WELCOME

Kinship/Grandfamilies: The Role of Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging Programs

January 11, 2023

• 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
• 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, Area Agencies on Aging, and Title VI Native American Aging Programs

• Not designed to help the families directly – working to improve systems for families

Sign up to access the Network:
How We Help

Learning Collaboratives and Information Dissemination
The Network hosts webinars and facilitates learning collaboratives.

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.

Individual Assistance
We respond to individual requests for help from government agencies, kinship navigators, AAAs, and Title VI programs.

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.
Kinship/Grandfamilies Strengths: Children Thrive

Source: https://www.gksnetwork.org/resources/grandfamilies-kinship-families-strengths-challenges/
Unique Challenges

• Raising children at time wasn’t planned or expected

• Often get children at a moment’s notice – in a traumatic situation

• Do not have an automatic legal relationship to the children like parents have – impacts all aspects of access to services, supports, and alternative care planning for the children

Source: https://www.gksnetwork.org/resources/grandfamilies-kinship-families-strengths-challenges/
National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) and Native American Caregiver Support Program (NACSP)

• The NFCSP and NACSP are part of the Older Americans Act, Title III-E and Title VI-C

• Federally fund 5 categories of supportive services to grandparents and other relatives age 55+ who are raising children

• In 2020, federal 10% cap on funding to support kinship/grandfamilies was removed – programs can be responsive to your community
Types of Services Available Under NFCSP and NACSP

• Information on available services
• Assistance accessing services
• Respite
• Counseling, support groups, training
• Supplemental services

See Process Evaluation of Older Americans Act Title III-E National Family Caregiver Support Program (acl.gov) p. 1 and Evaluation of the ACL Title VI Programs Year 3 Interim Report p. 5
Kinship/Grandfamilies: The Role of Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging Programs
New Report and Fact Sheet

Kinship/Grandfamilies: The Role of Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging Programs

Introduction
Grandparents and other family members who are raising relative children, known as kinship or grandfamilies, have unique needs (across a variety of areas) that affect their daily lives, including aging and caregiver supports, child welfare, and legal services.

Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and Title VI Native American Aging Programs (Title VI programs) serve as nationwide lifelines for older adults age 60 and older, family caregivers and, increasingly, people younger than age 60 who have disabilities.

Both AAAs and Title VI programs provide a range of services for older adults, including nutrition programs, family caregiver services, in-home personal care assistance, and other supportive services like transportation. AAAs also provide services promoting health, managing disease, and combating elder abuse.

USAGe, as a part of its partnership with the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network, a National Technical Assistance Center (led by Generations United and funded through a cooperative agreement with the US Administration for Community Living), conducted a poll of AAAs and Title VI programs in early 2023 to learn more about their efforts to support kinship/grandfamilies. This report summarizes the efforts, funding sources and budgets, and technical assistance needs of respondents. This report uses the term kinship/grandfamily to refer to all families, in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends raise children whose parents are not available. This report also refers to the grandparents, other relatives, and close family friends raising children as kin/grandfamily caregivers.

Overview of Kinship/Grandfamilies
Kinship/grandfamilies form when relatives take primary responsibility for raising children whose biological parents are unavailable for a variety of reasons that include military deployment, substance abuse, incarceration, or death.

Nationwide, around 2.5 million children whose parents cannot care for them are being raised by grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other relatives. According to the 2021 Initial Report to Congress by the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, these numbers are on the rise.

FACT SHEET

Kinship/Grandfamilies: The Role of Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American Programs

Nationwide, more than 2.5 million children live in grandfamilies or kinship families, meaning that their grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising them because their parents cannot.

The terms kinship families, grandfamilies, and kinship/grandfamilies can be used interchangeably to refer to these families. Both kin caregivers and the children in these families have unique strengths and needs that require support to help them thrive.

Leveraging funds from the federal Older Americans Act and other sources, many Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Title VI Native American Aging Programs (Title VI programs) provide a variety of supportive services for kinship/grandfamilies.

