

Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network

June 16, 2022



KINSHIP CARE
resource center



School of Social Work
Community Programs
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Mission

Our mission is to support and empower all of Michigan's kinship families through responsive information and referral services, education and training, and outreach and engagement with caregivers, service providers and communities to ensure that children in kinship families are safe, healthy, nurtured and loved.

Vision

To be the statewide central hub of information, resources, referral, and coordination for all kinship families in Michigan so that children in kinship care regardless of race, where they live, or income, achieve safety, permanence and well-being.





Who does the Kinship Care Resource Center Serve?

- Prospective kinship caregivers
- Caregivers with (epic) legal guardianship of a relative child
- Caregivers providing primary care to a relative child through informal arrangements (no legal paperwork)
- Caregivers with a Power of Attorney of a relative child
- Caregivers of relative children who are juvenile guardians
- Caregivers providing foster care for a relative child
- Caregivers who have adopted a relative child
- Birth parents with questions about kinship care
- Service providers



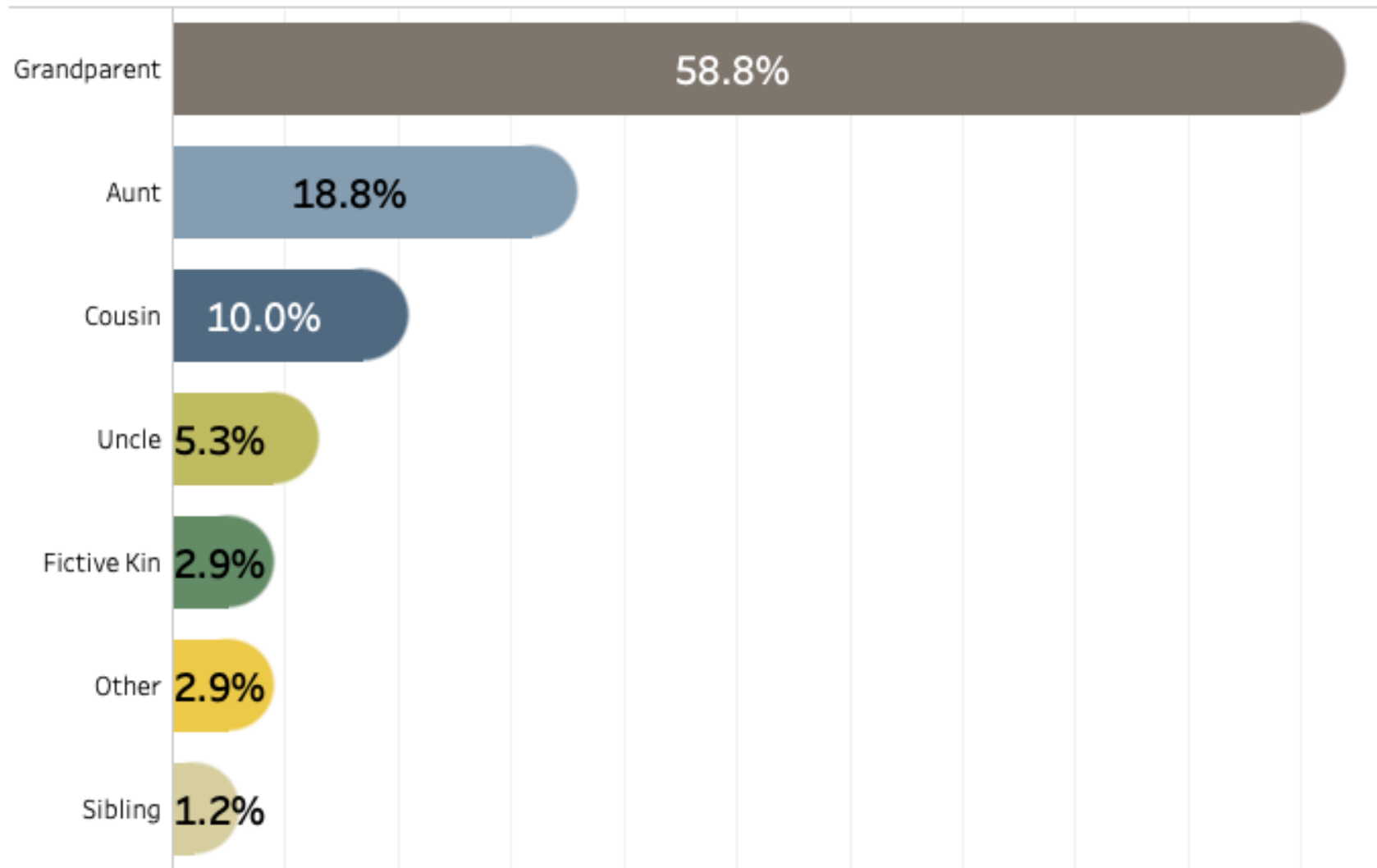
Services Offered:

