

# GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK

A National Technical Assistance Center

Grandfamilies and kinship families form out of love and necessity when grandparents, other relatives, or friends take on the responsibility of raising children whose parents are unable to do so. Research shows that children are more likely to thrive in kinship/grandfamilies than in non-kin foster families.

However, many kinship/grandfamilies lack the support they need. Too often, systems and policies are aimed at parents and do not consider or respond to the strengths and needs of kinship/grandfamilies.

**The Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (Network) is the first-ever national technical assistance center for those who serve grandfamilies and kinship families.** The Network exists, free of charge, to help government agencies and nonprofits in states, tribes, and territories to collaborate and work across jurisdictional and systemic boundaries—all to improve supports and services for these families.



## HOW THE NETWORK OPERATES

A five-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' [Administration for Community Living](#) provides [Generations United](#) with funding to operate the Network. In collaboration with a management committee of two kin caregivers and five partner organizations – [Child Trends](#), the [National Caucus and Center on Black Aging](#), the [National Indian Child Welfare Association](#), [USAging](#), and [ZERO TO THREE](#) – and a steering committee of other [experts](#) from around the country, Network staff members help you improve services and supports for kinship/grandfamilies.

## WHO THE NETWORK SUPPORTS

The Network is creating lasting change for families around the country by connecting and supporting:

- **Policy and program staff at state, tribal, and territorial government agencies** for aging/elders/seniors, child welfare, disability, education, housing, nutrition, Medicaid and Medicare, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); and
- **Staff of community- and faith-based organizations**, small and large, that support or want to support kinship/grandfamilies.

## WHO THE NETWORK IMPACTS

While the Network is not designed to help individual kinship/grandfamilies with their specific cases, they are at the core of our work, guiding and informing it. By focusing on organizations and providers that directly serve the families, the Network can help guide systemic reforms to support kinship/grandfamilies now and into the future.

## WHAT THE NETWORK CAN DO FOR YOU

You will learn from a nationwide network of your peers and access seamless support and resources from renowned experts.

Network participants' knowledge-sharing is documented and disseminated to increase everyone's collective capacity to serve. The Network offers:



### Individual Assistance

We respond to individual [requests for help](#) from staff at government agencies and nonprofit organizations.



### Learning Communities and Information Dissemination

We host [webinars](#) and facilitate topical learning communities.



### Targeted, Specialized Support

Our Bridging Systems for Kinship Families initiative is helping three jurisdictions optimize their collaborative approaches and improve their services. Solutions will be replicable for others.



### A Centralized Hub

Our accessible website, [www.GKSNetwork.org](http://www.GKSNetwork.org), hosts an array of practical, original resources to help you serve the families, including information on replicable exemplary kinship/grandfamily programs.

## JOIN US!

[Sign up](#) to access the Network.



For more information, visit  
[www.GKSNetwork.org](http://www.GKSNetwork.org).

A project of Generations United.

**generations  
united**  
Because we're stronger together®

The Network is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a technical assistance award totaling \$9,950,000 with 95 percentage funded by ACL/HHS and \$523,684 and 5 percentage funded by non-government sources. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.