



WELCOME

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

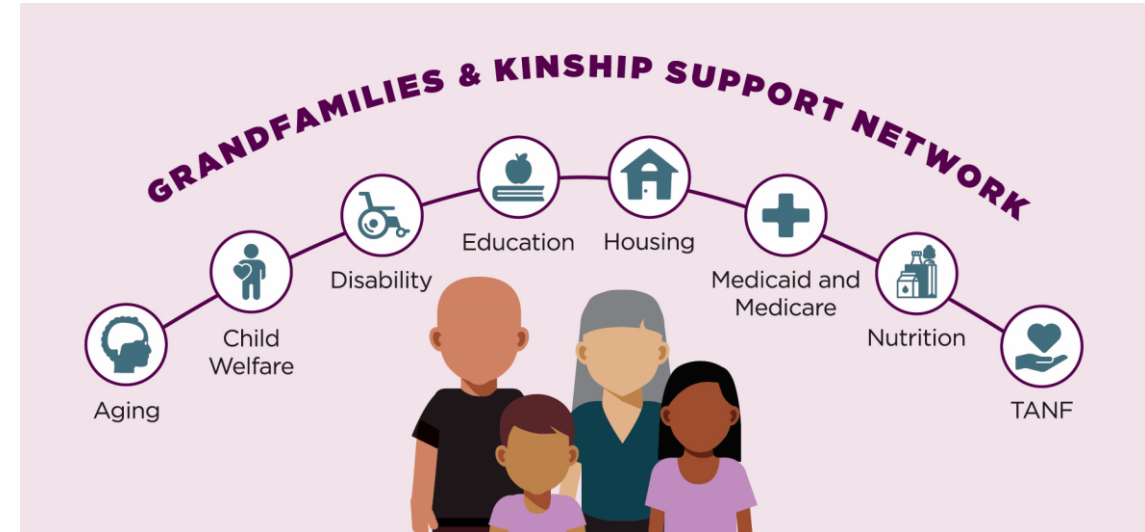
January 11, 2023

- 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

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, 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.



Individual Assistance

We respond to [individual requests for help](#) from government agencies, kinship navigators, AAAs, and Title VI programs.



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.

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

USAging

**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 (AAAs) 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.

USAging, 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 U.S. Administration for Community Living), conducted a poll of AAAs and Title VI programs in early 2022 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 child relatives 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.¹ According to its 2021 *Initial Report to Congress* by the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, these numbers are on the rise.

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

1



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.¹ (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 USAging topical poll of AAAs and Title VI programs regarding their engagement with kinship/grandfamilies.² 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



¹ Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center, Kinship/Grandfamilies Data, <https://gksnetwork.org/kinship-data/>.

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 USAging as a partner in the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center, led by Generations United and funded by the U.S. Administration for Community Living. The online survey was disseminated via email in April 2022 to 610 AAAs and to 238 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.

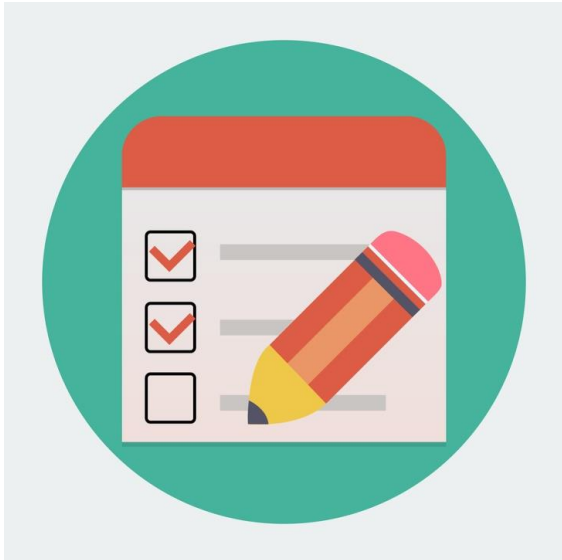


Why Kinship/Grandfamilies Matter to the Aging Network?



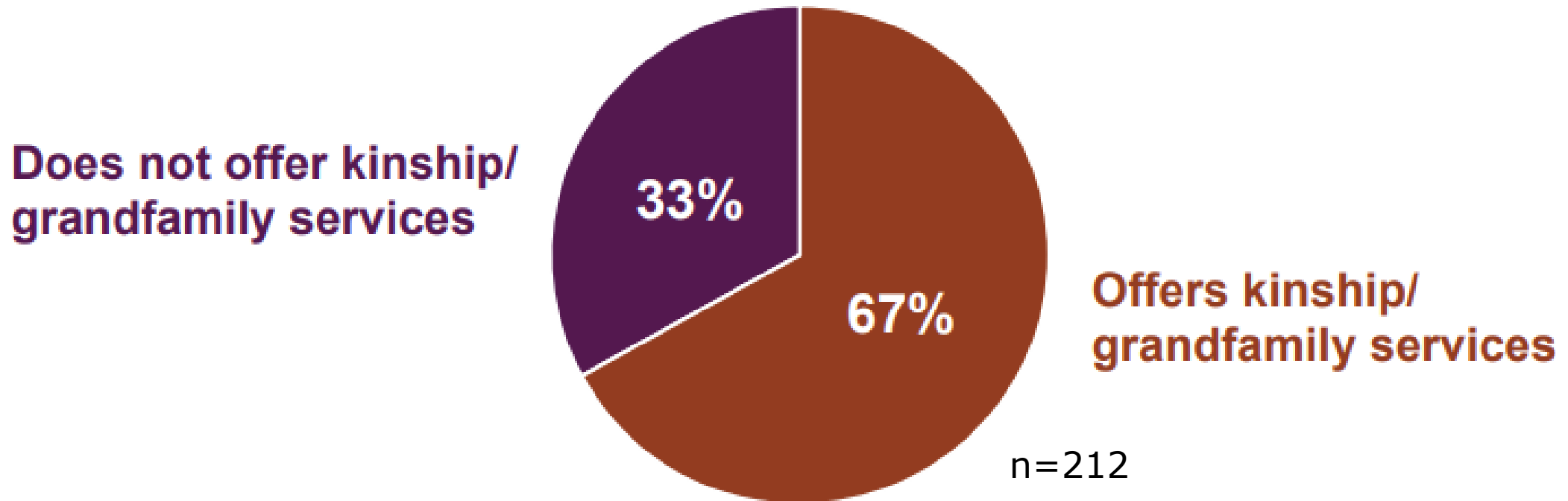
- The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) and the Native American Caregiver Support Program (NACSP) provide funding to AAAs and Title VI programs to support grandparents and other relative caregivers of children ages 55 and older.
- Two-thirds of grandparents raising grandchildren are age 55 or older.