This fact sheet provides a high-level overview of results from a recent USAGe poll of AAAs and Title VI programs regarding their engagement with kinship/grandfamilies.

According to the poll, two-thirds of AAAs and Title VI program respondents offer services tailored specifically to kinship/grandfamilies. Additionally, eight percent of respondents indicated that they assist kin/grandfamily caregivers with broader caregiver services but do not offer services designed specifically for kinship/grandfamilies.

Most AAAs and Title VI Programs
Offer Kinship/Grandfamily Services

33% Does not offer kinship/ grandfamily services
67% Offers kinship/ grandfamily services


2. Data in this brief was gathered through a 2022 survey of Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging Programs conducted by USAGe as a partner in the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center, led by Generations United and funded by the US Administration for Community Living. The online survey was disseminated via email in April 2022 to 90 AAAs and to 239 Title VI programs. The survey closed in June 2022 after receiving 213 responses, representing a response rate of 25 percent.
Why Kinship/Grandfamilies Matter to the Aging Network?

- About 2.4 million grandparents nationwide are raising their grandchildren, in addition to over a million other relatives such as aunts or uncles.
- Grandparents raising grandchildren are more likely than the general population to be low-income.
- One quarter of grandparent-headed households are food insecure.
Why Kinship/Grandfamilies Matter to the Aging Network?

• The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) and the Native American Caregiver Support Program (NACSP) provide funding to AAAs and Title VI programs to support grandparents and other relative caregivers of children ages 55 and older.

• Two-thirds of grandparents raising grandchildren are age 55 or older.
About the Poll

• Conducted for the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network, funded by the U.S. Administration for Community Living and led by Generations United.

• Purpose: Learn more about how AAAs and Title VI programs support grandfamilies, their challenges, funding and budgets and their technical assistance interests.

• Disseminated to 615 AAA’s and 250 Title VI programs, with a 25 percent response rate.
Does Your AAA or Title VI program offer services specifically for kinship/grandfamilies?

- Offers kinship/grandfamily services: 67%
- Does not offer kinship/grandfamily services: 33%

n=212
AAAs and Title VI Programs Offer Key Services Needed by Kinship/Grandfamilies

- Information about services: 87%
- Assistance accessing services: 77%
- Caregiver training/education: 62%
- Support groups: 59%
- Respite: 54%
- Counseling: 30%
- School supplies: 28%
- Summer camp: 23%
- Clothing: 22%
- Legal: 15%

n=138
Reaching Grandfamily Caregivers

- 75 percent serve 50 or fewer caregivers
- 7 percent serve 51-100 caregivers
- 18 percent serve more than 100 caregivers
Reaching Grandfamily Caregivers Younger than Age 55

- NFCSP and NACSP provide funding to support grandfamily caregivers ages 55 and older.
- One-third of grandparents raising grandchildren are younger than age 55.
- 38 percent of AAA and Title VI program respondents serve grandfamily caregivers younger than age 55.
Funding Beyond NFCSP and NACSP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>No additional funding sources</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Older American Act funding</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>State general revenue</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local/county/city funding</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation grants/philanthropy</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal general revenue</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n=129
Partnerships to Expand Reach

Top 10 Referral Partners

- Legal assistance providers: 51%
- Child welfare agencies: 50%
- Schools/preschools: 50%
- Disability services: 45%
- Mental health providers: 42%
- After school/camp programs: 41%
- Nutrition providers: 40%
- Income aid/TANF: 38%
- Housing providers: 36%
- Kinship navigators: 33%

n=130
Expansion of NFCSP Budgets

• Up until 2020, states could not use more than 10 percent of NFCSP funds to support grandfamily caregivers.

• Most AAA respondents have or plan to increase their NFCSP budgets beyond 10 percent to support grandfamily caregivers.
Challenges

- Finding families/outreach: 53%
- Limited funding: 47%
- Knowing with which organizations to partner to reach families: 32%
- Reaching kin/grandfamily caregivers under age 55: 27%
- Childcare when caregivers are receiving support: 26%
- Focus on other priority groups: 23%
- Transportation to services: 20%
- Other (please specify): 8%
- We do not have any challenges supporting kinship/grandfamilies: 3%

n=131
Top Five Training Interests*

- Mental health issues facing caregivers and children: 33%
- Reaching the target population/effective outreach: 31%
- Support group models: 21%
- Collaborating with schools/preschools: 21%
- Legal issues faced by families: 21%

n=131
Summary

• Most AAA’s and Title VI program poll respondents support grandfamily caregivers.

