%29&m=222](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/CB_GRANTS/Record;jsessionid=6137A13FA3D25D1A4965EC13AE62FA19?rpp=25&upp=0&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27grant_state+%3D+%27%27CA%27%27%27%29&m=222)

# FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES: LOS ANGELES KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM, CALIFORNIA

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Assessment Tools, Peer Navigators, Outreach & Community Engagement, Group Therapy, Education, Respite Activities**

The South Los Angeles Kinship Navigator Program (South LA KN Program) operated through Communities Coalition involves a face-to-face kinship navigator model with an intensive needs assessment and follow-up process using veteran relative caregivers as Resource Navigators. It is heavily based on the key principles and features of the Kinship Care Wellness Program, including accessible and kinship-centered support services provided via group therapy, education, resource navigation, stress reduction, and respite activities. The project included outreach and community engagement, a Kinship Advisory Council, centralized referral and information services, and kinship caregivers as leaders and advocates for child welfare practice and systems change.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. The basis of the program is to help South LA kinship caregiver families identify and access appropriate and meaningful services to strengthen protective factors and promote well-being, support healthy positive functioning, and achieve permanency and system improvements. It does this by increasing access to available benefits, programs, and services, and by expanding referrals to supportive services.

## TARGET POPULATION

Formal and informal kinship families in Los Angeles Service Planning Area (SPA 6) in South Los Angeles.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

A pre-test post-test randomized waitlist group design was used. Participants were placed in either the intervention group which received services immediately or a control group who received services six-months later. A matched case design combined participants from the intervention and control groups into a single study group, pre-post outcomes were examined comparing well-being measures at baseline and a 9-12-month follow-up period.

## DATA MEASURES

- Services/Resources Assessment
- Multidimensional Well Being Assessment (MWA)
- Family Needs Scale (Adapted)

## STUDY FINDINGS

### Services/Resources Assessment

- Significant increase in quality of and access to basic needs
- Significant increase in quality of and access to transportation
- Significant increase in quality of and access to time to take children to appointments
- Protective Factors Survey
- Family Support Scale (Adapted)
- Medical Outcomes Survey (Adapted)
- Significant increase in quality of and access to financial needs
- Significant increase in quality of and access to medical/dental insurance for child
- Significant increase in quality of and access to legal assistance for guardianship issues
- Significant increase in quality of and access to specialized needs
- Significant increase in quality of and access to personal growth needs
- Significant increase in quality of and access to emotional support from friends, family, and community
- Significant increase in quality of and access to support groups/clubs

### Protective Factors Survey

- Significant increase in family functioning and resiliency
- Significant increase in social support
- Significant increase in concrete support
- Significant increase in nurturing and attachment
- Significant increase in knowledge of parenting

### Multidimensional Well Being Assessment (MWA)

- Significant increase in relational wellness
- Significant increase in collective wellness

### Family Support Scale (Adapted)

- Perceived greater help with formal programs/institutions
- Perceived greater help with professional services

### Medical Outcomes Survey (Adapted)

- No significant differences (caregivers or children)

### Family Needs Scale (Adapted)

- Significant decrease in need for basic resources
- Significant decrease in need for financial and medical resources
- Significant decrease in need for specialized care

## SOURCE

Grills, C. (2015). *Final Report for Community Coalition of South Los Angeles*. Los Angeles, CA: Loyola Marymount University.

## KINNECTIONS INITIATIVE, CALIFORNIA

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### Key characteristics: Case Management, Therapeutic Support, Support Groups

Implemented as part of a 2009 Family Connections grant, the Kinnections Initiative used a dual approach to support child welfare involved kinship families: 1) intensive family-finding service, designed to provide a thorough and exhaustive search for kin and initiate comprehensive engagement services once kin were located; and 2) intensive kinship navigation services (KSSP Plus) including in-home case management services and therapeutic support. Intensive Family Finding services included team decision-making meetings (facilitated by county social workers) and Family Team Meetings (facilitated by Kinnections staff). Intensive Kinship Navigation services included family engagement, resource linkage, support groups, intensive family support, and transition and termination support.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. The underlying premise of the program is that specific changes in practice when children first enter care (including intensive family finding and intensive kinship navigation services), as well as concerted efforts and strategies to engage and support kin, can lead to significantly improved permanency, stability, and well-being outcomes for children and their families.

## TARGET POPULATION

African-American children ages 0-17 entering foster care for the first time in Sacramento County.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

The outcome study used descriptive statistics to describe outcomes for children and families that received Family Finding services and used a randomized control trial to understand the effects of the intensive kinship navigation services. This included both between-subjects and within-subjects repeated measures analysis, examining safety, permanency, and well-being measures at baseline and at a one- year follow-up period.

## DATA MEASURES

- Data collection sheets on safety, foster care entries, and exits, and placement stability
- The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment (Experimental group only)

## STUDY FINDINGS

- DECA-I, DECA-T, DECA, Y-OQ, CAFAS, and Y-OQ-SR (Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment)

### Data collection sheets on safety, foster care entries, and exits, and placement stability

- Findings were non-significant

### DECA-I, DECA-T, DECA, Y-OQ, CAFAS, and Y-OQ-SR (Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment)

- Significant increase in total protective factors for children in both the intervention and comparison groups

### The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment (Experimental group only)

- Findings were non-significant

## SOURCE

Lilliput Children's Services. (2012). *Kinnections Initiative: Final Progress Report, (10/1/2019 – 9/30/2012) Family Connection Discretionary Grant Family-Finding/Kinship Navigator Combination*. Retrieved from [https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb\\_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=)

0&w=NATIVE%28%27%28DOCS\_DE2+ph+is+%27%27kinship%27%27%29+AND+%28PDT+%3D+%27%27Grantee+Final+Reports%27%27%29+AND+%28GRANT\_STATE+%3D+%27%27CA%27%27%29%27%29&m=6&order=native%28%27year%2FDescend%27%29

## KINSHIP EDUCATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM (KEPS), CALIFORNIA

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Education, Training, Support, Skill Training**

KEPS was implemented to address the needs of formal kinship caregivers in a large urban city.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. The four goals of the program are to provide kinship caregivers with: 1) education, preparation, and support focusing on concrete information relating to all aspects of the public child welfare system; 2) peer support from other caregivers to help build on or strengthen the skills needed to parent the children in their care; 3) the skills needed to manage the behavior of the children's birth parents; 4) the skills to work with line workers as a team to support case planning goals.

### TARGET POPULATION

Formal kinship caregivers in a large urban city.

### OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

Focus group with 43 participants - participants were caregivers, child welfare workers, KEPS trainers, and child welfare commission workers. This study examines the effectiveness of the KEPS program to support the needs of formal kinship caregivers.

### DATA MEASURES

None

### STUDY FINDINGS

Results indicate that themes emergent from the focus groups were: the need for, and benefits of, support programs for formal kinship caregivers; implementation challenges; and improvements for KEPS. This study is limited in that it only reflects the perspectives of kinship stakeholders involved in the public child welfare system in one county in CA, and thus these perspectives may not be representative of the national population of formal kinship care.

### SOURCE

Green, Y. R., & Gray, M. (2013). Lessons learned from the Kinship Education and Support Program (KEPS): developing effective support groups for formal kinship caregivers. *Social Work with Groups*, 36(1), 27-42. doi:10.1080/01609513.2012.698384

## EDGEWOOD KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK, CALIFORNIA

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### Key characteristics: Case Management, Support Groups, Education, Resources, Referrals

Edgewood Kinship Support Network is designed to support kinship caregivers in an effort to keep the children in their care or reunited with a biological parent and to relieve the burden of the formal foster care system.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. The primary goal of the Kinship Support Network is to make sure caregivers have what they need that will support their transition to being full-time guardians and allow them to continue being the primary caregivers for as long as the child needs.

## TARGET POPULATION

Kinship caregivers.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

Qualitative study - 58 participants in San Francisco, CA. The purpose of this study is to examine the experiences of two similar groups of African American female kin caregivers, one group receiving private services from Edgewood's Kinship Support Network, and the other group receiving public services at the San Francisco DHS.

## DATA MEASURES

Demographic questionnaires

## STUDY FINDINGS

Results indicate that responses highlight three primary reasons for becoming caregivers that center on providing for these children, protecting these children (particularly from the perceived threat of the public foster care system), and ultimately preserving the family unit. Limitations include the lack of randomization, lack of control group, and findings may not be generalized due to gender and ethnicity.

## SOURCE

**Cohon, D., Hines, L., Cooper, B., Packman, W., & Siggins, E. (2005).** Preserving family: Themes from a qualitative study of kin caregivers. *Family Preservation Journal*, 8, 43-63.

## Additional References

Cohon, D., & Cooper, B. A. (1999). Edgewood's Kinship Support Network: Program model and client characteristics, *Children and Youth Services Review*, 21(4), 331-338.

Cohon, D., Hines, L., Cooper, B., Packman, W., & Siggins, E. (2003). A preliminary study of an intervention with kin caregivers. *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*, 1(3), 49-72.

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# Colorado

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## KINSHIP SUPPORTS INTERVENTION, COLORADO

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Case Management, Assessment Tools**

This Kinship Supports intervention is administered through Colorado county child welfare agencies and designed to support both formal and informal kinship caregivers. The intervention includes administration of a structured kinship supports needs assessment and coordination of corresponding services and supports. Kinship caregivers may receive goods and services such as food, clothing, cribs and car seats; utility or rent assistance; mental health services; funds for child activities or extracurricular fees; and support groups.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

Kinship caregivers needs are assessed within seven days of a kinship placement and on an ongoing basis so that needed supports and services can be identified and provided and children and youth can be safely and consistently cared for in a manner that preserves their cultural and familial connections, reduces their length of stay in care, and reduces the likelihood that they will be placed in foster or congregate care.

### TARGET POPULATION

Formal and informal kinship caregivers who are caring for child and youth with an open child welfare case or who have been referred to child welfare for information and referral services.

### OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

The outcome study included a historical matched case comparison design. Outcomes were examined between children and youth living with kinship caregivers who received the Kinship Supports intervention and matched children and youth living with kinship caregivers prior to the start of the start of the Kinship Supports intervention.

