



HALOS
Because Family Matters.®

**The HALOS Kinship Navigation Model:
A Step by Step Guide**



SECTION 1

HALOS, Kinship Care, and Navigation: An Overview



Kinship Care: SC Data

SC kinship caregivers are more likely to be women, African American, and over age 55. Overwhelmingly, they are also single, lower income, have more health problems and with lower educational attainment.



69,000

CHILDREN LIVING IN
KINSHIP CARE



4,600

CHILDREN IN
STATE CUSTODY



50%+

FALL BELOW 200%
OF THE FEDERAL
POVERTY LEVEL



What is Kinship Navigation?

- **Kinship Navigation (KN)** is a model of care where staff referred to as **Kinship Navigators** assist kinship caregivers with understanding, navigating, and accessing the system of out-of-home care support and services for children.
 - Provide caregivers with information, referrals, and advocacy services
 - Provide flexible and responsive services to kinship families based on family needs (such as health, financial, legal services, support groups, and emergency funds).
 - Designed to empower families to support and advocate for one another and therefore, strengthen their natural support systems.



GOALS

KN programs offer caregivers a single point of entry for connecting to comprehensive resources. Two rounds of Family Connection Grants funded KN programs and resulted in many positive outcomes for families:

SAFETY: Caregivers receiving navigator services achieved identified safety goals for their families.

PERMANENCY: Children in the care of caregivers receiving Navigation services had higher rates of permanency through legal guardianship and reunification.

WELL-BEING: KN programs were successful at ameliorating the needs of kinship families.



HALOS KN Services Include:

Providing caregivers with donated goods (e.g., diapers, other household goods)

Finding and connecting families to existing resources (e.g., food assistance, financial assistance, childcare, health and mental health providers)

Connecting families with services and assisting in identifying long-term solutions

Assisting caregivers in interacting with various systems (e.g., medical, educational, mental health, legal)

Assisting caregivers in working with DSS and their processes

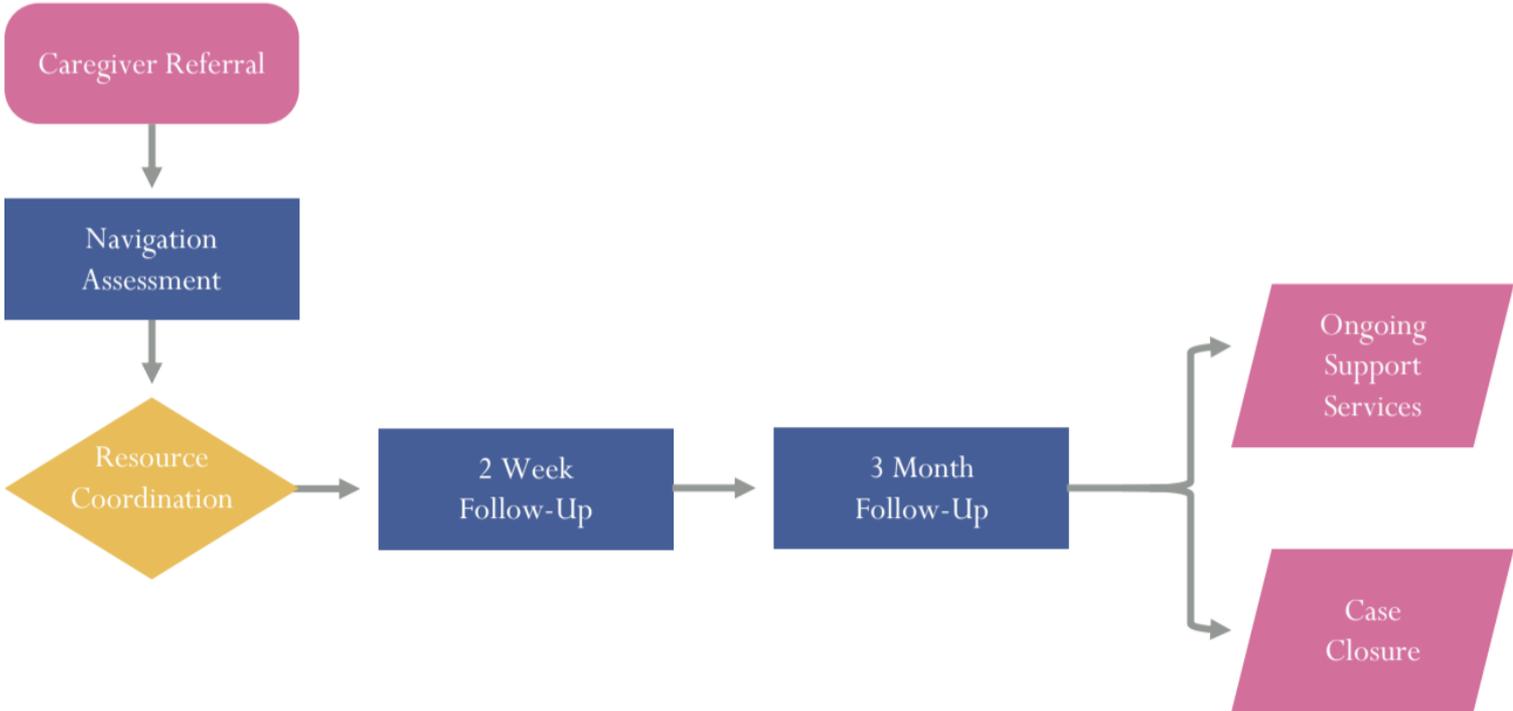
Connecting caregivers to TANF, SNAP, health insurance, or other benefits available

Connecting caregivers to/providing caregivers with advocacy and support services (e.g., attending court hearings, child and family team, and school IEP meetings)

Keeping families informed of internal support services offered (support groups, educational workshops, annual drives and special events)

Ongoing ability to communicate with families as needed, even after navigation service period has ended

HALOS KN Model: Flow of Services





SECTION 2

ENGAGING THE KINSHIP CAREGIVER



VALUES & APPROACH

- Strengths based
- Ecological framework
- Family centered
- Trauma-informed
- Culturally sensitive
- Kinship caregiver's perspective is the key, primary source of data

BUILDING TRUST

- Presenting the clear difference between the kinship program and the child welfare agency
- Home visitation - meeting a caregiver where they are, in a place they find the most comfortable
- Confidentiality - Highlight that all information they provide will not be shared with outside agencies without permission from the caregiver
- Emphasizing that supports are voluntary
- Frequent reminders about available resources
- Normalizing caregiver experiences and challenges

ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ASSESSMENT

- Questions are designed utilizing Motivational Interviewing model – elicits more and higher quality information
- Relies on caregiver as primary information source and expert in their situation
- Carefully styled, open-ended questions

Navigators use information from initial intake to develop a case plan, describe what the caregiver can expect, schedule follow-up contact.

ONGOING CONTACT

- HALOS caregivers are informed they may continue to call for resources and referrals as long as they have the child(ren)
- Combination of methods to keep clients informed about special events and offerings
 - Calls, text messaging, email listserv
 - Virtual support groups with both video and call-in options
- Info blasts and website updates over past year regarding COVID-specific assistance



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