• Most serve 50 or fewer caregivers; many are looking at opportunities to increase their levels of outreach and support.

• Additional training and resources would help them in their efforts to enhance and expand services and supports.
Thank You!

For more information:

Leland Kiang
Program Manager, Grandfamilies and Kinship Care
US Aging
LKiang@USAging.org
Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability

National Family Caregiver Support Program

Respite Tutoring Services
Program Overview
Eligibility:

- Caregiver MUST be 55 or older
- Child MUST be under the age of 18 years and attending school
- Caregiver MUST be related to the child and the primary caregiver for the child
- Child MUST reside with the caregiver
Benefits:

- Allows the caregiver to take time for themselves
- Alleviates stresses associated with educational challenges as they parent a second time around
- Improves their relationship with the child
Caregiver Feedback:

- Decreased levels of stress
- Relief knowing they are not alone in helping their child with their schoolwork
- Relief due to child's improvements at school, in their self-confidence, and with their behavior
- "Enjoy the time I have for myself!"
- Allows more quality time with my grandchild
To Date:

- 41 Relative caregivers have received services
  - 36 Female; 5 Male
  - 17 Black/African American; 24 Non-Minority (White, non-Hispanic)
  - 33 Grandparents, 5 Great-grandparents, 2 Great-aunts and 1 Great-great aunt
  - 9 between the ages of 55 – 60
  - 11 between the ages of 61 – 65
  - 8 between the ages of 66 – 70
  - 5 between the ages of 71 – 75
  - 8 between the ages of 76 – 80
CAPITALIZING ON PARTNERSHIPS
TO EXTEND REACH OF
KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM
AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.
KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

SUPPORTING GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVES RAISING CHILDREN

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.

ARCELIA ARMSTRONG, LSW, COORDINATOR CAREGIVER SUPPORT & KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAMS

MARSHA ROSE, LSW, KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM SUPERVISOR
CAPITALIZING ON PARTNERSHIPS TO EXTEND REACH OF KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM
OBJECTIVES:

- Participants will increase their knowledge about services offered by the Kinship Navigator Program at the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.
- Participants will increase their knowledge about how community partnerships can extend program reach and increase capacity.
History: The Kinship Navigator Program originated in the year 2000 in response to a state-wide initiative by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services which sought to address the rising need of support for kinship families. Through local collaboration by agency directors at the Area Office on Aging (AOoA), Lucas County Children Services, and Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services the AOoA Kinship Navigator Program began supporting kinship caregivers in Lucas County Ohio. The Kinship Navigator Program is a premier program supporting over 1,000 grandparents and relative caregivers in Lucas County for over 22 years.

- Lucas County Children Services Levy
- Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (Title XX)
- National Family Caregiver Support Program (Title III-E)
- Lucas County Senior Services Levy
Quick Facts:

- Kinship Navigator Program employees have **67 years** of combined clinical experience in the field of social services.
- Kinship Navigator Program employees are **Licensed Social Workers** in the State of Ohio.

Our Team:

- Amy Johnson, LSW, MSW, Kinship Programming Specialist
- Marsha Rose, LSW, Kinship Navigator Program Supervisor
- Arcelia Armstrong, LSW, Coordinator, Caregiver Support & Kinship Navigator Programs
Enrollment in the Kinship Navigator Program is **FREE** for any kinship caregiver who meets the following guidelines:

- ✔ Caregiver is the primary caregiver raising a child or children from birth to 18 years of age.
- ✔ Caregiver is a resident of Lucas County, Ohio.