### DATA MEASURES

- Colorado Kinship Supports Needs Assessment
- Trails (Colorado’s Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System)

### STUDY FINDINGS

**Trails (Colorado’s Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System)**

- Significantly longer stays in kinship care experienced by children and youth
- Significant increase in likelihood of subsequent kinship placements experienced by children and

- youth
- Significant increase in likelihood of achieving permanency for children and youth
- Significant decrease in likelihood of subsequent child welfare involvement experienced by children and youth

## SOURCE

Human Services Research Institute, Colorado State University Social Work Research Center, & Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. (2018). *Colorado Title IV-E Waiver Final Evaluation Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/publications-reports>

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## Connecticut

Family Centered Services Caregiver Support Team  
CT  
<https://www.familyct.org/caregiver-support-team>

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## Delaware

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## Florida

Children's Home Network

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## KIN AS TEACHERS (KAT), FLORIDA

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Support Groups, Case Management, Caregiver Training**

This program adapts the Parents as Teachers program to meet the specific needs of relative kinship caregivers. With the intention of guiding caregivers in rearing kinship children from birth to entry to kindergarten, services are available at a maximum of two-years due to demand. The intervention addresses parent knowledge, detection of developmental delays and health issues, prevention of child abuse and neglect, and promotion of school readiness and success. It includes home visits, developmental screening, case management, and support group meetings.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified.

### TARGET POPULATION

Relative caregivers raising children from birth to kindergarten entry.

### OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

The evaluation used a one-group pretest-posttest methodology and collected data prior to the start of the first exposure to the program and 24 months later, at the completion of the program.

### DATA MEASURES

- Home Observation for Measurement of Environmental (HOME) Inventory
  - Infant Toddler HOME (ages birth to three)
  - EarlyChildhood HOME(ages three to five)
    - Kin Knowledge Questionnaire (KKQ)

### STUDY FINDINGS

**HOME Inventory**

- Significant pre and posttest difference in overall scores
- Significant increases in the Infant Toddler HOME subscales:
  - Acceptance

- Organization
- Learning Involvement
- Variety
- Significant increases in the Early Childhood HOME subscales:
  - Learning
  - Language
  - Responsivity
  - Academic
  - Modeling
  - Variety
- **Kin Knowledge Questionnaire (KKQ)**
  - Significance not assessed

## SOURCE

Littlewood, K. A., Strozier, A. L., & Whittington, D. (2014). Kin as Teachers: An early childhood education and support intervention for kinship families. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 38, 1–9.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2013.11.026>

# KINSHIP CARE CONNECTION (KCC), FLORIDA

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Support Groups, Case Management Services, Child Mentors/Tutors, Child Counseling**

The KCC, is an innovative school-based intervention designed to increase children's self-esteem and to mediate kin caregiver burden through the implementation and evaluation of support groups and case management services (including counseling, advocacy, and resource procurement) for caregivers and tutoring, mentoring, counseling, advocacy, and resource procurement for children.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified.

## TARGET POPULATION

Caregivers participating in support groups and case management services and children participating in tutoring, mentoring and counseling, advocacy, and resource procurement

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

One-group pretest-posttest study of intervention designed to increase children's self-esteem and to mediate kin caregiver burden. Pretest conducted prior to start of first support group and posttest 18 weeks later at completion of the last support group.

## DATA MEASURES

- Hare Self-Esteem Scale (HSS)
- Caregiver Self-Efficacy Scale (CSE)

## STUDY FINDINGS

### Hare Self-Esteem Scale

- Significant improvement in mean posttest scores
- Significant improvement in the subscales:
  - Peerrelations
  - Home
  - School

### Caregiver Self-Efficacy Scale (CSE)

- Significant improvement in mean posttest scores
- Significant improvement in the subscales:
  - Behavior
  - School
  - Advocacy
  - Emotional Support
  - Service Provision

## SOURCE

Strozier, A., McGrew, L., Krisman, K., & Smith, A. (2005). Kinship care connection: A school-based intervention for kinship caregivers and the children in their care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 27(9), 1011–1029. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2004.12.026>

# KINSHIP INTERDISCIPLINARY NAVIGATION TECHNOLOGICALLY-ADVANCED MODEL (KIN-TECH), FLORIDA

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Interdisciplinary teams of professionals, Web-based Portal, Peer-to-Peer Support**

Implemented as part of a 2012 Family Connections grant, the KIN-Tech model includes three overarching features: 1) A kinship navigator provides assistance with applications for benefits and services using one-e, an online portal site. Application support occurs in the home of a relative with a laptop computer. 2) Peer-to-peer support (i.e., hiring grandparents and other relatives who have lived the caregiving experience to mentor and coach kinship caregivers), and 3) A cadre of interdisciplinary professionals who unite to help kinship caregivers problem-solve complex issues.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. The project's stated underlying assumptions are 1) Private and public community partnerships will provide the infrastructure needed to support KIN-Tech in the community, and 2) A combination of innovations (One-e-App, peer-to-peer navigation, and interdisciplinary team) will improve outcomes for families. The report notes that each selected innovation works in concert with one another to promote the safety and permanence of the family.

## TARGET POPULATION

Kinship caregivers in formal or informal placements in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

The study used a randomized controlled trial comparing outcomes between several different groups including: KIN Tech Full (One-e-App, Peer-to-Peer, and Interdisciplinary Team); Kinship Navigator Services Only (peer-to-peer only); Standard Care (Kinship Support case management in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties); and Usual Care (child welfare involved families-services as usual). The outcome study assessed child safety, permanency, and well-being measures at baseline, at 3-6 months, and at 12- months.

## DATA MEASURES

- Administrative child welfare datasets •
- Protective Factors Survey •
- Family Resource Scale (Caregiver) •

## STUDY FINDINGS

### Administrative child welfare datasets

- Significantly lower rates of re-entry into child welfare system
- Significantly higher rates of TANF applications

### Pediatric Symptom Checklist (Child)

- Significant improvement in attention problem behavior
- Pediatric Symptom Checklist (Child) Family Support Scale (Caregiver)
- The MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire (Child)
- Significant improvement in conduct in externalizing problem behavior

### Protective Factors Survey

- Significant improvement in family resiliency
- Significant improvement in concrete supports
- Significant improvement in nurturing and attachment
- Significant improvement in child development/parenting knowledge

### Family Support Scale (Caregiver)

- Significant improvements in treatment and comparison groups for each point in time, although reduction at post-test for Navigator

### Family Resource Scale (Caregiver)

- Significant improvement in access to resources

### The MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire (Child)

- Significant reduction in child injuries and accidents
- Significant reduction in incidents of bullying by peers
- Significant reduction in incidents of bullying by peers
- Significant reduction in social inhibition
- Significant improvement prosocial behavior for children
- Significant improvement school engagement
- Significant improvement in academic competence
- Significant improvement in peer acceptance

## SOURCE

KIN-Tech & The Children's Home, Inc. (2016). *CHI CW/TANF Kinship Interdisciplinary Navigation Technologically-Advanced Model (KIN-Tech) Final Evaluation Report*. Retrieved from

[https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb\\_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27DOCS\\_DE2+ph+is+%27%27KIN-TECH%27%27%27%29&m=5&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27DOCS_DE2+ph+is+%27%27KIN-TECH%27%27%27%29&m=5&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29)

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## Georgia

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## Hawaii

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## Idaho

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ID  
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<https://www.indianafostercare.org/s/kinship-indiana-support-services>

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[http://www.ifapa.org/resources/kinship\\_resources.asp](http://www.ifapa.org/resources/kinship_resources.asp)

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## Kansas

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Kansas Family Advisory Network  
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## Kentucky

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## Louisiana

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## KINSHIP CONNECTIONS, MAINE

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**Key characteristics: Court Volunteer Navigator, Mental Health Education**

Implemented as part of a 2009 Family Connections grant, the Maine Kinship Connections model is comprised of:  
1) an Enhanced Kinship Navigator program which includes a court volunteer navigator and a mental health educator made available to kinship families, 2) Family Finding, and 3) Facilitated Family Team Meetings.

### **THEORY OF CHANGE**

Not specified. The program was developed with the assumption that grand-families are in the best position to identify their needs and thus will receive the support they define as necessary through the Navigator project. The Maine Kinship Connections Project proposed that participation in enhanced navigation services would foster a greater sense of satisfaction and support for grand-families, and thereby show advantageous outcomes as compared to grand-families participating in regular navigator services.

### **TARGET POPULATION**

Kinship caregiver families residing within a 60-mile radius of Portland or Bangor.

### **OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION**

The evaluation used a quasi-experimental design, examining caregiver stress and child well-being outcomes for kinship families receiving enhanced Kinship Navigator services versus those receiving standard Kinship Navigator services. Outcome measures were assessed at baseline and at 6-month and 12-month follow-up periods.

## DATA MEASURES

- Pediatric Quality of Life (PedsQL)
- Parent Stress Index (PSI)

## STUDY FINDINGS

### Pediatric Quality of Life (PedsQL)

- Findings were non-significant **Parent Stress Index (PSI)**
- Findings were non-significant

## SOURCE

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine. (2013). *Maine Kinship Connections Project, Final Progress Report*. Retrieved from

[https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb\\_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27TITLE+ph+is+%27%27Maine+Kinship+Connections+Project%27%27%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%2FDescend%27%29](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27TITLE+ph+is+%27%27Maine+Kinship+Connections+Project%27%27%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%2FDescend%27%29)

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# Maryland

Kinship Care Fact Sheet  
Maryland Department of Human Services  
Social Services Administration  
MD

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# MAKING PLACE MATTER THROUGH FAMILY KIN CONNECTIONS (PLACE MATTERS), MARYLAND

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Kinship Navigator Program, Intensive Family Finding, Family Involvement Meetings, Website, Toll-Free Number for Information & Referrals**

Implemented as part of a 2009 Family Connections grant, the Making Place Matter through Family Kin Connections project included three components: 1) a Kinship Navigator program, 2) Intensive Family Finding, and 3) Family Involvement Meetings. The Kinship Navigator program was comprised of seven local Kinship Navigator programs providing information & referral and individualized assessments & support. The project also developed a state-wide website and toll-free hotline number for kinship families to call for connections and referrals.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. Safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes are directly and negatively impacted by the lack of family engagement and the inability to provide supportive services to families. This program addressed this issue by engaging families and children in the case planning process, increasing the number of children placed with family members, and strengthening the services offered to kin who are caring for children at risk of entering or in foster care, with the ultimate goal of promoting permanence and child and family well-being.