About the Poll

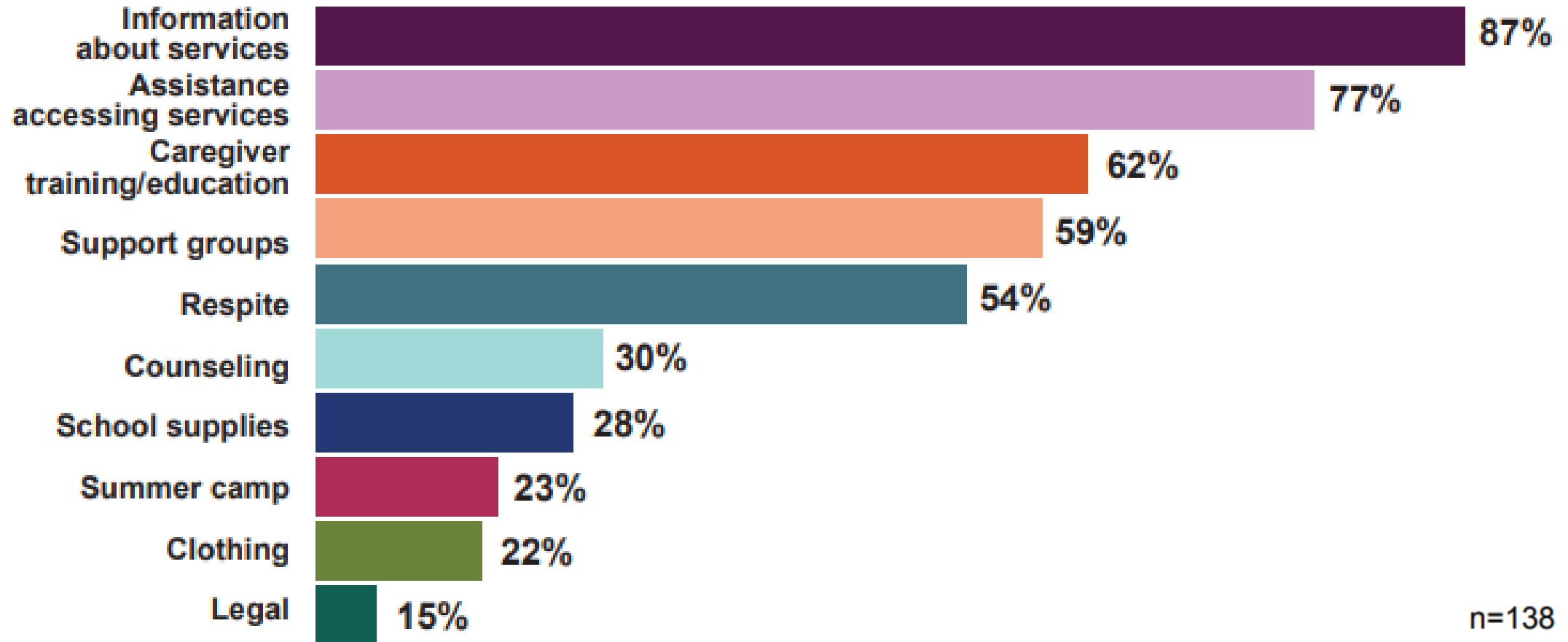


- Conducted for the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network, funded by the U.S. Administration for Community Living and led by Generations United.
- Purpose: Learn more about how AAAs and Title VI programs support grandfamilies, their challenges, funding and budgets and their technical assistance interests.
- 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?



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



Reaching Grandfamily Caregivers

- 75 percent serve 50 or fewer caregivers
- 7 percent serve 51-100 caregivers
- 18 percent serve more than 100 caregivers