**Noteworthy regarding the Kinship Navigator Program:**

- ✔ No caregiver age requirements.
- ✔ No caregiver or household income requirements.
- ✔ No legal custody requirements.
Kinship Navigator Program - Flyer and Quick Facts

**Quick Facts**

**Programs & Services**
- Information and Referral
- Ongoing Assistance
- Monthly Well-Checks
- Evidence Based Workshops
- Educational Programs
- Summer Series
- Special Events
- Quarterly Support Groups
- Bi-Monthly E-Blasts
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Parenting Smarts Resource Guide
- Resiliency Tools

**OUR MISSION:**
To Guide Grandparents and Other Relatives Who Are Rearing Children in their Extended Families to Services in the Community; Specifically through Information, Ongoing Support, Education and Linkage to Community Agencies.

**THE CHILDREN:**
227,862 children in Ohio live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives (8.6% of the children in the state).

The Grandparents & Other Relatives:
$4 Billion - the amount grandparents and other relatives save taxpayers each year by raising children and keeping them out of foster care. 46% of grandparents or other relatives caring for their kin have provided care for 5 years or more.


The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, and Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services.
1,020 Kinship Caregivers were provided with Information and Referral Services in FFY 2022 (October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022)
When a caregiver enrolls in the Kinship Navigator Program, they get convenient and seamless access to the wide array of the Area Office on Aging’s FREE programs and services such as:

- Older Adults Resource Guide
- Caregiving Smarts Resource Guide
- Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN)
- Long Term Care Consultations
- Family Caregiver Support Program
- Medicaid Waiver Programs: PASSPORT, Ohio Home Care Waiver and MyCare Ohio Waiver
- Plan 4 Home
- Nutrition and Wellness Program
- Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP)
- Area Office on Aging Special Events
- And SO MUCH MORE!

For more information call (419) 382-0624 or visit www.areaofficeonaging.com
Types of Partnerships that Extend Program Reach

**In-Kind Support**

- **Donation of Space:** Senior Centers, Public Libraries, Community Centers, ProMedica Ebeid Institute
- **Distribution of Parenting Smarts Resource Guide:** Public Libraries, Board Of Developmental Disabilities, Community Centers, Lucas County Juvenile Court, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Lucas County Children Services, Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services, Community Mental Health Agencies
- **Donation of Time and Expertise:** Expert guest presenters at educational programs, RSVP volunteers, evidenced based programs
- **Donation of Services:** Legal consultations, delivery of home cooked holiday meals, ongoing food assistance
- **Donation of Items:** Minor league baseball and hockey game tickets, camp scholarships, Toledo Zoo memberships, winter coats, school supplies, holiday meal boxes, gift cards, clothing, books

**Monetary**

- **Donation of Funds:** For the purchase of Toledo Farmer’s Market tokens, and holiday hams and turkeys for Kinship Families
- **Grants:** Walmart Foundation Grant of $70,000 received for *Mitigating Malnutrition with Farm Fresh Delivery* for Kinship Families

**Contractual**

- **Program Funders:** Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services, Lucas County Children Services Levy, National Family Caregiver Support Program, and Lucas County Senior Services Levy
- **Program Requirements:**
  - Information, Referral and Assistance
  - Educational Enrichment and Respite
  - Community Outreach/Communications
  - Bi-Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey
  - Quarterly Performance Measures
- **Program Purchased Services:**
  - Special event needs: venue, food, seating, transportation, and personal service contracts for childcare or educational programming for children
  - Emergency home delivered meals during Pandemic
  - Electronic tablet initiative: device, data plan, and technical support
  - Respite through day/overnight camps and mentoring of kinship children
- **Donation of Funds:** For the purchase of Toledo Farmer’s Market tokens, and holiday hams and turkeys for Kinship Families
- **Grants:** Walmart Foundation Grant of $70,000 received for *Mitigating Malnutrition with Farm Fresh Delivery* for Kinship Families
Value of Community Partnerships

- Benefits caregivers by providing access to support, education, goods and services, and linkage to reliable and committed local providers.
- Builds capacity and extends program reach without burden to the program budget.
- Strengthens investment in the local community.
- Promotes collaboration across multiple systems at the local level.
- Maximizes the creativity and diversity of thought necessary to address local community needs.
- Plants the seed and leads to future partnership opportunities.