## TARGET POPULATION

Informal kinship families (not involved in the child welfare system) across Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, Washington, and Baltimore City Counties.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

Initially a randomized control trial was implemented; however, it was discontinued due to the low number of cases recruited for the project and concerns with capacity to implement the project with fidelity to the model. The evaluation was redesigned to focus on the process of delivering services.

## DATA MEASURES

- Project-specific survey
- Project database
- State Child Welfare Administrative Data (MD-CHESSIE)

## STUDY FINDINGS

### **Project-specific survey**

- Significance not assessed (descriptive statistics only)

### **Project database**

- Significance not assessed (descriptive statistics only)

### **State Child Welfare Administrative Data (MD-CHESSIE)**

Project-specific demographic questionnaire

- Significance not assessed (descriptive statistics only)
- Project-specific demographic questionnaire**
- Significance not assessed ((descriptive statistics only)

## SOURCE

Maryland Department of Human Resources Social Services Administration & University of Maryland School of Social Work. (2013). *Making Place Matter through Family Kin Connections: Final Report*. Retrieved from [https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb\\_grants/Blob/91784.pdf?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27TITLE+ph+is+%27%27Making+Place+Matter+through+Family+Kin+Connections%27%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%2FDescend%27%29](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Blob/91784.pdf?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27TITLE+ph+is+%27%27Making+Place+Matter+through+Family+Kin+Connections%27%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%2FDescend%27%29)

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## Massachusetts

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## Michigan

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## PROJECT BUILDING KINSHIP BRIDGES, MICHIGAN

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**Key characteristics: Peer Mentors, Well-Being Services, Licensure Preparation, Information & Referrals**

Implemented as part of a 2012 Family Connections Grant, Project Building Kinship Bridges was developed to serve kinship families whose children were in, or at-risk of entering the child welfare system. The program hired peer Kinship Navigator Advocates/Mentors who provide one-on-one support to families; provided Well Being Cluster/Life Enrichment services (i.e., family camp, kinship club, mentoring services, and parent enhancement services); and offered licensure preparation and other supportive services geared toward helping kin caregivers to obtain financial resources and apply for benefits.

### **THEORY OF CHANGE**

Not specified. In preparing children and kinship care providers for permanency it is critical that educational resources and supportive services are identified and made available. Based on this premise, the program was designed to help children/youth and their kinship caregivers identify and access appropriate and meaningful service to achieve and sustain permanency, as well as improve outcomes related to child/youth safety and well-being.

### **TARGET POPULATION**

Formal or informal African American kinship families with kinship children aged 5-17 that were in, or at- risk of entering, the foster care system in Wayne County.

### **OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION**

A comparison study was used to evaluate outcomes for the kinship group which consists of kinship families that used one or more of the well-being cluster services (family camp, mentoring services, kinship club, or parent enhancement education). The comparison group consisted of families that did not use any of the well-being

cluster services. The study measured safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children at baseline and 6-month, and 12-month follow up periods.

## DATA MEASURES

- Parenting Stress Index-Short Form • Protective Factors Survey
- Family Needs Scale

## STUDY FINDINGS

### Parenting Stress Index-Short Form

- Intervention families had significantly lower total stress scores than comparison families
- Significant pre-post improvements for KN families in defensive responding
- Significant pre-post improvements for KN families in parental distress
- Significant pre-post improvements for KN families in difficult child

### Protective Factors Survey

- Insignificant pre-post improvements for KN families in concrete support
- Insignificant pre-post improvements for KN families in social support
- Insignificant pre-post improvements for KN families in functioning/resiliency

### Family Needs Scale

- KN families reported increased access to/lower needs in having clean water to drink
- KN families reported increased access to/lower needs in having food for two meals for the family
- KN families reported increased access to/lower needs in having plumbing, lighting, and heat
- KN families reported increased access to/lower needs in completing chores, repairs, and home improvements
- KN families reported increased access to/lower needs in transporting children

## SOURCE

Homes for Black Children. (2015). *Child Welfare/TANF Collaboration in Kinship Navigation Program. Project: Building Kinship Bridges*. Retrieved from

[https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb\\_grants/Blob/114893.pdf?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27AUTHORS+ph+like+%27%27Homes+for+Black+Children%27%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Blob/114893.pdf?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27AUTHORS+ph+like+%27%27Homes+for+Black+Children%27%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29)

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# Minnesota

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## THE MINNESOTA KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROJECT, MINNESOTA

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Peer Mentoring, Support Groups, Training & Education, Warm Line**

Implemented as part of a 2009 Family Connections grant, the Minnesota Kinship Navigator project was designed to improve family functioning and increase child well-being for kinship families. Utilizing regional centers throughout the state, Kinship Navigators provided information-sharing and referrals, operated a warm line, offered local support groups, and offered one-on-one peer-mentoring and activities for kinship children and families. Community partners provided additional assistance such as basic needs materials, medical information, transportation, child care, respite, and financial guidance.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. The difficulties faced by caregivers affect their ability to provide a safe and stable home environment for the children. For this reason, it is critical to support the needs of these caregivers and their families to ensure that children’s basic needs are met. To achieve this, the Kinship Navigator program sought to accomplish several systems-focused and family-focused objectives, including strengthening and expanding the network of services available for caregivers, connecting caregivers with these resources, and providing intensive one-on-one support and mentoring to caregivers and children, among other objectives. This was expected to enhance the stability (defined as safety and permanency) and well-being of children at risk of formal non-relative placement.

### TARGET POPULATION

Informal kinship caregiver families statewide.

### OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

An experimental design was used, comparing outcomes for families who received services to families that reached out to the agency but did not receive services. Telephone interviews were conducted with both groups at baseline (i.e., the initial request for information or services) and at a 9-month follow-up period.

### DATA MEASURES

- Project-specific Caregiver Assessment Checklist
- Project-specific logs, intake forms, and milestone tracking forms

## STUDY FINDINGS

### Project-specific Caregiver Assessment Checklist

- MFIP database (Minnesota's TANF program)
- Significant difference in intervention caregivers who agreed that they have someone they can talk to who understands what they are going through
- Significantly fewer intervention caregivers reported that their kinship children needed emotional or mental health services

### Project-specific logs, intake forms, and milestone tracking forms

- Significance not assessed (descriptive statistics only)

### MFIP database (Minnesota's TANF program)

- Intervention families were more likely than control group families to receive a variety of social services, including MFIP/TANF which showed statistical significance

## SOURCE

Wilder Research. (2012). *Minnesota Kinship Navigator Project: Final Progress Report*. Retrieved from <https://library.childwelfare.gov/cwig/ws/library/docs/gateway/Blob/87563.pdf?w=+NATIVE%28%27recno%3D87563%27%29&upp=0&rpp=10&r=1&m=1>

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## Mississippi

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## Montana

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## PEER-TO-PEER KINSHIP LIAISONS, NEVADA

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Mentorship, Training, Case Management (as needed)**

Implemented as part of a Children's Bureau System of Care Demonstration Project, the Peer-to-Peer Kinship Liaisons program paired new relative caregivers with a full-time, paid kinship liaison (a current or former relative caregiver). The goals of the peer program are two-fold: to improve kinship foster parents' abilities to effectively act as a caregiver, and to facilitate trust and aid between all sides engaged with the kinship caregiving component of a child welfare program. Kinship Liaisons focuses on mentoring and educating kin caregivers, advocating for kinship needs, and educating and networking with community providers. Caregivers participating in the program received a resource guide, and caregivers who desired more assistance were assigned to work directly with a kinship liaison.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified.

### TARGET POPULATION

Kinship caregivers in the Clark County demonstration project

### OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

One-group pre-test and posttest design. Participants were administered baseline assessments within the first 30 days of receiving support and follow-up measures occurred 90 days after baseline.

### DATA MEASURES

- Relative Caregiver Self-Assessment Scale
- Project-specific Peer-to-Peer Measure (Caregiver and kinship liaison measures)

### STUDY FINDINGS

### Relative Caregiver Self-Assessment Scale Finding 1

- Significant improvement in:
  - Culture and values respected by my caseworker
  - Caseworker is responsive
  - My DFS worker collaborates with others to help me
  - Money for rent (mortgage)
  - Someone to watch the children
  - Aware of permanency goal for children
  - Knowledgeable about how to access services
  - Knowledge of permanency processes and planning

### Peer-to-Peer Measure

- Findings non-significant

### SOURCE

Denby, R. W. (2011). Kinship liaisons: A peer-to-peer approach to supporting kinship caregivers. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 33(2), 217-225. doi:10.1016/j.chilyouth.2010.09.004

## FOSTER KINSHIP, NEVADA

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Training and Education, Referrals and Support Services, Case Management**

Established in 2011, Clark County Nevada's Fosters Kinship agency provides educational and supportive services to formal kinship caregivers of children without safe and stable parental homes. Foster Kinship is currently the only nonprofit agency in the State of Nevada providing navigator services to formal kinship families. Educational and supportive services offered by Foster Kinship include training services; informal, referral, and supportive services; and case management services. Training and education services provide classes such as kinship information, licensing classes, car seat safety, CPR/AED/First Aid, and quality parenting training. The navigator program offers intake and case management services. Case management services include an individualized family case plan, along with assignment of a family advocate.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

Not stated. Kinship navigator programs eligible for the designation of "promising practice" are those that: (1) assist kinship caregivers in learning about, finding, and/or using navigator services to meet the needs of the children placed in their home or their own needs; and (2) promote effective partnerships among public and private agencies to ensure kinship caregivers have access to and use appropriate supportive services.

### TARGET POPULATION

Foster Kinship program and kinship caregivers participating in the navigator program.

### STUDY 1 DESCRIPTION: FIDELITY EVALUATION

After crafting two navigator program fidelity rubrics, the job tasks performed by Foster Kinship staff assigned to the intake and case management units were observed, documented on the corresponding fidelity rubric, and then judged against the protocol tasks listed in the kinship navigator program manual (see Appendix 1 and 2).