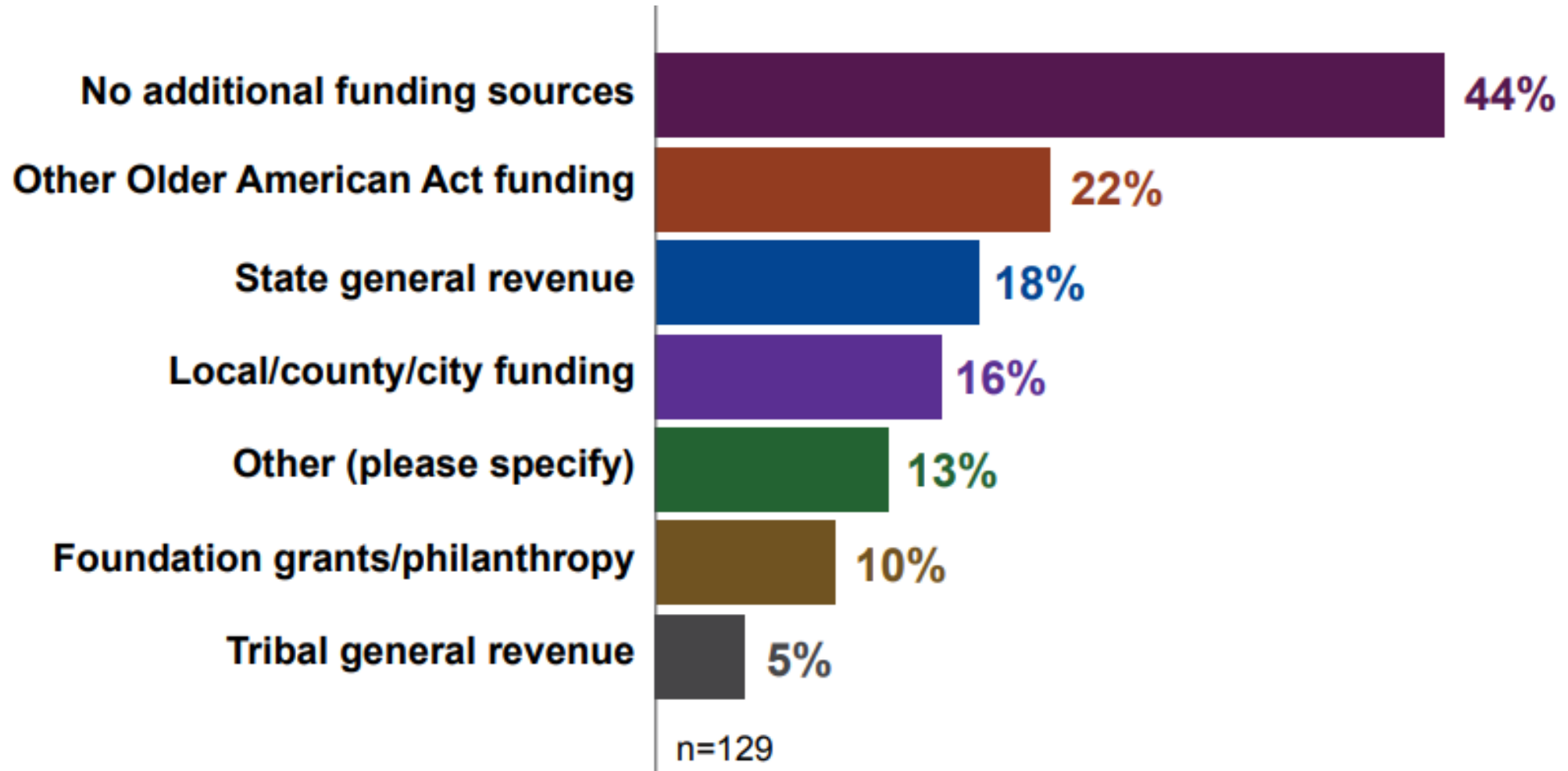


Reaching Grandfamily Caregivers Younger than Age 55



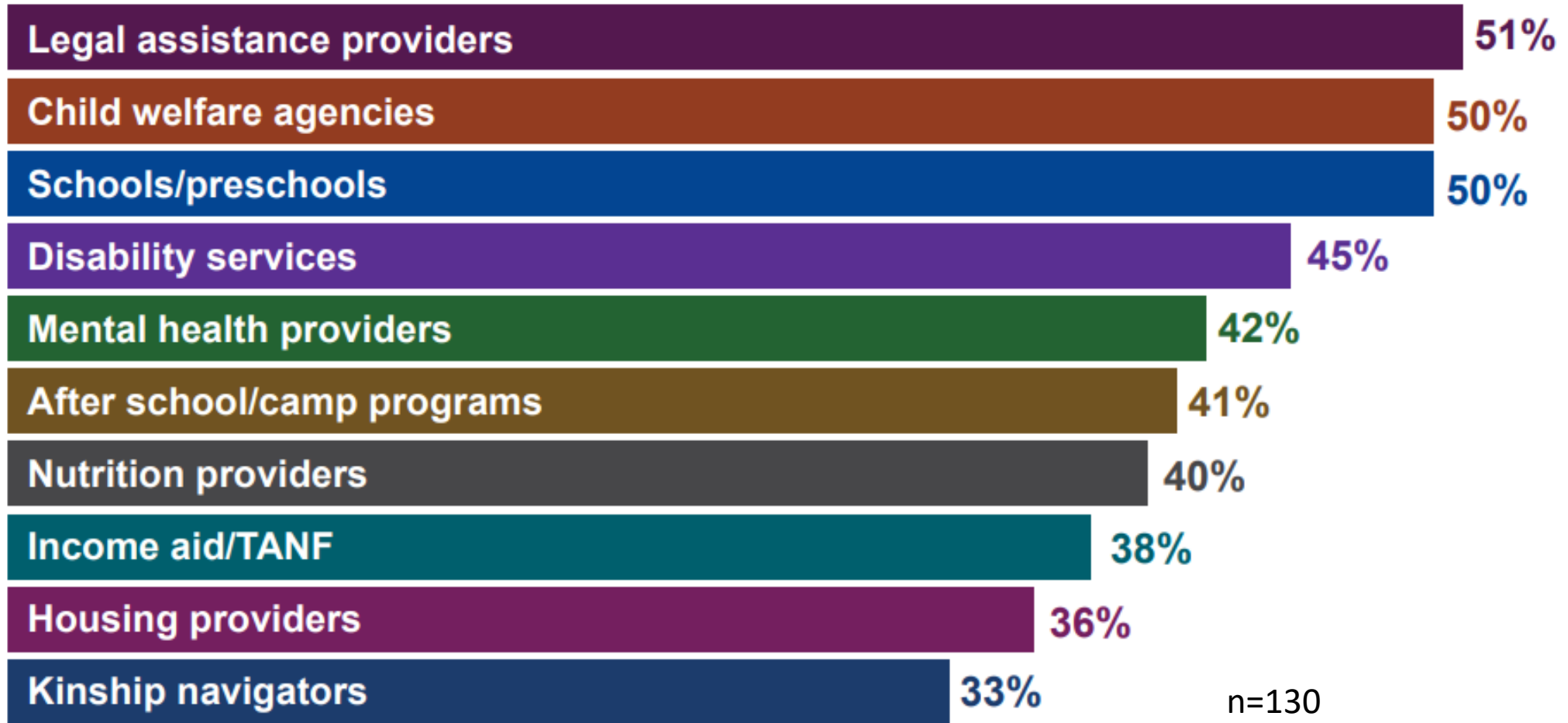
- NFCSP and NACSP provide funding to support grandfamily caregivers ages 55 and older.
- One-third of grandparents raising grandchildren are younger than age 55.
- 38 percent of AAA and Title VI program respondents serve grandfamily caregivers younger than age 55.

