

Washington's Cross-System Work: Kinship Care Oversight Committee

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Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network by

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Washington State's Kinship Navigator Milestones

2002

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy publishes “Kinship Care in Washington State Prevalence, Policy and Needs”

- A Kinship Care workgroup is established through state legislation and produces a report of recommendations to the Washington State Legislature
- Thurston County hires Spanish speaking Kinship program person

2003

The Washington State Legislature passes legislation requiring the development of two Kinship Navigator Pilot Projects and the Kinship Care Oversight Committee

2004

The Washington State Legislature appropriates funds to establish the kinship Caregiver Support Program (KCSP)

Casey Family Programs provides funding to establish and operate two Kinship Navigator pilot projects

The Tri-West Group begins an evaluation of the Kinship Navigator pilot projects and develops a replication manual

2005

Two Kinship Navigator projects are funded by the legislature

2006

Yakima county hires a Spanish speaking Kinship Navigator

2006-2007

Washington State Legislature provides \$200,000 to the state Aging and Disability Administration for the continuation of the two pilot Kinship Navigator programs



Washington State's Kinship Navigator Milestones (continued)

2007

The legislature increases Kinship Navigator Program funding (\$400,000) for 4 additional Navigators and add funding 2 positions to full-time.

2008

Legislature increases Kinship Navigator Program (\$132,000) for 1.5 additional Navigators

2017

The legislature funds eight Tribal Nations Kinship Navigator positions.

2018

With the passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), Washington State applies and receives funding to evaluate the kinship navigator program and strengthen infrastructure to support kinship families.

An evaluation of the kinship navigator program is launched in October 2018.

2019...Present

The Kinship Navigator Pilot project continues.

The intervention sites serve kinship families with an enhanced case management model using an assessment tool, and 3,6 month follow ups.

The "Traditional" model still in action in all other locations and provides Information and Assistance and may include activities and/or support groups.



Kinship Navigators

Available to informal and formal kinship families

How kinship navigators support kinship families:

- Listen, support and advocate for kinship families.
- Assist families with navigating multiple agencies (tribal, state, community agencies).
- Provide information and referral to community, state, and tribal resources including food, furniture and clothing banks.
- Facilitate support groups.
- Provide emergency assistance funds for eligible families.
- Identify respite supports and extracurricular activities.

Kinship Navigation Collaboration

- Kinship Navigators conduct training with DCYF staff in their regions.
- AL TSA and DCYF staff co-present the kinship 101 training with DCYF across the state.
- AL TSA staff sit on policy implementation committees to assist DCYF with putting policies in place that support relative caregivers.
- Kinship Navigators attend the Kinship Care Oversight Committee meetings.

GetCare Introduction/Implementation

The AAA is responsible for having staff utilize the new state CLC/Get Care reporting system to input clients, their demographics and service utilization beginning August 2016.