Job tasks performed that were consistent with the manual's protocol tasks were assigned a plus (+), while uncompleted or unperformed protocol tasks were assigned a minus (-). Pluses were aggregated and divided by the total number of protocol tasks across all staff (subgroup percentages were also calculated). The resultant percentage was used to establish navigator program staff's level of fidelity to Foster Kinship's navigator program manual.

## STUDY 1 DATA MEASURES

- (1) An experienced intake coordinator and case manager were interviewed for the Preston Management & Organizational Consulting Page 13 purpose of identifying essential protocol tasks
- (2) The same intake coordinator and case manager were observed performing their job tasks
- (3) Discrepancies between stated and observed job tasks were clarified with intake unit and case management unit staff
- (4) Protocol tasks in Foster Kinship's navigator program manual were reviewed
- (5) Discrepancies between the navigator program manual and field observation findings were clarified with multiple staff
- (6) Unique fidelity rubrics were developed for both the intake and case management Units.
- (7) Intake and case management unit staff reviewed and offered feedback on their respective fidelity rubrics
- (8) Each fidelity rubric was revised based on feedback from all intake and case management unit staff (see Table 3).

## STUDY 1 FINDINGS

### Intake Unit

The intake unit's overall fidelity to Foster Kinship's navigator program manual was 93%, or 207 out of a possible 222 protocol tasks (see Table 4). When broken down by sections, the PreIntake's fidelity percentage was 89% (123/138), while the fidelity percentage for the Post-Intake was 100% (84/84). Fidelity percentages for the Pre-Intake's four components were 92% (11/12) for the two "Introduction" protocol tasks, 96% (52/54) for the nine "Demographic" protocol tasks, 95% (40/42) for the seven "Background" protocol tasks, and 67% (20/30) for the five "Call Closing" protocol tasks. The fidelity percentage for Post-Intake's three components was 100%. Thirty-six out of 36 protocol tasks were completed for the "Administrative" component, 12 out of 12 protocol tasks were completed for the "Scheduling" component, and 36 out of 36 protocol tasks were completed for the "Data Entry" component.

### Case Management Unit

The overall fidelity to Foster Kinship's navigator program manual for the case management unit was 96%, or 260 out of a possible 270 protocol tasks (see Table 5). Fidelity percentages for the Pre-Case Planning, Case Planning, and Date Entry sections were 96% (150/157), 95% (62/65), and 100% (48/48), respectively. Fidelity percentages, across the three components, ranged from 100% to 88%. "Pre-work" (64/64), "Assessment" (18/18), and "Technical Assistance" (11/11) Preston Management & Organizational Consulting Page 15 components each had 100% compliance. "Administrative" and "Referral" components possessed fidelity percentages of 95% (56/59) and 92% (33/36), respectively. Lastly, the fidelity percentage for the "Greetings" component was 88% (30/34).

## STUDY 2 DESCRIPTION: OUTCOME EVALUATION

The evaluation used a quasi-experimental design with propensity score matching to replicate random assignment's capacity to remove biasing between-group differences. This evaluation followed three steps to create comparison groups: 1) classify children as either part of an intervention group or comparison group; 2) identify salient characteristics from a review of the literature; 3) use a statistical matching algorithm to match

children from the intervention group with children from the comparison group based on the set of pre-identified characteristics.

## STUDY 2 DATA MEASURES

- Nevada’s Clark County DFS
- Foster Kinship Navigator Program

## STUDY 2 STUDY FINDINGS

With respect to the multivariate logistic regression analyses, hypothesis 1 predicted that formal kinship caregivers, who receive Foster Kinship navigator program services, will be statistically and significantly more likely to become licensed by Clark County DFS than their counterparts who do not receive Foster Kinship navigator services (access to services). As expected, support was observed for this hypothesis as the intervention group was 3.40 times more likely to become licensed than the comparison group (b-weight = 1.22,  $p > .05$ ). In terms of effect size, the Cohen’s D for this finding was .68 (see Table 20).

Hypothesis 2 predicted that formal kinship caregivers, who receive Foster Kinship navigator program services, will be statistically and significantly more likely to not experience a placement disruption than their counterparts who do not receive Foster Kinship navigator services (placement stability). As with the first hypothesis, hypothesis 2 was also supported. The intervention group was 2.99 times more likely not to experience a placement disruption than the comparison group (b-weight = 1.10,  $p > .05$ ). The Cohen’s D for this finding was .60 (see Table 21).

Jointly, these findings offer consistent evidence for the outcome efficacy of Foster Kinship’s navigator program. As such, this outcome evaluation is the first known quantitative study to report statistically significant findings for a navigator program using a quasi-experimental research design with matched groups.

## SOURCE

Preston, M. S. (2021, February). *Foster Kinship Navigator Program: A two study mixed-method evaluation project*. Preston Management and Organizational Consulting. Retrieved from <https://www.fosterkinship.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Foster-Kinship-Navigator-Evaluation-2021.pdf>

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## New Hampshire

Resource guide for New Hampshire Relative Caregivers  
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NH

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NH Children’s Trust Fund Kinship Navigator Program  
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## KINSHIP FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING, NEW JERSEY

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Family Group Decision Making, Case Management, Assessment Tools**

Implemented as part of a 2009 Family Connections Grant, the Children's Home Society of New Jersey developed a voluntary Family Group Decision Making Model (FGDM) that included three phases: 1) Recruitment Phase, where caregivers and their children participate in the center's programming and activities and establish rapport with staff, 2) Participation Phase, where families that express interest receive case management services and receive help with a wide variety of issues, and 3) FGDM Phase, where Phase II families have the opportunity to hold an FGDM conference.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. Most kinship caregivers who are not in CPS system are grandparents raising their grandchildren, and many of these kin families begin to experience increased crisis and problems when kin children reach adolescence just as caregivers enter advancing years. The intent of the project design was to establish a positive working relationship with kin caregivers so when problems arose, instead of wanting to give up the children, the caregiver could reach out to the GrandFamily Success Center. The center could help in times of a small crisis or large challenge, to support them in solving their self-identified problems, using case management, linkages to services they were unaware of or hesitant to access, individual and group counseling, advocacy, and family group decision making meetings.

(NOTE: Both a final report [1] including an outcome evaluation and a separate evaluation [2] published in the *Child Welfare Journal* were produced as a result of this program. Both are analyzed below.)

### TARGET POPULATION

Target population 1: Kinship families caring for children at risk of entering or re-entering the child welfare system in Mercer County, New Jersey.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 1

Outcome Study 1: The evaluation examined the impact of providing FGDM to kinship caregivers and their kin children. Outcomes for families were compared between families that received case management and participated in FGDM (Phase III) and families that received case management services only (Phase II). Caregiver and child-level information was collected via in-person and telephone interviews at baseline and at 2-3 months after the completion of services.

## DATA MEASURES 1

- Family Needs Scale (Adapted)
- In-house Child Wellbeing Measure

## STUDY FINDINGS 1

### Family Needs Scale (Adapted)

- Findings were non-significant

### In-house Child Wellbeing Measure

- Significant improvement in mean Health Care subscale scores
- Reports of out-of-home placement
- Reports of Subsequent Maltreatment • Client Satisfaction Questionnaire

### Reports of out-of-home placement

- Findings were non-significant

### Reports of Subsequent Maltreatment

- Findings were non-significant

### Client Satisfaction Questionnaire

- Significant improvement in satisfaction with the amount of help received

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 2

Outcome Study 2: Randomized control trial where caregivers were randomly assigned to either more intensive, enhanced services group or to the traditional brief navigator intervention. Data was collected pre and post intervention across a 33-month project.

## DATA MEASURES 2

- Family Needs Scale (FNS)
- Parental Stress Index (PSI) or Stress Index for Parents of Adolescents (SIPA)
- Rand Medical Social Support Survey
- SACWIS Data

## STUDY FINDINGS 2

### Family Needs Scale

- Significant decrease in intensity of needs for enhanced services families relative to control at posttest

### Parental Stress Index

- Findings non-significant

### Rand Medical Social Support Survey

- Findings non-significant

### SACWIS Data

- Findings non-significant

### SOURCE 1

Children's Home Society of New Jersey. (2015). *Kinship Family Group Decision Making: Reporting Period: September 30, 2011 to September 30, 2014: Final Report*. Retrieved from [https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb\\_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27DOCS\\_DE2+ph+is+%27%27The+Children%E2%80%99s+Home+Society+of+New+Jersey%27%27%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27DOCS_DE2+ph+is+%27%27The+Children%E2%80%99s+Home+Society+of+New+Jersey%27%27%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29)

### SOURCE 2

Feldman, L. H., & Fertig, A. (2013). Measuring the impact of enhanced kinship navigator services for informal kinship caregivers using an experimental design. *Child Welfare, Medline*, 92(6), 41–62.

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## New Mexico

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## NEW YORK STATE (NYS) KINSHIP NAVIGATOR COUNTY COLLABORATION, NEW YORK

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### **Key characteristics: Case Management, County Collaborative, Outreach & Engagement**

The New York State Kinship Navigator County Collaboration Demonstration Project was implemented as part of a 2012 Family Connections Grant. When the project started, a statewide Kinship Navigator program had already been funded, which provides information, referral, advocacy, and education services through nine Localized Kinship Service (LKS) providers (i.e., case management and support groups). The Collaboration Project's goal was to create a unified system of kinship services through 1) Collaborations between Child Welfare, TANF, and Kinship Navigator, 2) Enhanced outreach to build community capacity, 3) Improvement in the identification/engagement of kinship families, and 4) Improvement in service utilization in five participating counties.

### **THEORY OF CHANGE**

Not specified. The most frequent requests received from informal kinship caregivers are related to financial and legal assistance. Since child welfare workers are not integrated with TANF workers in the localities targeted by the grant, child welfare staff do not refer kin caregivers to public assistance. Additionally, many kin caregivers have very little understanding of their legal rights regarding the care and custody of their children. This project sought to address these issues by increasing collaboration between the child welfare and TANF agencies, providing information and referral services, some advocacy assistance, and educational trainings, with the ultimate goal of enhancing kin caregivers' ability to care for their kin children.