Funding Beyond NFCSP and NACSP



Partnerships to Expand Reach

Top 10 Referral Partners

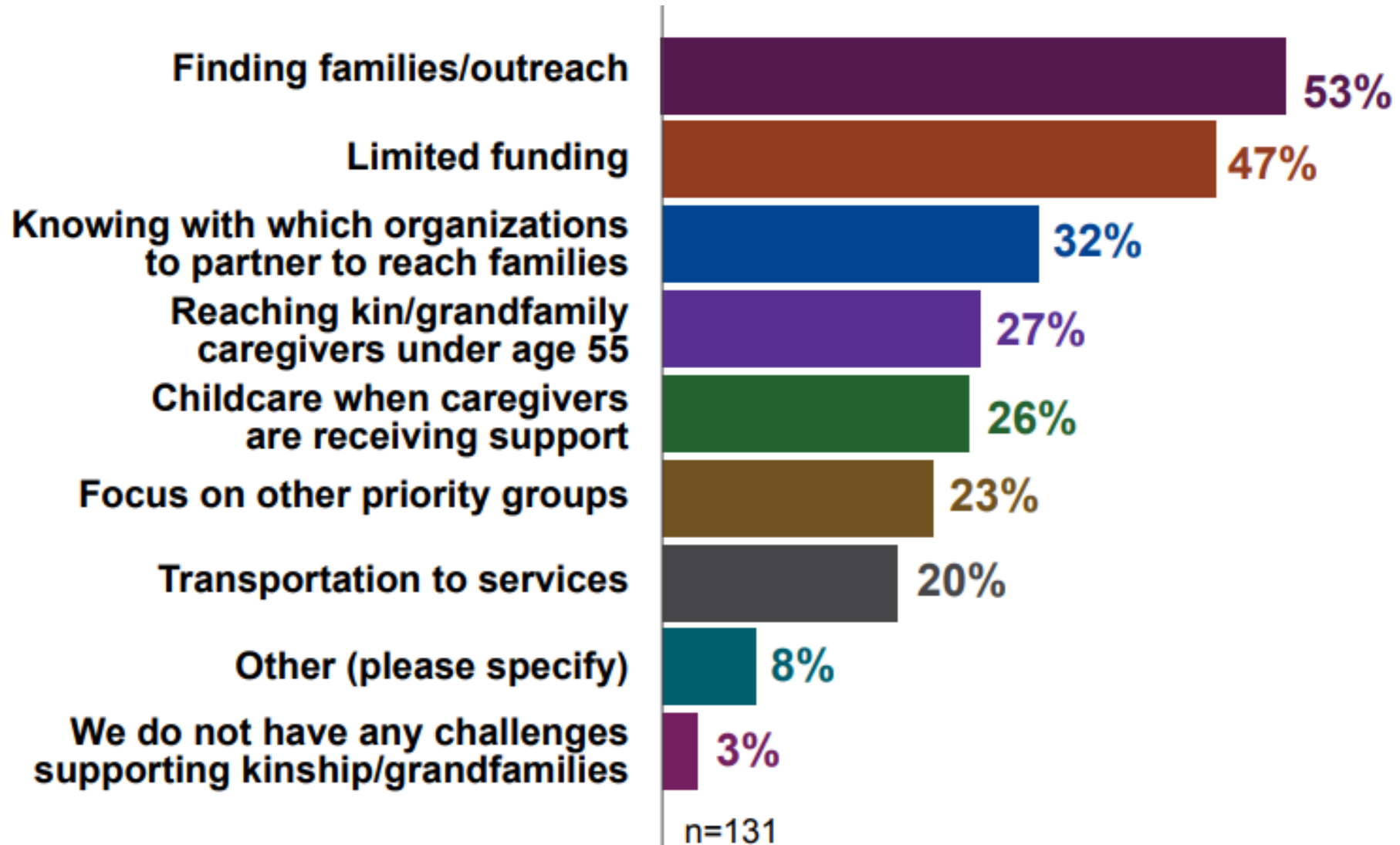


Expansion of NFCSP Budgets

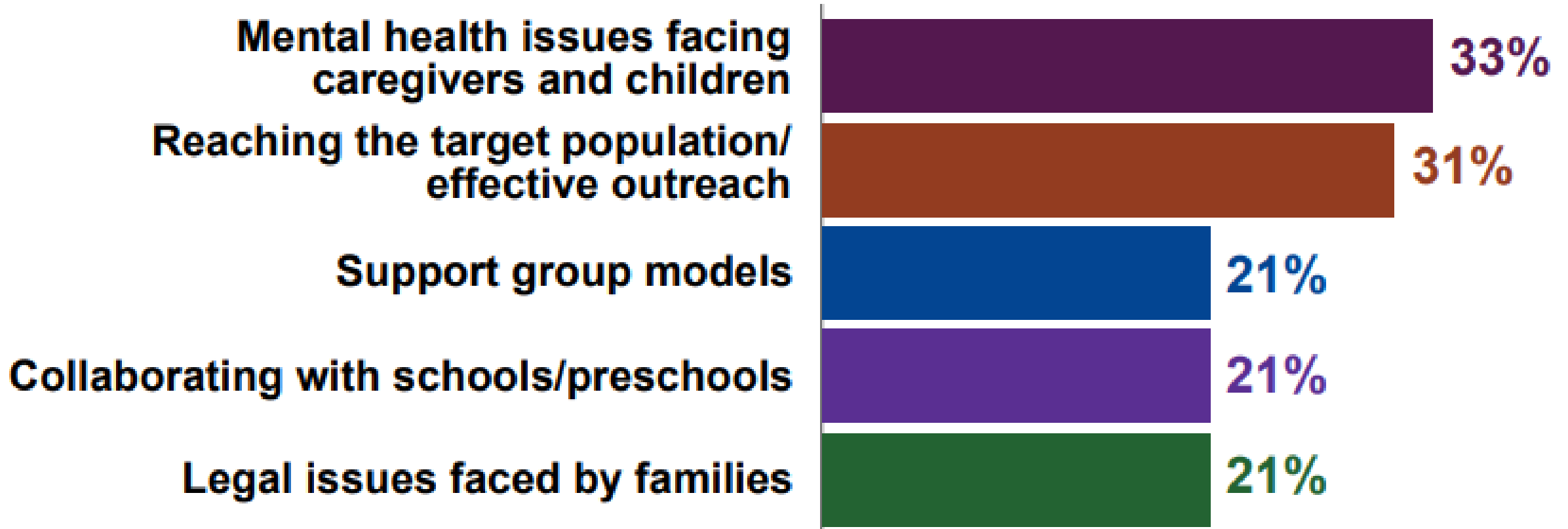


- Up until 2020, states could not use more than 10 percent of NFCSP funds to support grandfamily caregivers.
- Most AAA respondents have or plan to increase their NFCSP budgets beyond 10 percent to support grandfamily caregivers.

Challenges



Top Five Training Interests*



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

USAging

LKiang@USAging.org

Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability

National Family Caregiver Support Program

Respite Tutoring Services



setcares
A DIVISION OF setd



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

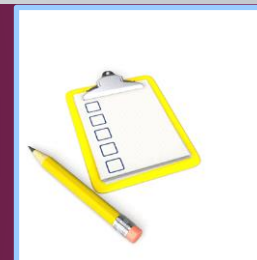


CAPITALIZING ON PARTNERSHIPS TO EXTEND REACH OF KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM





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**.