Saying **YES** to partnership opportunities is key!
WHAT DO YOU SEE...

OPPORTUNITIES?

OR

CHALLENGES?

It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.

—Henry David Thoreau
Virtual Kinship Clubs and Support Groups

- Gives caregivers the opportunity to connect with other caregivers in a similar situation.
- Helps caregivers cope with the added stress of parenting again.
- Increases caregiver knowledge and skills in the area of parenting, child development, and community resources.
- Allows caregivers to strengthen their relationships with the children in their care.

MARCH - JUNE - SEPTEMBER
Evidence-Based, educational, and fun program offering 6-lessons:

- Learn real facts about the aging process
- Learn how to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Learn the risk factors and behaviors to avoid to stay healthy
- Learn how alcohol, prescription medications and over-the-counter medications affect older adults differently and how to avoid problems
- Learn how to use simple tools to help feel more empowered about health and healthcare received
- Connect with other individuals experiencing similar issues related to aging and health
- First time participants earn a free $50 Kroger gift card upon successful completion of the program (compliments of Harbor Behavioral Health)
NEW virtual educational programming was added in 2021 to provide more opportunities for caregivers to increase their knowledge and skills, and boost resiliency.

- Virtual Computer and Technology Training
- Stigma, Accessing Mental Health Services and Integrated Care
- Mental Health First Aid
- Compassion Fatigue
- Trauma and Parenting
- Managing Chronic Pain
- Medication Management in Adults
- Healthy and Budget Friendly Meals and Snacks for a Busy Lifestyle
### July Virtual Summer Series

#### Key Features:
- **6-days of virtual educational programming** designed for kinship caregivers and children.
- **Features expert guest presenters** from community partner agencies speaking on topics related to:
  - Education
  - Mental Health
  - Permanency and Support
  - Legal Issues
  - Health and Wellness
  - Caregiver Self-Care

#### Session Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Adult Programming (10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)</th>
<th>Youth Programming (12:30 – 1:30 p.m.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday July 11,</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Session #1: “Foster Care and Adoption” and &quot;YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral Center&quot;&lt;br&gt;Speakers: Vonda Williams and Lori McCullers, YWCA of Northwest Ohio&lt;br&gt;Session #2: “Connecting Kids to Meals”&lt;br&gt;Speakers: Wendi Huntley, Connecting Kids to Meals</td>
<td>FREE DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12, 2022</td>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>Session #1: “5 Dimensions of Wellness and Mindfulness Activity”&lt;br&gt;Speaker: Patrice Powers-Barker, OSU Extension Office of Lucas County&lt;br&gt;Session #2: “NAMI KidTalk and ToenTalk Programs”&lt;br&gt;Speaker: Mary Finch, NAMI Toledo</td>
<td><strong>Tips for Staying Safe in Your Community</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jeff Medere, AOA Drug Abuse Response Team (DART) Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday July 13,</td>
<td>Separancy &amp; Support</td>
<td>Session #1: “Social Security Benefits Available to Children and Adults”&lt;br&gt;Speaker: Erin Thompson, Social Security Administration&lt;br&gt;Session #2: “Lifelong Learning Program”&lt;br&gt;Speaker: Laura Miegeith, Lourdes University</td>
<td>FREE DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 14, 2022</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>Session #1: “Human Trafficking - What You Need to Know”&lt;br&gt;Speakers: Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition; Erin Thompson, SSA and Crakeliner Macklinar, Mercy Health&lt;br&gt;Session #2: “Navigating Child Support and the Legal System”&lt;br&gt;Speaker: Twila Ferguson, Lucas County Juvenile Court</td>
<td>“Toledo Museum of Art - Child and Youth Activity”&lt;br&gt;Regina Jankowski, Toledo Museum of Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday July 15,</td>
<td>Self-Care &amp; Activities</td>
<td>Session #1: “Get Involved with Toledo PAL”&lt;br&gt;Speaker: Officer Kimberly Darrington, Toledo Police Athletic League&lt;br&gt;Session #2: “Minority Health Disparities”&lt;br&gt;Speaker: Kim Tolos, Lucas County Health Dept. Office on Minority Health</td>
<td>“Meet Coconut the Cockatiel”&lt;br&gt;Suzie Hernandez, AOA Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 16, 2022</td>
<td>Wrap-Up</td>
<td>Session #1: TED Talk Presentation&lt;br&gt;Speakers: AOA Kinship Staff: Marsha Rose, LSW and Amy Johnson, LSW, MSW&lt;br&gt;Session #2: Summer Series Wrap Up&lt;br&gt;Speakers: AOA Kinship Staff: Marsha Rose, LSW and Amy Johnson, LSW, MSW</td>
<td>FREE DAY</td>
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Electronic Tablet Initiative