### **TARGET POPULATION**

The target population for the County Collaboration Demonstration Project includes kinship caregiving families with TANF-eligible children in Orange, Dutchess, Ulster, Broome and Tioga Counties. The already funded KN program targets kinship families statewide.

### **OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION**

A quasi-experimental design was utilized, comparing well-being outcomes for kinship families who received enhanced services in Broom, Tioga and Orange Counties with kinship families from Dutchess and Ulster Counties who received services as usual for 1 year and then received enhanced services. Data was collected at baseline, and at 6-month and 12-month follow-up periods.

### **DATA MEASURES**

- Family Needs Scale
- Parent Stress Inventory

### **STUDY FINDINGS**

#### **Family Needs Scale**

- Significance not assessed

#### **Parent Stress Inventory**

- Pediatric Quality of Life Survey
- Child welfare administrative data
- Significance not assessed

#### **Pediatric Quality of Life Survey**

- Significance not assessed

#### **Child welfare administrative data**

- Significance not assessed

## SOURCE

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2016). *Site Visit Report: New York State Kinship Navigator County Collaboration Project*. Retrieved from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/nykinship.pdf>

# SUPPORT GROUPS FOR GRANDPARENT CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND DELAYS, NEW YORK

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### Key characteristics: Support Groups, Case Management

This program offers supports and education on financial issues, guardianship, respite care, emotional support and assistance with system navigation (including health care, educational support and housing systems).

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified.

## TARGET POPULATION

Grandparent caregivers who assumed primary care of a child in two of New York City's five boroughs.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 1

Randomized control trial aimed at reducing symptoms of depression and increase the sense of empowerment and caregiving mastery. The evaluation used a partial cross over control group which was waitlisted and given intervention after 3-month posttest assessment. The control group's 3- to 6-month results were compared to the preintervention to 3-month results of the experimental group.

## DATA MEASURES 1

- Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (CES-D)
- Family Empowerment Scale
- Caregiver Mastery Scale

## STUDY FINDINGS 1

### Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (CES-D)

- Significant decrease in symptoms of depression from baseline to 3-months and an increase in those symptoms for the control group

### Family Empowerment Scale

- Significant improvements in family subscale from baseline to 3-months for intervention group compared to control group
- Significant improvements in services subscale from baseline to 3-months for intervention group compared to control group

- Significant improvements in caregiver empowerment from baseline to 3-months for intervention group compared to control group

#### **Caregiver Mastery Scale**

- Significant improvements in sense of caregiver mastery from baseline to 3-months in intervention group compared to comparison group

#### **SOURCE 1**

McCallion, P., Janicki, M. P., & Kolomer, S. R. (2004). Controlled evaluation of support groups for grandparent caregivers of children with developmental disabilities and delays. *American Journal on Mental Retardation*, 109(5), 352–442. [https://doi.org/10.1352/0895-8017\(2004\)109<352:CEOSGF>2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1352/0895-8017(2004)109<352:CEOSGF>2.0.CO;2)

#### **OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 2**

Study designed to examine the needs of grandparents caring for children with intellectual and other developmental disabilities who were offered a minimum of 6 support group meetings

#### **DATA MEASURES 2**

- Intake Questionnaire

#### **STUDY FINDINGS 2**

Significance not assessed, descriptive statistics only.

#### **SOURCE 2**

Mccallion, P., Janicki, M. P., Grant-Griffin, L., & Kolomer, S. (2000). Grandparent Carers II: Service Needs and Service Provision Issues. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 33(3), 57–84. [https://doi.org/10.1300/J083v33n03\\_04](https://doi.org/10.1300/J083v33n03_04)

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Kinship Caregiver Resources  
NCCARE 360  
NC

<https://nccare360.org/resources>

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## Ohio

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Kinship Navigator Program  
Ohio Foster, Adoption and Kinship Care  
OH  
<https://fosterandadopt.jfs.ohio.gov>

## KINSHIP SUPPORTS INTERVENTION, OHIO

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Case Management, Family Assessments, Caregiver Support Plans**

Implemented as part of a Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration, the Intervention helps kinship caregivers, navigate the child welfare system and connect them to federal, state, and local resources. Kinship coordinators or other designated child welfare kinship staff complete several tools for each kinship family, including a home assessment that evaluates the caregiver’s ability and willingness to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of children placed in their care, and a needs assessment that identifies services and supports that the

caregivers need. A caregiver support plan is developed in accordance with the needs assessment, and the needs assessment is updated on a quarterly basis to ensure that services and supports continue to address changes in the family's needs over time. A web-based training and a comprehensive manual were both developed.

## **THEORY OF CHANGE**

Not specified. The purpose of the intervention is to ensure that kinship caregivers have the support they need to meet the child's physical, emotional, financial, and basic needs. This is expected to lead to positive safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children.

## **TARGET POPULATION**

Kinship caregivers that are not licensed foster parents, including both custody and voluntary (but child welfare involved) cases in Ashtabula, Belmont, Clark, Crawford, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Hardin, Lorain, Medina, Muskingum, Portage, Richland, and Stark Counties.

## **OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION**

The outcome study used a matched case comparison design, comparing outcomes for children placed with kinship caregivers receiving intervention services with two separate comparison groups: 1) matched children placed in non-kinship foster care in comparison counties and 2) matched children placed with kinship caregivers in comparison counties not implementing the intervention. The study examined placement stability, time in placement, substantiated/indicated re-reports of abuse/neglect, and re-entry into out-of-home care at 6-month, 12-month, and 18-month follow-up periods.

## **DATA MEASURES**

- Child welfare administrative data (Ohio SACWIS)
- Family Resource Scale (within group pre-post comparison only)

## **STUDY FINDINGS**

### **Child welfare administrative data (Ohio SACWIS)**

- Kinship care was used as a placement option significantly more in demonstration counties than comparison counties
- Kinship children in demonstration counties experienced significantly greater placement stability (i.e., fewer placement moves) than matched children in foster care and in kinship care in comparison counties
- Kinship children in demonstration counties reached permanency in significantly fewer days than matched children in foster care and in kinship care in comparison counties
- Kinship children in demonstration counties were significantly less likely to experience abuse or neglect after exiting care than matched children in foster care in comparison counties
- Kinship children in demonstration counties were significantly less likely to re-enter out-of-home than matched children in foster care in comparison counties

### **Family Resource Scale (within group pre-post comparison only)**

- Significantly greater access to heat for house/apartment
- Significantly greater access to money for utilities
- Significantly greater access to money for monthly bills
- Significantly greater access to public assistance
- Significantly greater access to childcare while at work

- Significantly greater access to medical insurance for child
- Significantly greater access to family time
- Significantly greater access to time to socialize

## SOURCE

Human Services Research Institute, Westat, & Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago. (2016). *ProtectOHIO Final Evaluation Report: Ohio's Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project Covering the Third Waiver Period, 2010-2-15*. Retrieved from <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/ProtectOHIOThirdWaiverPeriod2010-2015FinalEvaluationReportFebruary2016.stm>

# ENHANCED KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROJECT, OHIO

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Case Management, Assessment Tools, Information & Referrals, Support Groups**

Implemented as part of a 2009 Family Connections grant, the Public Children Services Association of Ohio and Ohio county partners developed a kinship navigator program administered through local child welfare agencies and community provider organizations in seven Ohio counties. Kinship Navigators completed thorough needs assessments with caregivers to identify family strengths/needs, and provided information and referrals, case management, and support groups, as well as outreach in the community to connect with kin caregivers and educate formal and informal entities about the needs of kinship caregivers. Navigators also provided group activities including trainings and skill building workshops, social events, and legal services/ trainings for caregivers.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. The program is intended to provide formal and informal supports to kin caregivers and their families, and to help caregivers access existing supports and services to meet their own needs and the needs of the children in their care. This is expected to lead to positive safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children.

## TARGET POPULATION

Formal or informal relative and non-relative kinship caregiver families in Ashtabula, Clark, Crawford, Hardin, Lorain, Portage, and Richland Counties.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

The outcomes study used a quasi-experimental design, comparing outcomes for children served by the intervention in seven demonstration counties with similar children in seven comparison counties. A second comparison group comprised of children in non-relative foster care within demonstration counties was also used. The study was limited to children who were in agency custody. The study examined safety, permanency, and well-being measures.

## DATA MEASURES

- Family Resource Scale
- Child Welfare Administrative Data (SACWIS)

## STUDY FINDINGS

### Family Resource Scale

- Significant increase in adequate stable housing
- Significant increase in adequate food for two meals a day
- Significant increase in adequate heat for hour or apartment
- Significant increase in adequate dental care for children
- Significant increase in adequate furniture for home or apartment
- Significant increase in adequate time for family to be together
- Significant increase in adequate access to a telephone
- Significant decrease in adequate time to be alone
- Significant decrease in adequate babysitting for your child(ren)
- Significant decrease in adequate time to socialize with friends
- Significant decrease in adequate time to keep in shape or looking the way you want
- Significant decrease in adequate money to save
- Significant decrease in adequate travel/vacation

### Child Welfare Administrative Data (SACWIS)

- Fewer average days in any placement per child between Kinship Navigator children and comparison counties
- Lower rate of re-reports that resulted in out-of-home placements for children in the Kinship Navigator program than for those children in foster care

## SOURCE

Public Children's Services Association of Ohio & Human Services Research Institute. (2012). *Ohio's Fostering Connection Grant: Enhanced Kinship Navigator Project: Final Progress Report*. Retrieved from [https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb\\_grants/Blob/85012.pdf?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27%28DOCS\\_DE2+ph+is+%27%27kinship%27%27%29+AND+%28PD+T+%3D+%27%27Grantee+Final+Reports%27%27%29%27%29&m=31&order=native%28%27year%2FDescend%27%29](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Blob/85012.pdf?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27%28DOCS_DE2+ph+is+%27%27kinship%27%27%29+AND+%28PD+T+%3D+%27%27Grantee+Final+Reports%27%27%29%27%29&m=31&order=native%28%27year%2FDescend%27%29)

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## Oklahoma

Family Kinnections

Oklahoma Department of Human Services

OK

<https://www.northcare.com/index/services/child-abuse-and-prevention/>

Family KINnections

OK

Phone: (405) 858-2813

<https://familykinnections.org/>

### Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Indian Child Welfare

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## **FAMILY KINNECTIONS, OKLAHOMA**

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

#### **Key characteristics: Home-Based Care Coordination/Case Management, Assessment Tools, Flex Funds**

Implemented as part of a 2012 Family Connections Grant, Family KINnections provides home-based care coordination through community resource specialists (CRS) for child welfare involved kinship foster families. The CRS uses assessment tools and in-person/phone meetings to help kinship families identify their needs and determine what services they need to maintain stable placements. The CRS facilitates care coordination at whatever capacity is necessary to aid the kinship parent, from basic I&R to in-person support/case management. There is a specific allocation of "flex funds" that can be accessed for the purchase of concrete services or goods necessary to help the family attain stability and permanency of the child in their care.