Kinship Navigator Program History and Funding

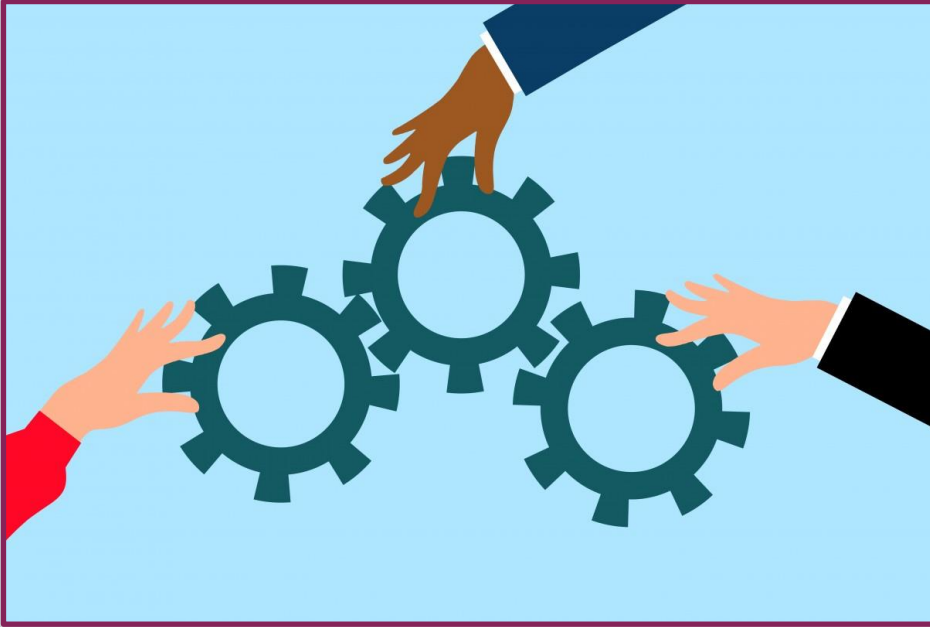
History: The **Kinship Navigator Program** originated in the year 2000 in response to a state-wide initiative by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services which sought to address the rising need of support for kinship families. Through local collaboration by agency directors at the Area Office on 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 III-E)
- ▶ National Family Caregiver Support Program (Title III-E)
- ▶ Lucas County Senior Services Levy



Kinship Navigator Program Team



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

Kinship Navigator Program Enrollment

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

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

2155 Arlington Ave, Toledo, 43609 Phone: 419-382-0624 www.areaofficeonaging.com

QUICK FACTS

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).



