

WELCOME

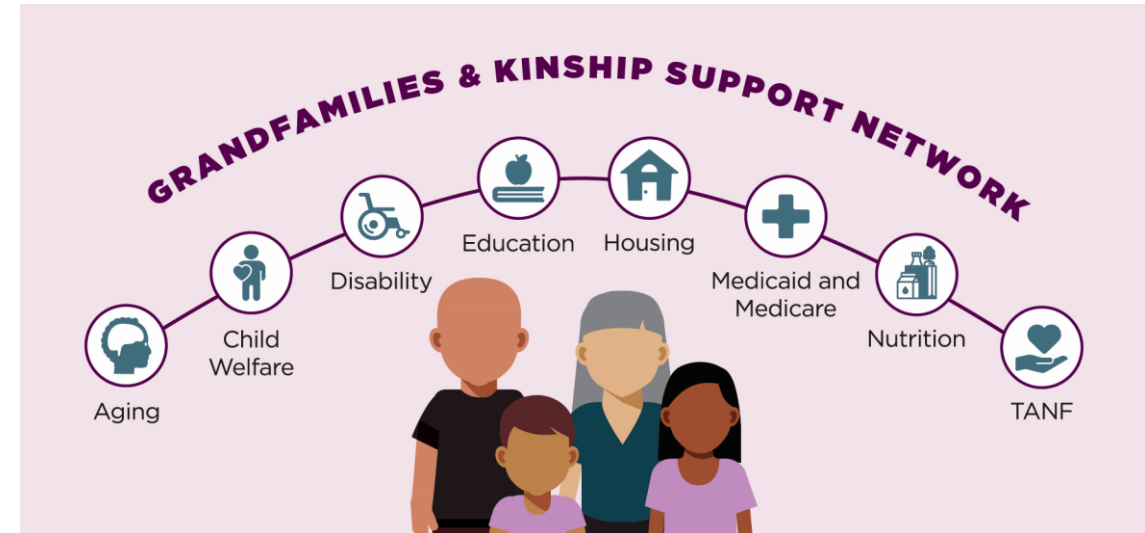
**Family Dynamics in Kinship Families:
Implications for Services and Programs**
Presented for the Network by
Dr. Joseph Crumbley
September 20, 2022

- We will begin at the top of the hour
- Please type in the chat - your name, state, tribe (if applicable), and role
- We'll pause for questions throughout – you can ask in the chat at any time
- As comfortable, please turn on your video

GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK

A National Technical Assistance Center

- 5-year (2021-2026), \$10-million cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living
- Generations United has worked on behalf of and with kinship/grandfamilies since 1997
- Purpose is to provide technical assistance to the array of government agencies (aging, child welfare, disability, education, housing, Medicare and Medicaid, nutrition, TANF) and organizations that serve kinship families, including kinship navigator programs
- Not designed to help the families directly – working to improve systems for families



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Looking Forward - How We Help



Learning Collaboratives and Information Dissemination

The Network hosts webinars and facilitates learning collaboratives.



Individual Assistance

We respond to individual requests for help from government agencies, kinship navigators, and community-based nonprofits.



Targeted, Specialized Support

For jurisdictions that want and are ready for a larger investment of effort, the Network will help optimize their collaborative approaches and improve their services. Solutions will be replicable for others.



A Centralized Hub

The Network is elevating exemplary kinship/grandfamily practices and programs from around the country on its new accessible website, www.GKSNetwork.org.

Applications to be considered “exemplary” are open until Nov. 16.



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The First-Ever National Technical Assistance Center for those who Serve Grandfamilies & Kinship

We help government agencies and nonprofit organizations in states, tribes, and territories work across jurisdictional and systemic boundaries to improve supports and services for grandparents, other relatives, close family friends, and the children they raise when parents cannot.



**FAMILY DYNAMICS AND IMPLICATIONS:
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
KINSHIP AND NON-KINSHIP FAMILIES**

SEPTEMBER, 2022

1. **Kin**: Pre-existing relationship with the child, birth parent or extended family

Non-Kin: No pre-existing relationship with the child, birth parent or extended family

2. **Kin**: Need to redefine pre-existing family relationships (i.e. roles, hierarchy, status, loyalties, priorities, attachments) because family members may feel they have the same rights, entitlements and privileges they had before the child was placed in kinship care

Non-Kin: Creates new family relationships; no previous relationships, roles, boundaries or hierarchy to redefine

3. **Kin**: Loss and grief issues as a family member or friend of the birth parent

Non-Kin: Celebrating becoming a new family and the child as a new family member

4. **Kin**: Mixed feelings about loss of role as grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc.

Non-Kin: Excitement about new role as parent; no previous roles to miss

5. **Kin**: Decision to become caregiver is unplanned and in crisis; request from parent, child protection or courts

Non-Kin: Decision to become a caregiver is planned and pursued

6. **Kin**: Limited preparation for caregiving prior to the child's placement in the home

Non-Kin: Preparation for caregiving role and support already in place before child is placed in home

7. **Kin**: Unanticipated requirements to become foster or adoptive parent

Non-Kin: Requirements to become foster or adoptive parent are anticipated and met before placement

8. **Kin**: Feeling guilty or responsible for the birth parents' problems

Non-Kin: No guilt or responsibility for birth parents' problems

9. **Kin**: Ambivalent, guilty or resentful for having to assume parental role

Non-Kin: Accepts and embraces the parental role as an opportunity and source of personal and professional fulfillment

10. **Kin**: Feeling they are betraying or competing with birth parents by assuming a legal or formal relationship with the child

Non-Kin: Feeling that they are displaying loyalty and commitment to the child by assuming a legal relationship

11. Kin: Considers or pursues formal or legal relationship as a last option if the child is unable to return to birth parents

Non-Kin: Considers formal or legal relationship a source of stability, security and permanency for the child and themselves

12. Kin: May feel in competition with birth parents if the child becomes more attached to caregiver than birth parents

Non-Kin: Motivated to demonstrate attachment that is as strong as previous attachment with birth parent

13. Kin: Split loyalties and hesitation to legalize relationship or prioritize the child's needs over that of the birth parents'

Non-Kin: Highly motivated to legalize the relationship and prioritize the child's needs

14. Kin: May feel embarrassed by the reason to become a caregiver

Non-Kin: Feels no embarrassment or stigma associated with becoming a caregiver

15. Kin: Feels that involvement with outside agencies is an intrusion; and that agency and court approval to be a caregiver is unnecessary or a last resort

Non-Kin: Accepts agency involvement and approval as necessary in order to become a caregiver