### **THEORY OF CHANGE**

Not specified. The underlying premise of the program is that decreasing caregiver stress and increasing the number of agencies engaged in the service of foster families will lead to an increased satisfaction among kinship caregivers with the process of becoming a foster parent, and that the program will lead to increased placement stability and child well-being. In order to accomplish this, the program implemented Kinship Navigation and promoted effective partnerships among public and private agencies to ensure that kinship caregiver families and the community are better served.

### **TARGET POPULATION**

Child welfare-involved kinship foster families in Oklahoma County.

### **OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION**

The outcome study used a randomized control trial design and compared well-being and permanency (i.e., placement stability) measures over time between the intervention and control groups through data collected at baseline and every two-months for a period of up to 12 months.

### **DATA MEASURES**

- Family Needs Scale •
- Parenting Stress-Index Short Form •
- Pediatric Symptom Checklist •
- Social Support Survey

## STUDY FINDINGS

### Family Needs Scale

- Significant decrease in need for “Having Money”
- Significant decrease in need for “Doing Things I Enjoy”

### Parenting Stress-Index Short Form

- Findings were non-significant

### Pediatric Symptom Checklist

- Services Utilization Questionnaire Client Satisfaction
- Administrative Child Welfare Data
- Decreased child behavioral symptoms

### Social Support Survey

- Significant increase in levels of social support

### Services Utilization Questionnaire

- Descriptive findings only

### Administrative Child Welfare Data

- Fewer days to foster home approval
- Less likely to move out of their kinship placement (i.e. were significantly more stable)

## SOURCE

Oklahoma Department of Human Services & NorthCare Community Mental Health Center. (2015). *Family Connection Discretionary Grants: NorthCare Family KINnections Final Report*. Retrieved from [https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb\\_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27TITLE+ph+is+%27%27NorthCare+Family+KINnections+Final+Report%27%27%29&m=2&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27TITLE+ph+is+%27%27NorthCare+Family+KINnections+Final+Report%27%27%29&m=2&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29)

# KINSHIP BRIDGE, OKLAHOMA

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Intensive Family Finding, Individualized In-Home Support/Case Management, Assessment Tools**

Implemented as part of a 2009 Family Connections grant, the Oklahoma Kinship Bridge project consisted of intensive family finding and kinship navigation services for children entering or at risk of entering state custody. It was administered by Oklahoma Child Welfare Services (CWS). The Kinship Navigator program focused on assisting caregivers in learning about, finding, and using programs and services to meet the needs of the children in their care. Kinship Navigators provided one-on-one, in-home support to kinship families throughout the first 30-days of a child's placement. A kinship care orientation booklet, Bridge Kinship Care Program, was developed and published with grant funds.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not stated. Kinship families may receive little notice or training prior to a child being placed in their home and are often unprepared to 1) understand the complexities of the child welfare and legal system, and 2) to parent a child who has been traumatized due to abuse or neglect. This project sought to address these issues by providing

intensive support to kin caregivers, which was expected to maintain or improve child safety and permanency outcomes.

## TARGET POPULATION

Children in, or at-risk of entering, OKDHS custody in Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

The evaluation used a pre-post design examining maltreatment, placement type, placement timeframe, connections, and unique placements. The time frame for comparative analysis was the first six months after a child was removed. Comparison data included child welfare records entered July 1, 2008 through July 31, 2010, while intervention data included records entered August 1, 2010 through September 29, 2013. Data was broken down into: kinship foster care, regular foster care, and other. The evaluation focused on the comparison of outcomes between kinship and traditional foster care.

## DATA MEASURES

- Oklahoma's Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) data (KIDS)
- Diversion log (both from shelter and custody) and a shelter log

## STUDY FINDINGS

### Oklahoma's Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) data (KIDS)

- Significant increase in kinship placements made within 24 hours
- Significant decrease in utilizing Emergency Foster Care in both counties

### Diversion log (both from shelter and custody) and a shelter log

## SOURCE

Oklahoma Department of Human Services. (2013). *Oklahoma Kinship Bridge: A Family Connection, Final Report*. Retrieved from

[https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb\\_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27%28DOCS\\_DE2+ph+is+%27%27kinship%27%27%29+AND+%28PDT+%3D+%27%27Grantee+Final+Reports%27%27%29+AND+%28GRANT\\_STATE+%3D+%27%27OK%27%27%29%27%29&m=4&order=native%28%27year%2FDescend%27%29](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27%28DOCS_DE2+ph+is+%27%27kinship%27%27%29+AND+%28PDT+%3D+%27%27Grantee+Final+Reports%27%27%29+AND+%28GRANT_STATE+%3D+%27%27OK%27%27%29%27%29&m=4&order=native%28%27year%2FDescend%27%29)

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# Oregon

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# KEEPING FOSTER AND KIN PARENTS SUPPORTED AND TRAINED (KEEP), OREGON

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### Key characteristics: Education and Training

The objective of **KEEP** is to give parents effective tools for dealing with their child's externalizing problems, trauma, and other behavioral and emotional problems and to support them in the implementation of those tools. Curriculum topics include framing the foster/kin parents' role as that of key agents of change with opportunities to alter the life course trajectories of the children placed with them. Foster/kin parents are taught methods for creating a safe environment, encouraging child cooperation, using behavioral contingencies, strategies for self-regulation, effective limit setting, and balancing encouragement and limits. There are also sessions on dealing with difficult problem behaviors including covert behaviors, promoting school success, encouraging positive peer relationships, and strategies for managing stress brought on by providing foster care. There is an emphasis on active learning methods; illustrations of primary concepts are presented via role-plays and videotapes.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not stated. The goals of KEEP are: 1) decrease placement disruptions from foster care; 2) increase reinforcement from foster parent to the child; 3) decrease the child's emotional and behavioral problems; 4) decrease foster/kin parent stress.

## TARGET POPULATION

Caregivers of children 4 to 12 years of age in foster or kinship care placements

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 1

Randomized controlled trial - 72 foster families. This study measured the impact on children of a \$70-per-month supplement to the foster parent's normal reimbursement and of increased training and support of the foster parents through a training and support program called KEEP. The effects of foster parent drop out rates were also evaluated. Participants were randomly assigned to an intervention and two control conditions.

## DATA MEASURES 1

- Parent Daily Report

## STUDY FINDINGS 1

Results indicate that intervention parents reported lower rates of child problem behaviors, had fewer placement disruptions, and fewer parents dropped out of providing care. Limitations include small sample size, reliability on self-report measure, and lack of follow-up.

## SOURCE 1

Chamberlain, P., Moreland, S., & Reid, K. (1992). Enhanced services and stipends for foster parents: Effects on retention rates and outcomes for children. *Child Welfare*, 71(5), 387-401.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 2

Randomized controlled trial - 1400 participants (700 parents and 700 children). Parents were randomly assigned to receive 16 weeks of training, supervision and support or to casework services as usual. The intervention used was KEEP.

## DATA MEASURES 2

- Parent Daily Report Checklist (at baseline and termination)
- Parent Interview

## STUDY FINDINGS 2

Results showed higher levels of positive reinforcement and accompanying lower levels of children's behavior problems for the intervention group. Effects were strongest for the high-risk group. Limitations include generalization of parenting effects to nonstudy foster children, reliability on a self-report measure, and lack of follow-up.

## SOURCE 2

Chamberlain, P., Price, J., Leve, L. D., Laurent, H., Landsverk, J. A., & Reid, J. B. (2008). Prevention of behavior problems for children in foster care: Outcomes and mediation effects. *Prevention Science*, 9, 17-27.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 3

Pretest-posttest with comparison group. 113 participants. The purposes of this study were to evaluate the child behavior change, changes in caregiver parenting style, and permanency and placement stability at baseline and then after the KEEP intervention.

## DATA MEASURES 3

- Parent Daily Report Checklist
- Child Behavior Checklist
- Discipline and Supervision Measure
- Parenting Stress Index - Short Form

## STUDY FINDINGS 3

Results indicated that significant decreases in child behavior problems for participants in **KEEP** interventions as compared to the comparison group. Additionally, the **KEEP** group displayed a significant reduction in *PDR* scores with a display of five fewer problem behaviors reported from baseline to posttest, while the comparison group did not demonstrate any significant change. The decrease of externalizing behaviors for the **KEEP** group, as measured by the *PDR*, was not associated with decreased parental stress (as measured by the *PSI-SF*) and there was not a significant relationship for the **KEEP** group at posttest for stress and child behavior. There was no change in the discipline and supervision ratio for either the **KEEP** group or the comparison group and there was no impact of the KEEP training on permanency outcomes for foster and kinship children. In addition, for **KEEP** parents, placement stability significantly increased between baseline and postintervention when compared to the comparison group. Limitations include nonrandomization of participants, small sample size, and significant differences between the two groups at baseline.