Programs & Services

-  - Information and Referral
-  - Ongoing Assistance
-  - Monthly Well-Checks
-  - Evidence-Based Workshops
-  - Summer Series
-  - Special Events
-  - Holiday Assistance
-  - Quarterly Support Groups
-  - Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE)
-  - Bi-Monthly E-Blasts
-  - Quarterly Newsletters
-  - Parenting Smarts Resource Guide
-  - Educational Workshops

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.

Data taken from: GrandFacts - Sheets - State Fact Sheets for Grandfamilies (Ohio 2017) www.grandfamilies.org. Generations United - State of Grandfamilies 2020 - Facing a Pandemic - Grandfamilies Living Together During COVID-19 and Thriving Beyond www.gu.org

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.



- 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

Information and Referral Services



INFORMATION, REFERRAL SERVICES, AND ON-GOING ASSISTANCE

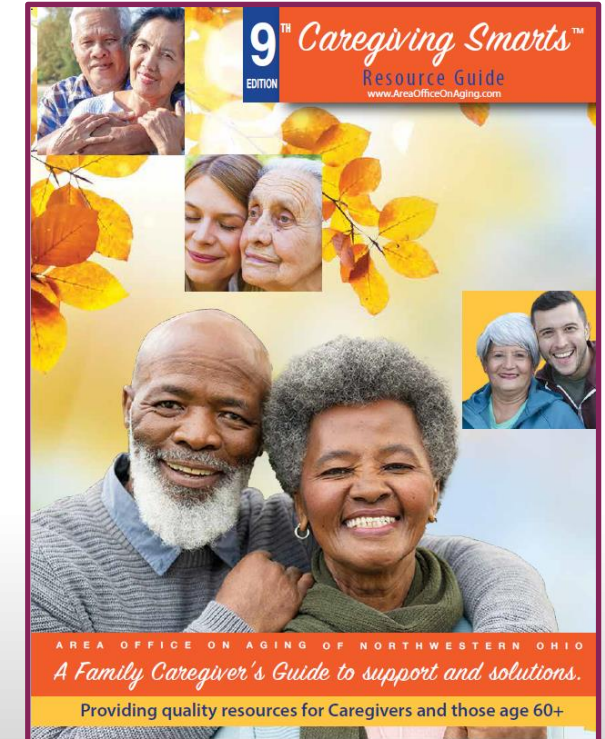
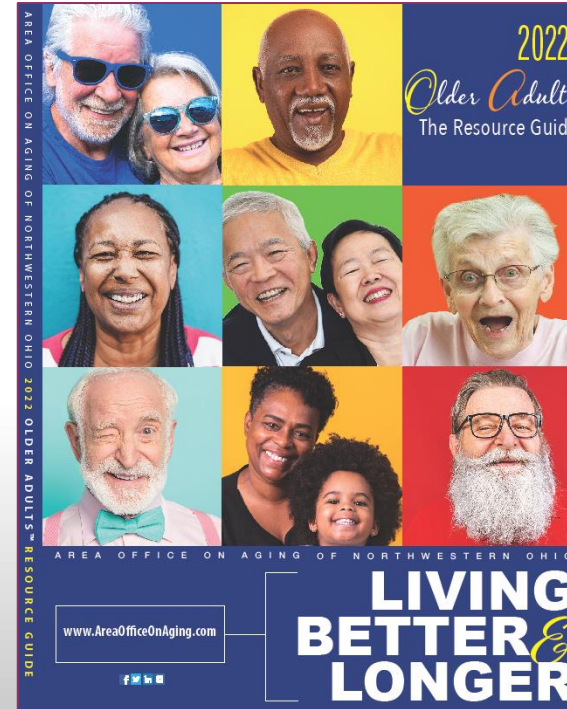


1,020 Kinship Caregivers were provided with Information and Referral Services
in FFY 2022 (October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022)

Area Office on Aging Programs and Publications

❖ 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!**



Call (419) 382-0624 to request your copy OR view online at www.areaofficeonaging.com