Pilot program to help caregivers stay connected during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Benefits include:

- Decrease social isolation and loneliness
- Increase and strengthen social connections
- Access to virtual Kinship programming
- Learn to use Apps that can make life easier
- No contact delivery of electronic tablet
- Wi-Fi connectivity with unlimited free data
- Up to 90-minutes of individualized tech support
- Free virtual group tech classes

Electronic Tablet Initiative

Staying connected during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Kinship Navigator Program is participating in a pilot program to lend electronic tablets with Internet to Kinship Caregivers. This program was made possible with funds from the CARES ACT.

If you are age 55 or older you may be eligible to receive an electronic tablet.

This is a 6 month pilot program that will include the following:
- Electronic tablet
- Internet for tablet provided
- One on One Training provided
- Group lessons available
- No cost to you!

These electronic tablets will be used to participate in the following virtual programs available with the Kinship Navigator Program:
- Kinship Club Support Group Meetings
- Summer Series
- Wellness Initiative for Senior Education Series (WISE)
- Other Kinship Workshops
- Assist Children with Special Needs to participate in online learning

Contact the Kinship Navigator Staff at 419-382-0624 for more information and to complete an eligibility questionnaire.
“The Kinship Navigator Program helped me purchase bunk beds for the boys, meals, and a tablet which I used to learn Spanish. The Kinship Program also helped me with resources after losing everything in a house fire recently that was caused when a neighbor’s house caught fire.”

— Tina Boyd
“The tablet has been fantastic in being able to do virtual doctor’s appointments and connect with others on social media.”

— Rosalind Huggins
Virtual Kinship Clubs
Let's Talk Support Group
Friday, June 10th, 2022
11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Kinship Club Meeting
Thursday, June 23rd, 2022
5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
Call in or join online via Zoom.

Virtual Summer Series
Six Days of Virtual Programming on Various Topics, Resources, and Activities Specifically for Our Kinship Caregivers and Children.
July 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, & 16th, 2022.
Call in or join online via Zoom.

Contact the Kinship Navigators Program at 419-382-0623 to learn more about our 2022 Kinship Quarterly Resiliency Raffle.

Spring 2022 Newsletter
Kinship Navigator Program
Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.

Resource Corner...

The 9 Dimensions of Wellness
Your well-being is like a wheel. This Wellness Wheel shows nine different dimensions of your life to consider. Each dimension of wellness is interconnected and influenced by the other components. Understanding how each aspect of wellness is equally important to finding balance (aka thriving) in your life. Analyze your well-being based on areas you feel you are currently thriving in.

May is nationally recognized as Mental Health & Trauma Awareness Month. In honor of these important topics, we will be inviting 2 speakers to bring awareness and connect Kinship Caregivers to community resources.

Thursday, May 19th, 2022
3:00 - 4:30 P.M.
Minority Mental Health Guest Presenter: Kimberly Tuley, Lucas County Health Department Local Office on Mental Health
Mental Health First Aid Guest Presenter: Robert Kasprzak, Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

Call in or join online via Zoom.