## SOURCE 3

**Greeno, E. J., Lee, B. R., Uretsky, M. C., Moore, J. E., Barth, R. P., & Shaw, T. V. (2015).** Effects of a foster parent training intervention on child behavior, caregiver stress, and parenting style. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 25(6), 1991-2000. doi:10.1007/s10826-015-0357-6

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## Pennsylvania

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## Puerto Rico

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<http://www.adfan.pr.gov/AdministracionesAuxiliares/ServiciosEdadAvanzada/Opusculos/BROCHURE%20ABUELOS%20Y%20ABUELAS.pdf#search=abuelos>

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## Rhode Island

Family Resource Portal  
RI

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## PARTNERSHIP FOR FAMILY CONNECTIONS, RHODE ISLAND

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Peer Navigators, Professional Navigators, Social Gatherings/Family Networking**

Implemented as part of a 2009 Family Connections grant, the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association (now known as Foster Forward) developed a combined Intensive Family Finding, Family Team Decision- Making, and Kinship Navigator project geared toward children and youth in state custody. The Kinship Navigator program was comprised of Kinship Navigators known as “Grand Divas” who are themselves kinship providers. They work with a social worker who manages difficult and challenging problems that kinship families are experiencing. Kinship families contact the Grand Divas by phone or through the website; a Diva responds, collects basic information and prepares a file describing the need. The social worker and Diva consult and the Divas then offer concrete support for families in consultation with the social worker. The Divas also plan and offer social gatherings with, and for, kinship families and participate in DCYF training for staff and for prospective kinship families.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

Not stated. The project’s goal was to increase the number of children who achieve permanency and stability in their living situations by addressing extended stays in DCYF custody and multiple placements.

### TARGET POPULATION

Children and youth aged birth to 21 in the custody of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) statewide.

### OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

The outcome study used a randomized control trial. Using the State’s Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACIWS) data (RICHIST), children and youth were randomly assigned to either the intervention or comparison group and were followed for up to three years and five months. The study examined placement stability and permanency (legal exits) between the two groups.

### DATA MEASURES

- State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) data (RICHIST) and federal reporting datasets provided by project staff

### STUDY FINDINGS

**State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) data (RICHIST) and federal reporting datasets provided by project staff**

- Significantly more children in the comparison group experiencing placement changes than intervention
- Significant increases in the number of cases in which both kin and fictive kin connections grew

## SOURCE

RI Foster Parents Association & Rhode Island Partnership for Family Connections. (2013). *Combined Program: Intensive Family Finding, Kinship Navigator, and FGDM, Final Report*. Retrieved from [https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb\\_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27%28TITLE+ph+is+%27%27Family+Connections+Discretionary+Grants%27%27%29+AND+%28PDT+%3D+%27%27Grantee+Final+Reports%27%27%29%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%2FDescend%27%29](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27%28TITLE+ph+is+%27%27Family+Connections+Discretionary+Grants%27%27%29+AND+%28PDT+%3D+%27%27Grantee+Final+Reports%27%27%29%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%2FDescend%27%29)

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Kinship Navigator Program Halos  
South Carolina Department of Social Services  
SC  
<https://charlestonhalos.org>

## SC CONNECTING FOR KIDS KINSHIP NAVIGATOR, SOUTH CAROLINA

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

#### Key characteristics: Case Management, Assessment Tools, Trainings

Implemented as part of a 2009 Family Connections Grant, the SC Connecting for Kids Kinship Navigator program is comprised of Kinship Navigators who gather background information from child welfare caseworkers on referred kinship families and then contact caregivers to explain the program and offer services. The navigator then uses the Family Needs Scale to assess family needs, refers the caregiver to services, and follows up with the caregiver every 30-days, re-assessing the family using the Family Needs Scale for a three-month period. Learning opportunities, similar to training offered to foster parents, were also available to kinship caregivers, which covered five basic topics: Dealing with Feelings in Kinship Care, Loving Discipline, Redefining Roles and Relationships, “Tune in and Listen up,” and Visitation.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified. While children benefit from kinship care, some children may still enter or re-enter the foster care system because the family does not know about or does not access available community resources or services. The Kinship Navigator component of the project was designed as support for kin (blood or fictive) connections who became caregivers for children to prevent a foster care placement. The goal of the project was to ensure that kin caregivers in navigator counties would know about and be able to access needed services.

## TARGET POPULATION

Voluntary kinship caregivers of children whose parents were receiving child welfare intervention services in Aiken, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Dorchester, and Greenville Counties.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

The final report described the outcome study as using a quasi-experimental design with an intervention and a comparison group. However, there were significant limitations with the availability of SACWIS data. Therefore, findings presented in the report centered around the intervention group and concentrated on rates of entry into foster care and well-being outcomes using Family Needs Scale and pre-post training survey results.

## DATA MEASURES

- State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS)

## STUDY FINDINGS

- Family Needs Scale
- Training Surveys

### State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS)

- Specific findings were not reported to this measure

### Family Needs Scale

- Significance not assessed

### Training Surveys

- Significant increase in knowledge of Dealing with Feelings in Kinship Care
- Significant increase in knowledge of Loving Discipline
- Significant increase in knowledge of Redefining Roles and Relationships
- Significant increase in knowledge of Tune in and Listen up
- Significant increase in knowledge of visitation

## SOURCE

South Carolina Department of Social Services. (2013). *Connecting for Kids Kinship Navigator Program: Final Report*. Retrieved from

[https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb\\_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27DOCS\\_DE2+ph+is+%27%272-1-1%27%27%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Record?r=1&rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27DOCS_DE2+ph+is+%27%272-1-1%27%27%27%29&m=1&order=native%28%27year%27Descend%27%29)

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# South Dakota

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## Tennessee

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## CASEY FAMILY PROGRAM KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PILOT, WASHINGTON

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### **Key characteristics: Assessment Tools, Individualized Support, Information & Referrals**

Casey Family Programs implemented the Kinship Navigator project in July 2004, in collaboration with the Washington State Kinship Oversight Committee. Four Kinship Navigator positions were created to provide information and referrals, supportive listening, advocacy, and education to kinship caregivers.

### **THEORY OF CHANGE**

Not specified. Kinship caregivers have difficulty accessing services. Many kinship caregivers find the “system” cumbersome and difficult to navigate, describing widely varying levels of helpfulness, professionalism and knowledge among service providers. The premise of the program was to establish “Kinship Navigators” as community-based liaisons to provide a local and consistent direct service function and help reduce or eliminate system barriers to accessing services. By proactively providing information, support, and access to services for kinship families, the program was expected to avert crises and potentially reduce complex situations requiring intensive and more costly services.

### **TARGET POPULATION**

Kinship caregivers in Seattle and Yakima.

### **OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION**

The evaluation employed a single group pre/post design involving self-reported needs assessment data. Data on needs was collected during the first six months and the last three months of the study period.

### **DATA MEASURES**

- Family Needs Scale (Adapted)

### **STUDY FINDINGS**

#### **Family Needs Scale (Adapted)**

- Significant improvement of caregivers in 3-month follow up in support groups
- Significant improvement of caregivers in 3-month follow up in help dealing with social services
- Significant improvement of caregivers in 3-month follow up in help understanding government agencies
- Significant improvement of caregivers in 3-month follow up in receiving legal assistance
- Significant improvement of caregivers in 3-month follow up in receiving dental care for family
- Significant improvement of caregivers in 3-month follow up in help getting/keeping public assistance

### **SOURCE**

TriWest Group. (2005). *Casey Family Programs Kinship Caregiver Navigator Pilot, Final Pilot Evaluation Report*. Seattle, WA: TriWest Group.

## **FAMILY CONNECTION PROJECT – KINSHIP NAVIGATOR & TRIBAL NAVIGATOR, WASHINGTON**

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### Key characteristics: Assessment Tools, Individualized Support, Information & Referrals

Implemented as part of a 2009 Family Connections grant, the Family Connection Project wove together three stand-alone models: Family Team Decision Making (FTDM), Intensive Family Finding (IFF)/Family Search & Engagement (FSE), and Kinship/Tribal Navigator (KN). Kinship Navigator services were provided by specially trained Kinship Navigator staff, employed by Catholic Family & Child Service. Kinship caregivers participated in an intake interview with Kinship Navigators and completed the Family Needs Scale assessment, enabling the Navigator to assess client needs and assist caregivers in navigating community-based resources. Caregivers were encouraged, but not required, to return six months following intake to complete a Family Needs Scale follow-up assessment.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Not stated. The program aimed to broaden the scope of existing services and change the delivery methods and practices in order to contribute to increased positive outcomes for dependent children and their families. Specifically, the Kinship Navigator component of the project sought to achieve this by providing direct, individualized support to kin caregivers based on their family needs.

## TARGET POPULATION

Kinship families and children in Washington's Congressional District 4 and 5. Further eligibility criteria include: 1) first time client is the primary caregiver of a child under age 19 and the child is living in the client's residence without the biological parent present; 2) the child is related to the caregiver by blood or marriage or has an established fictive kin relationship; 3) fictive kin must pass a criminal background check; 4) the caregiver's annual household income must fall at, or below, 200% of the Federal Poverty Level Income Guidelines.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION

The study design is a within-group, longitudinal analysis examining case activity, services, and placement permanency factors. Delays obtaining IRB approval required the evaluation team to significantly alter the original design (a quasi-experimental design). Researchers used descriptive statistics to examine rates of adoption by relatives, level of family involvement, the percentage of relative placements, and familial connections for youth.

## DATA MEASURES

- Program databases

## STUDY FINDINGS

### Program databases

- Significance not assessed

## SOURCE

Aultman-Bettridge, T., & Selby, P. (2012). *Family Connections Demonstration Project Final Progress Report*. Boulder, CO: TriWest Group.

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## Multiple Locations

# KEEP (KEEPING FOSTER AND KIN PARENTS SUPPORTED AND TRAINED), MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Training, Support Group, Financial Support**

KEEP provides kin and foster caregivers with an informed skill-set to parent in a manner that will address child trauma, externalized problems, and behavioral and emotional challenges exhibited by the child. Foster and kinship parents are taught strategies to create a safe environment, to encourage child cooperation, how to use behavioral contingencies, strategies for self-regulation, effective limit setting, and balancing encouragement and limits.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified.

### TARGET POPULATION

Kinship and foster caregivers of children ages 4 to 12.

### OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 1

The evaluation used a random control trial to determine if increased support and training for foster parents had an influence on their continued willingness to provide care, and whether an additional monthly stipend would affect their dropout rates. Foster parents were randomly assigned to one of three groups: 1) enhanced support and training (ES&T) plus an increased payment of \$70/month; 2) increased payment of \$70/month only (IPO); or 3) foster care as usual, neither enhanced support/training nor increased payment. The groups were assessed within 3 weeks of placement, and again at 3, 6, and 9 months.