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

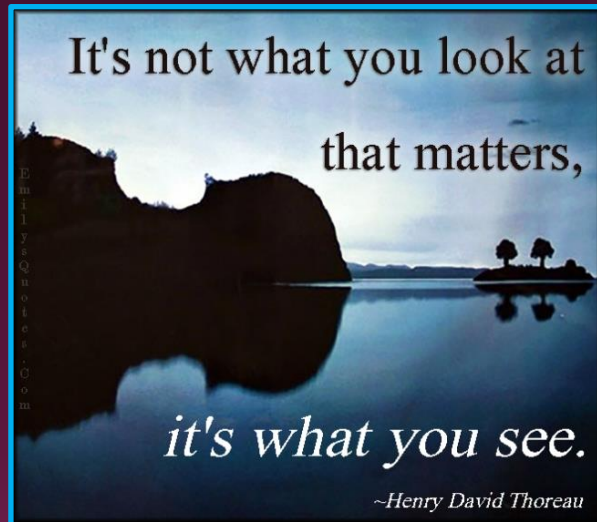
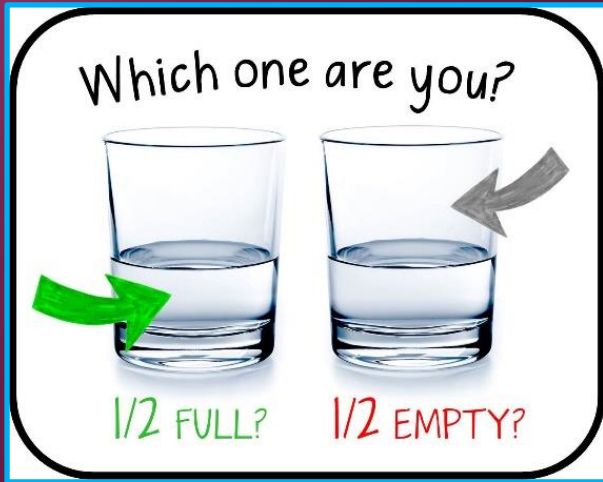
- **Program Funders:** Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services, Lucas County Children Services Levy, National Family Caregiver Support Program, and Lucas County Senior Services Levy
- **Program Requirements:**
 - Information, Referral and Assistance
 - Educational Enrichment and Respite
 - 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

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?

Virtual Kinship Clubs and Support Groups



MARCH - JUNE - SEPTEMBER

- 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.



Kinship Support Group Meeting

"Let's Talk"

Friday, September 9th, 2022

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Kinship Club Meeting

"Back to School Meals"

Thursday, September 22nd, 2022

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

For questions or additional assistance, please contact:
419-490-2942 or 419-725-7039

**Login information for participation is located
on the back of this flyer.**

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.





Virtual Evidence-Based Workshops

APRIL & OCTOBER



Are you 55 or older and looking for an opportunity to learn how to stay healthy and meet new people?

CLASS LIMITED TO 15 PEOPLE!

Join us, and bring a friend!

**Area Office on Aging
Kinship Navigator Program**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 am – 11:30 am
April 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22**

Sign up with Amy Johnson–419.490.2942 or Marsha Rose–419.725.7039

The educational program offers six lessons that cover a wide range of topics. Join us for this fun program, where you'll meet new people and:

- Learn about the aging process and how to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Celebrate this exciting stage of life and all the benefits that come with it
- Discuss risk factors and behaviors you should avoid to stay healthy
- Examine how alcohol, prescription medications and over-the-counter medications affect seniors differently and how you can avoid problems
- Learn how to use simple tools to help you feel more empowered about your health and the healthcare you receive

Free \$50 Kroger gift card upon successful program completion!
(First-time participants only)

Contact Carrie Dowling at 419.214.3629
6629 West Central Avenue, Toledo, OH 43617
419.475.4449 | www.harbor.org



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)



Virtual Educational Workshops

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

Today's Agenda
Virtual Computer & Technology Training
Wednesday, February 24th, 2021, 3:00- 4:00 p.m.
Presenters: Marsha Rose and Amy Johnson

Introductions
Review of Zoom and Virtual Etiquette
Review of 2021 Virtual Programming
Q/A
Survey Completion

Today's Objectives Include:
Google Account and Email Review - Importance and ease of using email
Passwords
Available Technology Resources
Knowing the Basics - Computer, Internet, Keyboard and Mouse
Downloading Apps
Social Networking and Blogs
Cyberbullying

For questions or additional assistance, please contact:
419-490-2942 or 419-725-7039
Login information for participation is located on the back of this flyer.

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

MAY IS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS MENTAL HEALTH & TRAUMA AWARENESS MONTH. IN HONOR OF THESE IMPORTANT TOPICS, THE KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM WILL BE OFFERING 2 EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS VIA ZOOM TO BRING AWARENESS & CONNECT KINSHIP CAREGIVERS TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5TH, 2021
10:00 - 11:30 A.M.
STIGMA, ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES & INTEGRATED CARE
GUEST SPEAKER: KARA OLLIGSCHLAGER FROM ZEPF CENTER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19TH, 2021
3:00 - 4:30 P.M.
TRAUMA AND PARENTING
GUEST SPEAKER: DIANE SWEINBARGER FROM PROMEDICA'S CULLEN CENTER

For questions or to register, please contact the Kinship Navigator Program at:
419-490-2942 or 419-725-7039

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.

THE KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM PRESENTS
A VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP:
MANAGING CHRONIC PAIN
Guest Speaker from
Comprehensive Center for Pain Management

Wednesday, June 23rd, 2021
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Call in or Join via Zoom.

To register, contact Kinship Staff at
419-490-2942 or 419-725-7039.

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.

Kinship Navigator Program
Presents a Virtual Educational Workshop
Medication Management for Adults

AOoA Pharmacist Dr. Ireatha Hollie, RPh will review adult medication management practices and answer your questions.

Wednesday, August 18th, 2021
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Call in or Join via Zoom.

For questions or additional assistance, please contact:
419-490-2942 or 419-725-7039

Login information for participation is located on the back of this flyer.

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.



