# Kinship Navigation in Nevada



We believe that when children can't be with their parents, they should be with their family. Foster Kinship was established as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2011 to help the 30,000 children in Nevada living with relative caregivers.

Foster Kinship was founded with a mission to "strengthen the kinship caregivers' capacity to provide **safe**, **stable**, and **nurturing** homes for children.

Foster Kinship is the statewide Kinship Navigator Program in Nevada, and we exclusively serves kinship children and families from our Las Vegas and Reno **kinship resource centers**.

By helping to **"keep home in the family"** for vulnerable children, Foster Kinship envisions a safe and healthy childhood for ALL children in kinship care.



#### **Free Services:**

- Information and Referral
- Case Management
- Emergency Resources
- Respite Care
- Support Groups
- Family Activities
- Advocacy
- Parenting Training
- Car Seat/CPR Training
- Notary/Copy Service
- Transportation

#### **Quick Stats:**



#### Service Delivery:

- Helpline
- Kinship Resource
  Locator Tool
- Website
- Kinship Resource
  Centers
- Real time Virtual
- Facebook Group
- Home Visits
- Field Visits
- Statewide program providing direct services
- 2021- Over 2,000 kinship families served with over 15,000 unique services
- Staff include: 13 Family Advocates, 3 Childcare Specialists, 3 Trainers

# Program Model



**MISSION:** Foster Kinship strengthens kinship caregivers' capacity to provide **safe**, **stable**, and **nurturing** homes for children.

### GOALS

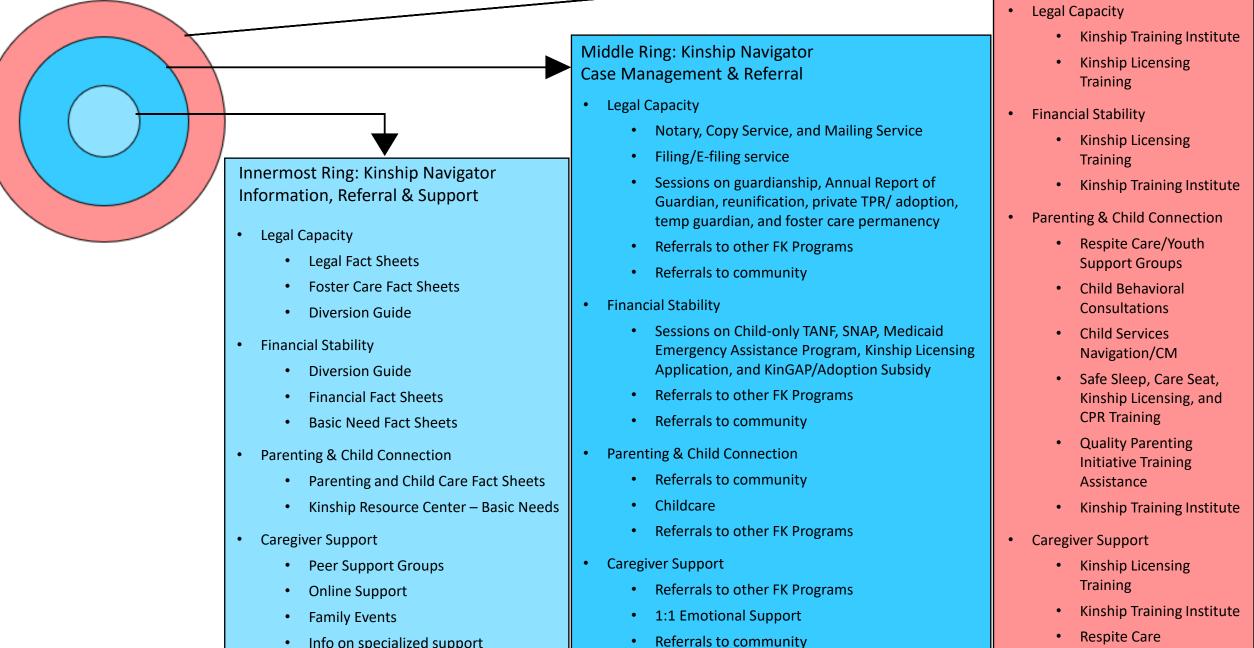
- Our first goal is to build a foundation of safety for children by **meeting immediate needs** of the kinship family.
- Our second goal is to provide the most permanent home for children by **stabilizing** the kinship family.
- Our final goal is to meet the well-being needs of children by increasing caregivers' capacity to **provide nurturing care**.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- **Legal Status:** Families are given tools to increase the stability of the placement through legal means such as guardianship or kinship foster parent licensing.
- **Financial Resources:** Families are assisted with applications for financial support and may be eligible for emergency resources from Foster Kinship.
- **Community Connection:** Families are connected with basic resources like diapers and car seats, and referrals to increase knowledge of and access to supportive programs.
- **Emotional Support:** Families have access to free support groups, respite care, caregiver education classes, and family events with other kinship families.

**POPULATION:** Target population is anyone raising relative or fictive kin's child (Formal/Diverted/Private)- Each family assessed individually.

Three Rings of Operation, each with Supports in Four Areas: Legal Capacity, Financial Stability, Parenting & Child Connection, and Caregiver Support



•

Info on specialized support •

Respite Care

**Outermost Ring: Navigator-**

Linked Foster Kinship Services

## Peer Partner Elements

- Family advocates have lived experience with foster care and/or kinship care
- Kinship Training Institute- all training is kinship informed and created/facilitated by kinship caregivers FOR kinship caregivers
- Child Welfare Training-facilitated by at least one individual with lived experience, most commonly both trainers have lived experience
- Creating the container for families to support each other
  - 24/7 online support group
  - Family events
  - In person and virtual support groups
  - 1:1 support
- Kinship Advocacy Network
- Kinship caregivers on the board of directors
- Annual statewide kinship survey

## Data and Outcomes

- Family Satisfaction (N=3252):
  - 98% of respondents report satisfaction with Foster Kinship services
- Case Plan Outcomes (N=1042):
  - Families who achieved legal capacity goals: 92%
  - Families who achieved child and parenting community connection goals: 99%
  - Families who achieved financial stability goals: 93%
  - Families who achieved caregiver support goals: 98%

#### • Pre/Post Tests (N=918):

- On average, after receiving services from Foster Kinship, families experience a positive change from baseline in 22 out of 30 possible categories on our assessment tool, with significant positive change in the following categories:
  - Someone to talk to
  - Clothes for your family
  - Money to buy necessities
  - Medical care for your family
  - Dental care for your family
  - Public assistance
  - Time for family to be together
- Outside Evaluation (N=3642):
  - Since 2018 using 3 years of administrative data (child welfare and TANF/Medicaid) matched with Foster Kinship Navigator clients
  - Kinship families who receive Foster Kinship Navigator services:
    - More likely to become licensed
    - Less likely to disrupt the placement
    - More likely to access child-only TANF

FOSTER KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM:

A TWO STUDY MIXED-METHOD EVALUATION PROJECT

DR. MARK S. PRESTON Preston Management & Organizational Consulting

Las Vegas, Nevada msprestonconsulting@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 2021