Self-Subscribe to the Kinship Newsletter and E-Blast at www.areaoofficeonaging.com

- Kinship Care
- Tips for Building Resilience
- Parenting and Child Development
- Help with Expenses
- Early Childhood Education
- School and Education
- Understanding Legal Issues
- Medical Services, Mental Health and Wellness
- Babysitting and Occasional Care
- Activities and Recreation
- And MUCH MORE!

Call (419) 382-0624 to request your copy OR view online at www.areaofficeonaging.com
Generous donations from community partners allow us to offer:

- Toledo Mud Hens Tickets
- Gene Cook Baseball Camp
- Toledo Walleye Tickets
- School Supplies
- Winter Coats, Hats, and Gloves
- Pajamas, Blankets, and Books
- Holiday Meal Boxes (3 times a year)
- Holiday Hams & Turkeys
- COVID-19 Relief Gift Cards
- **300** tickets to Toledo Mud Hens games were distributed to Kinship Families in the Summer of 2022 allowing access to a family fun night through in-kind support.
- **8** Kinship Children received in-kind scholarships and attended the Gene Cook Baseball Camp at Fifth Third Field on August 10, 2022.
School Supplies: With generous in-kind support from Palmer Energy, Inc. and Buckeye Health Plan the Kinship Navigator Program distributed 128 backpack totes filled with school supplies to Kinship Families in September 2022.
Because of the longstanding partnership between the Kinship Navigator Program and Lucas County Children Services (LCCS), enrolled caregivers with a closed case and legal custody of a kinship child can now access vital assistance through the LCCS Stabilization Program. Formerly, this type of assistance was only available to caregivers with an open case at LCCS.

The Kinship Navigator Program completes an eligibility pre-screening of caregivers and submits the completed application and a written interview narrative summary of the requested assistance to LCCS. LCCS makes an eligibility determination and issues vouchers to caregivers when the requested assistance is approved.

- In FFY 2022, 71 requests for assistance made by the Kinship Navigator Program were approved by Lucas County Children Services.
- So far in FFY 2023, October 1, 2022 – December 20, 2022, the Kinship Navigator Program has already made 30 requests for assistance that have been approved and is awaiting return of 22 applications from caregivers.
The Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) Stabilization Program provides Kinship Families with assistance including food, clothing, cleaning supplies, hygiene and hair care products, furniture, school tuition and fees, tutoring, camp fees, childcare, rent, utility assistance, home repair, vehicle repair, and memberships that support educational enrichment such as YMCA, Toledo Zoo, and Imagination Station.

This vital assistance stabilizes the household and provides resources that Kinship Families would not be able to otherwise access.

- **Most Requested Assistance Received:** Food, Clothing, Furniture.
- **Unique Assistance Received:** Tutoring, Vehicle Repairs, Tree Removal, Music Lessons.
Support Through Community Partnerships During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Kinship Navigator Program Coordinated Multiple Drive-Up No-Contact Distributions in FFY 2020:
  - 83 Kinship Families received Winter Coats, Hats, and Gloves for kinship children made possible through in-kind donations from Toledo Christ Child Society.
  - 47 Kinship Families received 200- $50.00 Kroger Gift Cards compliments of the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department COVID-19 Relief Grant. A total of $10,000 in assistance was provided to kinship households.
  - 69 Kinship Families received school supplies through an in-kind partnership with United Way of Greater Toledo and Palmer Energy, Inc.
  - 300 Holiday Meals were distributed to Kinship Families for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter Holidays which was made possible through in-kind donations from the AOoA Nutrition and Wellness Program.
  - 167 Kinship Families received daily Emergency Home Delivered Meals through paid contracts with Mobile Meals and Simply EZ Meals (May 2020 – November 2020).
  - 628 referrals for food assistance were made to the Toledo Seagate Food Bank’s Families In Recovery Sticking Together (FIRST) Program through an in-kind partnership.
  - 24 Kinship Caregivers received electronic tablets with free connectivity and technical support through the AOoA Tablet Initiative so they could remain connected with family and friends and access virtual programming offered by the Kinship Navigator Program during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The tablet initiative was made possible through Cares Act funding.
Community Partnerships
Lucas County Children Services believes kinship caregivers are vital to help keep children safe and maintain family connections. Kinship caregivers are often given short notice when asked to take in children, and the Kinship Navigator program ensures the caregivers know what community resources are available and how to navigate effectively. – Robin Reese, Executive Director, Lucas County Children Services