- Outreach, Information, and referral assistance
- Service coordination including [2-1-1 integration](#)
- [Trainings, workshops](#), and outreach
- [Support group calendar](#) on website
- Care Manager Pilot
- Promote partnerships between public and private organizations



**Kinship
caregivers,
we've got
your back.**

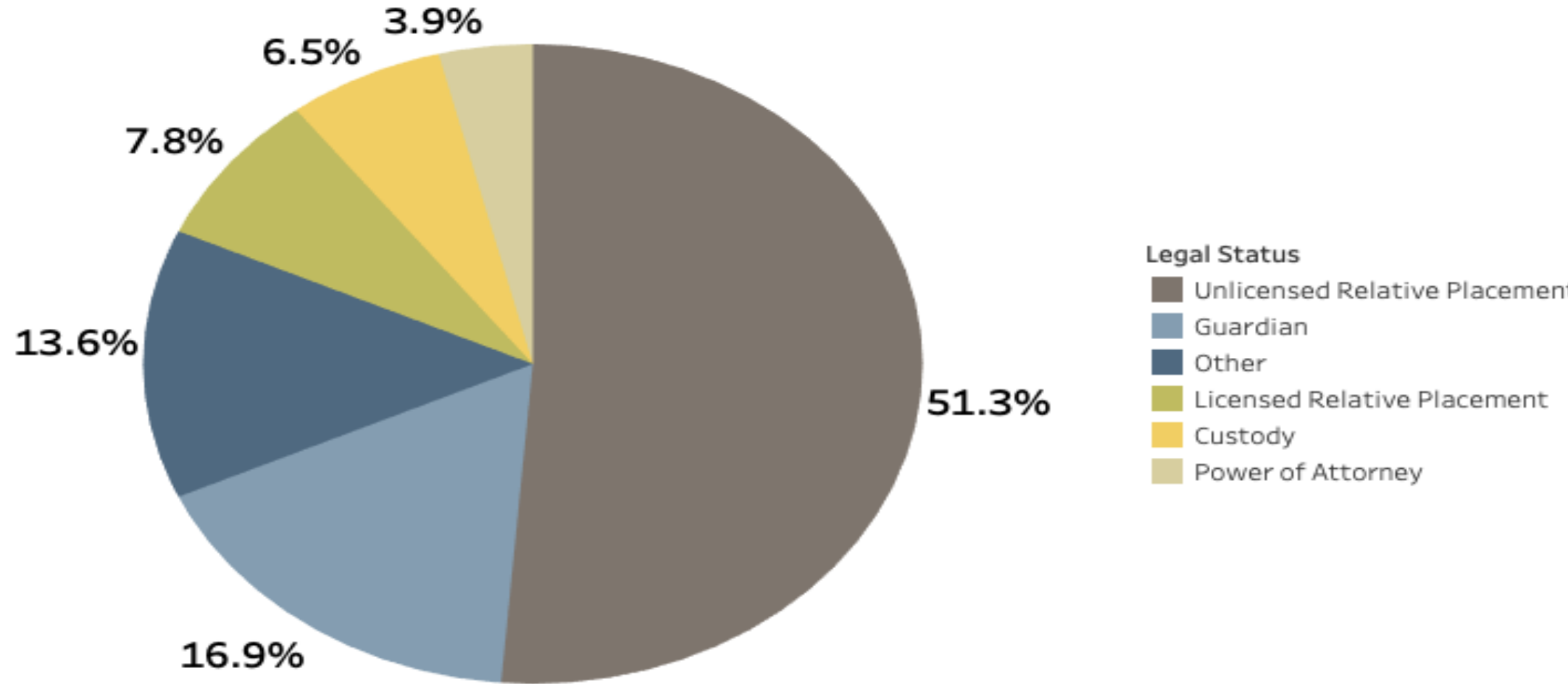
Relationship Status of Kinship Caregivers
(12/2019 - 9/2021)



