



Cross-Program Collaboration to Best Serve Kinship Families

“Family is...
The people in your life
Who want you in theirs;
The ones who accept you
For who you are, love you
No matter what & would
Do anything to see you smile.”
~author not found



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Children, Youth & Families

Houses the Colorado Kinected Navigator Program



Early Childhood

Child Welfare Child Care
Protective Services Child Care



Economic Security

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Colorado Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)



Behavioral Health

I Matter Colorado
Behavioral health services



Adult, Aging & Disability Services

National Family Caregiver Support Program

TOGETHER,
WE EMPOWER
COLORADANS
TO THRIVE.

With five distinct offices, our work supports people and families at every stage of their journey through life - from early childhood to adult and aging services. Our work is driven by our values - shared principles that advance our mission and empower our team to make a difference everyday in every way.



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Colorado Kinship Alliance

- Made up of DCW staff, county departments of human/social services, community stakeholders and kinship caregivers
- Meets quarterly the third Tuesdays in January, April, July and October
- An opportunity to provide input on rules, forms, etc.; networking; obtain updates and resources from various programs and key stakeholders, etc.



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Kinship Foster Care Task Group

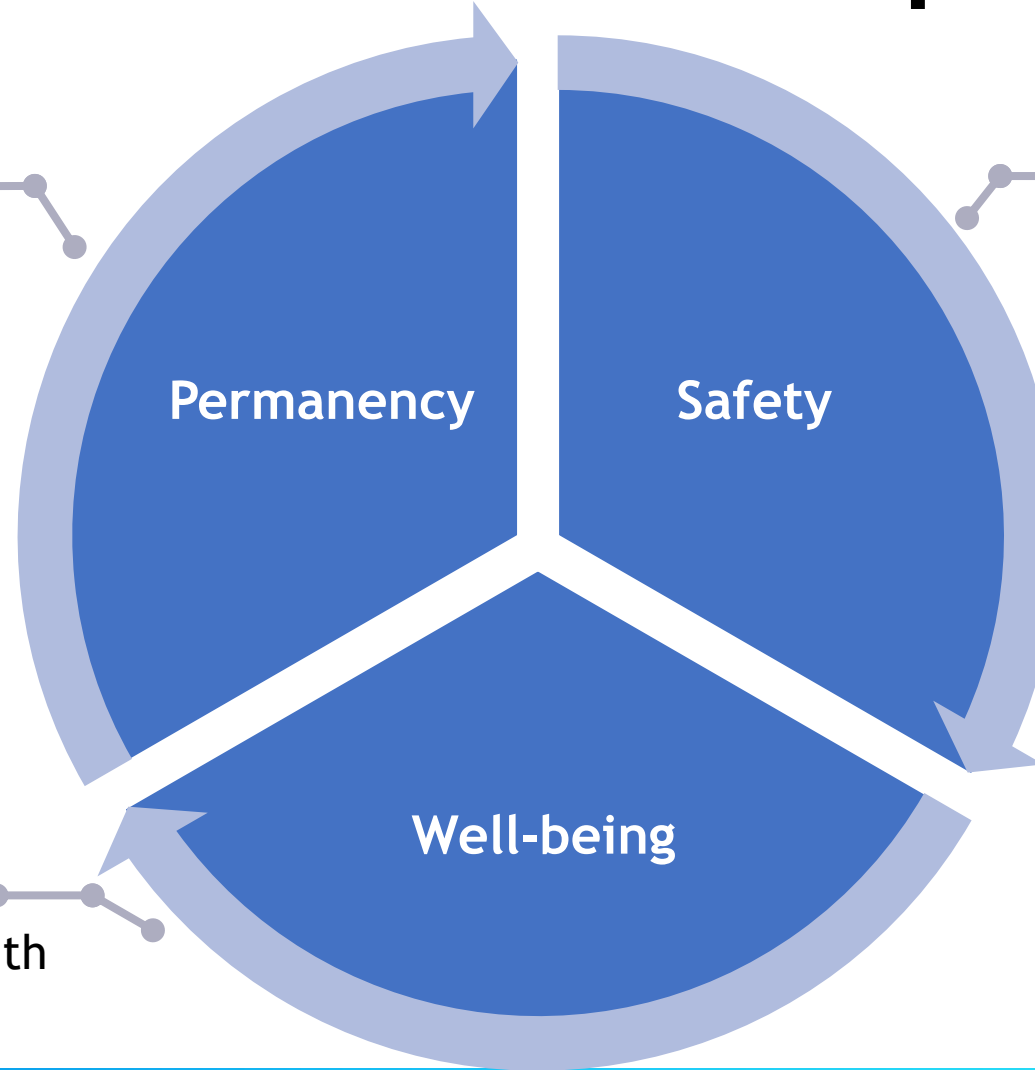
Achieve permanency more quickly through:

- Benefits such as foster care maintenance
- Eligibility for assistance agreements (both adoption and RGAP)

Reduce barriers to foster care certification by modifying requirements such as:

- training,
- non-safety certification standards,
- disqualifiers for criminal history, and
- mixed legal status

Develop a practice guide for working with kinship families



Kinship Adoption Program

- ❖ Initiated in 2011, with the first adoption occurring in 2012.
- ❖ 59 children/youth within 42 families have obtained permanency through adoption using this program.
- ❖ Children and youth served range in age from 2 to 18.
- ❖ Relationship to children/youth: grandparents, great grandparents, aunts & uncles, great aunts & great uncles, a cousin, a sibling and a non-relative kin.

- ❖ Must live in one of 7 Metro Denver counties
- ❖ Must be a citizen of the United States or lawfully present
- ❖ Must be a relative of or have a significant relationship with the child or youth
- ❖ Must be willing to make a long-term commitment to the child or youth
- ❖ Must have been caring for the child or youth for the last 12 months or more

Other eligibility criteria include:

- ❖ No current child welfare involvement or pattern of child welfare involvement
- ❖ The adoption cannot be contested by more than one parent
- ❖ Household income may not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level





THANK YOU. Questions?

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