

# GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK

A National Technical Assistance Center



Grandfamilies and kinship families are formed out of love and necessity when relatives and 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 offer a new way for 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

With funding from a five-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' [Administration for Community Living](#), [Generations United](#) operates the Network with five managing partners: [Child Trends](#), the [National Caucus and Center on Black Aging](#), the [National Indian Child Welfare Association](#), [USAging](#), and [ZERO TO THREE](#).

The nation's leading experts on kinship/grandfamilies, including those who bring the fundamental expertise of being a kinship/grandfamily member, are working together with the partner organizations to improve services and supports for the families.

## WHO THE NETWORK SUPPORTS

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

- **Policy and program leaders 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);
- **Kinship navigators**; and
- **Leaders of community and faith-based organizations** focused on supporting kinship families and 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 targeting those 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:



### 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 accessible website, [www.GKSNetwork.org](http://www.GKSNetwork.org).

## JOIN US!

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

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



A project of Generations United.

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