### DATA MEASURES 1

- Parent Daily Report (PDR) Checklist
- Interviews with CSD certifiers (for dropout/retention rates)
- Staff Impressions Measure questionnaire
- Foster Parent and caseworker surveys

## STUDY FINDINGS 1

### Parent Daily Report (PDR) Checklist

- Significance not assessed

### Interviews with CSD certifiers (for dropout/retention rates)

- Children in ES&T homes had significantly more successful days in care (defined as “children stayed in their study foster homes”) in care than children in either of the other two groups

### Staff Impressions Measure questionnaire

- Findings non-significant

### Foster Parent and caseworker surveys

- Significance not assessed

## SOURCE 1

Chamberlain, P. (1992). Enhanced Services and Stipends for Foster Parents: Effects on Retention Rates and Outcomes for Children. *Child Welfare*, 71(5), 387–401.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 2

The study used a randomized control trial designed to examine the effects of KEEP on both child behavior and parenting practices. Based on the baseline measures, families were split into high- and low-risk groups for analysis. Families received 16 weeks of training and were assessed at baseline and termination (5-months post baseline).

## DATA MEASURES 2

- Parent Daily Report Checklist
- Project-specific positive reinforcement scale

## STUDY FINDINGS 2

### Parent Daily Report Checklist

- Significant decrease in child behavioral problems for intervention group compared to control group **Positive**

### Reinforcement Scale

- Significant increase in parent positive reinforcement

## SOURCE 2

Chamberlain, P., Price, J., Leve, L. D., Laurent, H., Landsverk, J. A., & Reid, J. B. (2008). Prevention of behavior problems for children in foster care: Outcomes and mediation effects. *Prevention Science*, 9, 17-27.

## OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 3

The study employed a two-group pretest-posttest study using an intervention and non-equivalent comparison group to evaluate child behavior change, changes in caregiver parenting style, and permanency and placement stability at baseline and then after the KEEP intervention. Data was collected at baseline, and approximately six months past baseline which was two months after the completion of KEEP training.

### DATA MEASURES 3

- Parent Daily Report •
- Discipline and Supervision Measure •

### STUDY FINDINGS 3

#### Parent Daily Report

Parenting Stress Index

State child welfare administrative data

- Significant differences in means between groups with KEEP group reporting an average of three problem behaviors and comparison group reporting about six.
- Significant reduction in KEEP group from baseline to posttest
- Finding 3

#### Parenting Stress Index

• Findings non-significant **Discipline and Supervision Measure**

• Findings non-significant

#### State child welfare administrative data

• Findings non-significant

### SOURCE 3

Greeno, E. J., Lee, B. R., Uretsky, M. C., Moore, J. E., Barth, R. P., & Shaw, T. V. (2015). Effects of a foster parent training intervention on child behavior, caregiver stress, and parenting style. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 25(6), 1991-2000. doi:10.1007/s10826-015-0357-6

### ADDITIONAL STUDIES

This program was identified through the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse website. The CEBC lists seven additional studies related to PHG which were not reviewed due to time restraints. These include:

Price, J. M., Chamberlain, P., Landsverk, J., Reid, J., Leve, L., & Heidemarie, L. (2008). Effects of a foster parent training intervention on placement changes of children in foster care. *Child Maltreatment*, 13(1), 64-75. doi:10.1177/1077559507310612

Chamberlain, P., Price, J., Reid, J. B., & Landsverk, J. (2008). Cascading implementation of a foster and kinship parent intervention. *Child Welfare*, 87(5), 27-48. doi:10.1007/s11121-007-0080-7

DeGarmo, D. S., Chamberlain, P., Leve, L. D., & Price, J. (2009). Foster parent intervention engagement moderating child behavior problems and placement disruption. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 19(4), 423-433. doi:10.1177/1049731508329407

Price, J. M., Roesch, S., Walsh, N. E., & Landsverk, J. (2015). Effects of the KEEP foster parent intervention on child and sibling behavior problems and parental stress during a randomized implementation trial. *Prevention Science*, 16(5), 685-695. doi:10.1007/s11121-014-0532-9

Greeno, E. J., Uretsky, M. C., Lee, B. R., Moore, J. E., Barth, R. P., & Shaw, T. V. (2016). Replication of the KEEP foster and kinship parent training program for youth with externalizing behaviors. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 61, 75-82. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2015.12.003

Roberts, R., Glynn, G., & Waterman, C. (2016). 'We know it works but does it last?' The implementation of the KEEP foster and kinship carer training programme in England. *Adoption & Fostering*, 40(3), 247- 263. doi:10.1177/0308575916657956

Price, J. M., Roesch, S., & Burce, C. M. (2019). The effects of the KEEP foster parent training intervention on child externalizing and internalizing problems. *Developmental Child Welfare*, 1(1), 5-21.  
doi:10.1177/2516103218812092

## PROJECT HEALTHY GRANDPARENTS (PHG), MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Key characteristics: Social work, health assessments, legal screening**

The Project Healthy Grandparents (PHG) provides case management by master's prepared social workers, as well as health services by registered nurses. PHG's comprehensive services include assessments/health screenings, monthly home visitations by registered nurses and social workers, parenting education classes and support groups, legal service referrals, as well as early intervention services for young children. In many cases, referrals are made to other healthcare or community service providers, and transportation services are available, if needed. Once enrolled, participants have access to all PHG services free of charge for one year. Participation in support groups is available after completion of the full year of comprehensive services.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

Not specified.

### TARGET POPULATION

Grandparent-headed families of grandchildren (ages birth to 16 years) in which the birth parents are absent.

### OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 1

The evaluation employed a pre and posttest quasi-experimental one-group design to test the feasibility and efficacy of a six-month multimodal home-based intervention to improve the well-being of grandparents raising grandchildren.

### DATA MEASURES 1

- Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI)
- Family Resource Scale (FSI)
- Family Support Scale
- Short Form-36 (SF-36) General Health Survey

### STUDY FINDINGS 1

#### **Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI)**

- Significant improvements in hostility scores
- Significant improvements in interpersonal sensitivity scores

#### **Family Resource Scale (FSI)**

- Findings were non-significant

#### **Family Support Scale (FSS)**

- Changes in individual items not reported

- Significant improvements in mean score

#### **Short Form-36 (SF-36) General Health Survey**

- Changes in individual items not reported
- Significant improvements in mean Mental Health scores

#### **SOURCE 1**

Kelley, S. J., Yorker, B. C., Whitley, D. M., & Sipe, T. A. (2001). A multimodal intervention for grandparents raising grandchildren: Results of an exploratory study. *Child Welfare*, 80(1), 27-50.

#### **OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 2**

One-group pretest-posttest study with 120 grandmothers and great-grandmothers in the Atlanta area. The purpose of this study was to determine the value of a home-based intervention designed to enhance family adaptation to stress by improving the physical and psychosocial well-being of grandmothers raising grandchildren.

#### **DATA MEASURES 2**

- Grandparent Demographic Form (GDF)
- The Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI)
- Family Resource Scale (FRS)
- Family Support Scale (FSS)
- Short Form 36 (SF-36) General Health Survey
- Family Crisis Oriented Personal Evaluation Scales (F-COPES)

#### **STUDY FINDINGS 2**

##### **Grandparent Demographic Form**

- Descriptive statistics only

##### **Brief Symptom Inventory**

- Significant improvement in psychological distress

##### **Family Resource Scale**

- Significant improvement in adequacy of family resources

##### **Family Support Scale**

- Significant improvement in social support

##### **Short-Form 36 General Health Survey**

- Not statistically significant

##### **Family Crisis Oriented Personal Evaluation Scales**

- Significant improvement in family coping

#### **SOURCE 2**

Kelley, S. J., Whitley, D., & Sipe, T. (2007). Results of an interdisciplinary intervention to improve the well-being and physical functioning of African American grandmothers raising grandchildren. *Journal of Intergenerational Relations*, 5(3), 45-64.

#### **OUTCOME STUDY DESCRIPTION 3**

One-group pretest-posttest study with 529 participants examining which health attributes are positively impacted by the PHG intervention designed to improve the physical and emotional wellbeing of grandmothers raising grandchildren. Data was collected at baseline and at 12 months when intervention was completed.

### DATA MEASURES 3

- Short Form 36 (SF-36) General Health Survey

### STUDY FINDINGS 3

#### Short Form 36 General Health Survey

- Significant improvement in mean score for vitality
- Significant improvement in mean score for physical effects on role functioning
- Significant improvement in mean score emotional effects on role functioning
- Significant improvement in mean score for mental health

### SOURCE 3

Kelley, S. J., Whitley, D. M., & Campos, P. E. (2010). Grandmothers raising grandchildren: Results of an intervention to improve health outcomes. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 42, 379-386.

### ADDITIONAL STUDIES

This program was identified through the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse website. The CEBC lists five additional studies related to PHG which were not reviewed due to time restraints. These include:

Kelley, S. J., Whitley, D. M. & Campos, P. E. (2013). African American caregiving grandmothers: Results of an intervention to improve health indicators and health promotion behaviors. *Journal of Family Nursing*, 19(1), 53-73. doi:10.1177/1074840712462135

Kelley, S. J., Whitley, D. M., & Campos, P. E. (2019). Differential impact of an intervention for grandmothers raising grandchildren. *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*, 17(2), 141-162. doi:10.1080/15350770.2018.1535351

Whitley, D. M., Kelley, S. J., & Campos, P. E. (2011). Perceptions of family empowerment among African American custodial grandmothers raising grandchildren: Thoughts for research and practice. *Families in Society: Journal of Contemporary Social Services*, 383-389. doi:10.1606/1044-3894.4148

Whitley, D. M., Kelley, S. J., & Lamis, D. A. (2016). Depression, social support, and mental health: A longitudinal mediation analysis in African American custodial grandmothers. *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, 82(2-3), 166-187. doi:10.1177/0091415015626550

Whitley, D. M., Lamis, D. & Kelley, S. J. (2016). Mental health stress, family resources and psychological distress: A longitudinal mediation analysis in African American Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 72, 563–579.