The Kinship Navigator staff possesses an excellent and in-depth knowledge of how to navigate the complex child welfare, special education and disability education, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and financial assistance systems in our community. – Judith Leb J.D., Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division

School counselors and nurses routinely call these advocates so students and their caregivers can get the information, support, education and connections they need to continue flourishing in a stable home environment instead of the student unnecessarily ending up in the foster care system. – Dr. Romules Durant, Superintendent Toledo Public Schools

I can speak directly to the gap in services that both our aging and our youth populations experience. Even more so, minority populations are vastly underserved. The Kinship Navigator Program is one of the few services that address these important gaps by providing excellent support, education and resources to families in need here in our community. – Danielle Cisterino-Hajdu, Teen PEP Coordinator, ProMedica Toledo Children’s Hospital

In this day and age there are more grandparents and other relatives who are rearing children in their extended families. These families are in desperate need of support and services that the Kinship Navigator Program has been able to provide to them. This program has helped kinship care families become better informed about service and support in our community. – Linda Decker, Supervisor Community Relations, United Healthcare Community Plan of Ohio
Partnership Goals

Together
We can
Achieve
More
Presenters:

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   Website: www.areaofficeonaging.com
Thank you!
Into the woods:
Strategies to support grandfamilies through nature-based solutions

Pam Plimpton
Aging & Independence Services
County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency
Emotional/Physical Challenges
Insufficient Resources
Impact of Trauma
Financial Stress
Role Changes
“We just want to have fun with our grandkids”
“Gramping”

What a great idea!!
# Gramping Activity Schedule

## SATURDAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00-4:30 PM</td>
<td>CHECK IN, CAMP SET-UP, LAWN GAMES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30-7:00</td>
<td>WELCOME, GAMES AND DINNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FACE PAINTING, GIANT BUBBLE STATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PARACHUTE, ARTS AND CRAFTS, LAWN GAMES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00-8:00</td>
<td>EDUCATIONAL NATURE HIKE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BOARD GAMES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00-8:30</td>
<td>GLOW IN THE DARK DANCE PARTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30-9:30</td>
<td>HOW TO BUILD A CAMP FIRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CAMP FIRE FUN, SINGING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S’MORES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## SUNDAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00-9:30 AM</td>
<td>BREAKFAST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30-10:00</td>
<td>INTERGENERATIONAL TREE PLANTING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-11:00</td>
<td>NATURE TOUCH TABLE WITH RANGER BEN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It’s all about partnerships
It's all about partnerships
It's all about partnerships.
It's all about partnerships
It's all about partnerships.
What other older adults and at-risk families can benefit from engaging in nature?
• In the work you do, how can you infuse nature-based solutions?

• Who could be possible partners in your community?
THANK YOU!
Pam Plimpton
Intergenerational Coordinator
Aging & Independence Services
County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency

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858.495.5769
National Resources
The First-Ever National Technical Assistance Center for those who Serve Kinship/Grandfamilies

We help government agencies and nonprofits in states, tribes, and territories work across jurisdictional and systemic boundaries to improve supports and services for families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children.
GrandFacts: Fact Sheets

The GrandFacts fact sheets for grandfamilies include data and programs as well as information about public benefits, educational assistance, legal relationship options and laws for each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

See https://gksnetwork.org/grandfacts-fact-sheets/
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Facts for Grandfamilies and Kinship Families

Download This Resource
More than 2.6 million children around the country live in grandfamilies or kinship families, meaning that their grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising them because their parents cannot. These families exist both inside and outside the child welfare system.

https://www.gksnetwork.org/resources/kinship-navigator-programs-around-the-united-states/
Stay Connected & Access Support

Sign up for our monthly newsletter, which will provide you with updates on new Network resources.
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