Relationship Status

- Grandparent
- Aunt
- Cousin
- Uncle
- Fictive Kin
- Other
- Sibling

Legal Status of Kinship Caregivers
(12/2019 - 9/2021)





Cross-System Collaboration



MKCC

Steering Committee:

Kinship Care Resource Center

Guidance Center

Michigan's Children

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA)

Fostering Forward Michigan

Purpose & Responsibilities:

Support, guide and coordinate activities to ensure goals of the MKCC are met

Mission

The Michigan Kinship Care Coalition is an inclusive network of voices collaborating to strengthen and increase support for kinship families through advocacy, increased education, and raised awareness to equip all families to thrive.

Michigan Kinship Care Coalition

MKCC Membership

Communications Subcommittee

Purpose: Gather and share current information on happenings in the Kinship Care world, internally and externally, providing support to other Coalition committees to coordinate and fulfill their purpose.

Policy & Advocacy Subcommittee

Purpose: To identify policy and advocacy opportunities for members that will help support the mission, vision and values of MKCC and increase the knowledge and support of the general public, media, stakeholders and policymakers.

Mobilizing the Field Subcommittee

- Purpose:** Support kinship Care leaders to:
- Connect their local groups with agencies and resources;
 - Establish new support groups in communities where one does not exist;
 - Create a network of support groups to share information and collaborate with one another;
 - Set up surveys to assess the needs of individual families and tailor annual trainings that will help them with resources and support within their own communities; and,
 - Create and hold quarterly training for the Kinship Care Leaders at a central location.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Dec. 10, 2021

CONTACT: Bob Wheaton
517-241-2112
wheatonb@michigan.gov

MDHHS forms advisory council to seek advice of kinship caregivers

Relatives and loved ones who care for children full-time asked to apply, along with others who are involved in kinship care

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is forming a Kinship Advisory Council to advise the department about the needs of these caregivers and the children in their care.

Kinship care is the full-time care, nurturing and protection of children by family members, close family friends or other important adults in the child's life. This could include grandparents, aunts, uncles, older siblings or family friends.

The council will advocate for reform that will lead to a system that is better-coordinated and more consumer friendly and family-centered. Kinship care can occur when a child is placed formally through the MDHHS foster care system or through an informal arrangement between the parent and the caregiver.

"As MDHHS strives to place children in the most family-like setting possible, it is important for us to listen to our kinship caregivers," said Demetrius Starling executive director of the department's Children's Services Agency. "Children who have experienced trauma can benefit from the stability of living with relatives or other kinship caregivers. We value their opinions and want to provide the support that they need." The Kinship Advisory Council will:



**Kinship Advisory
Council
2022**

Kinship Advisory Council Vision

Study the prevalence and needs of kinship caregivers and the children they care for and advocate for reform that would contribute to a better coordinated, consumer friendly, and family-centered system.



Work Groups



Outreach and Engagement



Service Delivery



Service Coordination



Thank you!

Beth Lindley, LMSW
lindleyb@msu.edu

Call or Email

1-800-535-1218

kinship@msu.edu



Family is a relative term.