July Virtual Summer Series

- 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

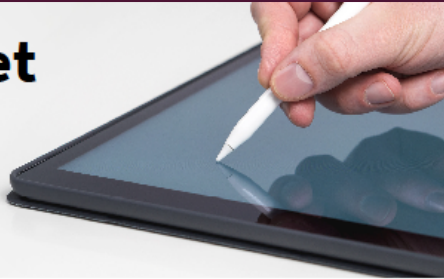
Date	Adult Programming 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Youth Programming 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Monday July 11, 2022 <i>Education</i>	<p>Session #1: "Foster Care and Adoption" and "YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral Center" Speakers: Vonda Williams and Lori McCullers, YWCA of Northwest Ohio</p> <p>Session #2: "Connecting Kids to Meals" Speaker: Wendi Huntley, Connecting Kids to Meals</p>	FREE DAY
Tuesday July 12, 2022 <i>Mental Health</i>	<p>Session #1: "9 Dimensions of Wellness and Mindfulness Activity" Speaker: Patrice Powers-Barker, OSU Extension Office of Lucas County</p> <p>Session #2: "NAMI KidTalk and TeenTalk Programs" Speaker: Mary Finch, NAMI Toledo</p>	"Tips for Staying Safe in Your Community" Jeff Medere, AOoA Drug Abuse Response Team (DART) Officer
Wednesday July 13, 2022 <i>Permanency & Support</i>	<p>Session #1: "Social Security Benefits Available to Children and Adults" Speaker: Erin Thompson, Social Security Administration</p> <p>Session #2: "Lifelong Learning Program" Speaker: Laura Megeath, Lourdes University</p>	FREE DAY
Thursday July 14, 2022 <i>Legal</i>	<p>Session #1: "Human Trafficking - What You Need to Know" Speakers: Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition; Erin Thompson, SSA and Oralee Macklenar, Mercy Health</p> <p>Session #2: "Navigating Child Support and the Legal System" Speaker: Twila Ferguson, Lucas County Juvenile Court</p>	"Toledo Museum of Art- Child and Youth Activity" Regina Jankowski, Toledo Museum of Art
Friday July 15, 2022 <i>Self-Care & Activities</i>	<p>Session #1: "Get Involved with Toledo PAL" Speaker: Officer Kimberly Darrington, Toledo Police Athletic League</p> <p>Session #2: "Minority Health Disparities" Speaker: Kim Toles, Lucas County Health Dept. Office on Minority Health</p>	"Meet Coconut the Cockatiel" Suzie Hernandez, AOoA Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN)
Monday July 18, 2022 <i>Wrap-Up</i>	<p>Session #1: TED Talk Presentation Speakers: AOoA Kinship Staff: Marsha Rose, LSW and Amy Johnson, LSW, MSW</p> <p>Session #2: Summer Series Wrap Up Speakers: AOoA Kinship Staff: Marsha Rose, LSW and Amy Johnson, LSW, MSW</p>	FREE DAY 46

Electronic Tablet Initiative



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.



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



"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

Electronic Tablet Initiative

TABLET INITIATIVE



"The tablet has been fantastic in being able to do virtual doctor's appointments and connect with others on social media."

— Rosalind Huggins

Quarterly Newsletter and Bi-Monthly E-Blast



save the date

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, & 18TH, 2022.

CALL IN OR JOIN ONLINE VIA ZOOM.

Contact the Kinship Navigator Program at 419-382-0624 to learn more about our 2022 Kinship Quarterly Resiliency Raffle.

AREA OFFICE ON AGING
KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM
2155 ARLINGTON AVENUE
TOLEDO, OH 43609

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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.

Spring 2022 Newsletter

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.



**"A FLOWER BLOSSOMS FOR ITS OWN JOY."
- OSCAR WILDE**

Resource Corner...

Rental Assistance

If you are unable to pay your bills due to or during the COVID-19 Pandemic, we can help. Up to 18 months of rent, utility, and internet support.

Apply now toledo.oh.gov/renters



For further assistance, please contact:

NeighborWorks Toledo
704 Second St.
Toledo, Ohio 43605
phone 419-242-2900
nwtol.org

Lutheran Social Services
2540 Collingwood Blvd.
Toledo, Ohio 43620
phone 419-242-9178
lssnc.org

Pathway
505 Harrison St.
Toledo Ohio 43604
phone 419-242-7324
pathwaytoledo.org



FREE Mobile WiFi hotspots Available

- Loan for 21 days
- Limit 1 loan per adult card
- Able to renew 2 times if there aren't outstanding holds
- Requestable
- Held item can be picked up at remote lockers and with Grab and Go

For further assistance please, call **419-259-5200** or visit: www.toledolibrary.org/wifi-hotspots

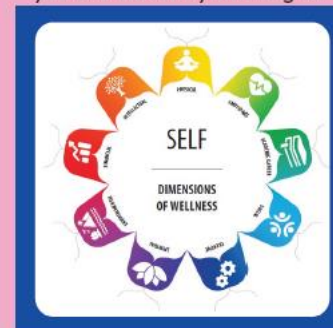


Interested in receiving our E-blast? Contact the Kinship Navigator Program at 419-382-0624 to add or update your email address.

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; this means that 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.



- What activities do you engage in for each dimension of wellness that support your well-being?
- What areas of your wellness can you enhance? What activities you can use to develop that aspect of well-being?

BCCampus. Capacity to Connect: Supporting Students' Mental Health and Wellness. Wellness Wheel Handout, page 2. This content has been adapted from Okanagan College's Wellness Peer Ambassador Handbook. Kelowna, B.C.: Okanagan College.



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 Toles,
Toledo-Lucas County Health
Department Local Office on
Minority Health

Mental Health First Aid
Guest Presenter: Robert Kasprzak,
Lucas County Mental Health and
Recovery Services Board

Call in or join online via ZOOM.

ENROLLED KINSHIP CAREGIVERS CAN EARN UP TO 2 TICKETS TO BE ENTERED INTO THE JULY QUARTERLY KINSHIP RESILIENCY RAFFLE.

FALL - WINTER - SPRING - SUMMER

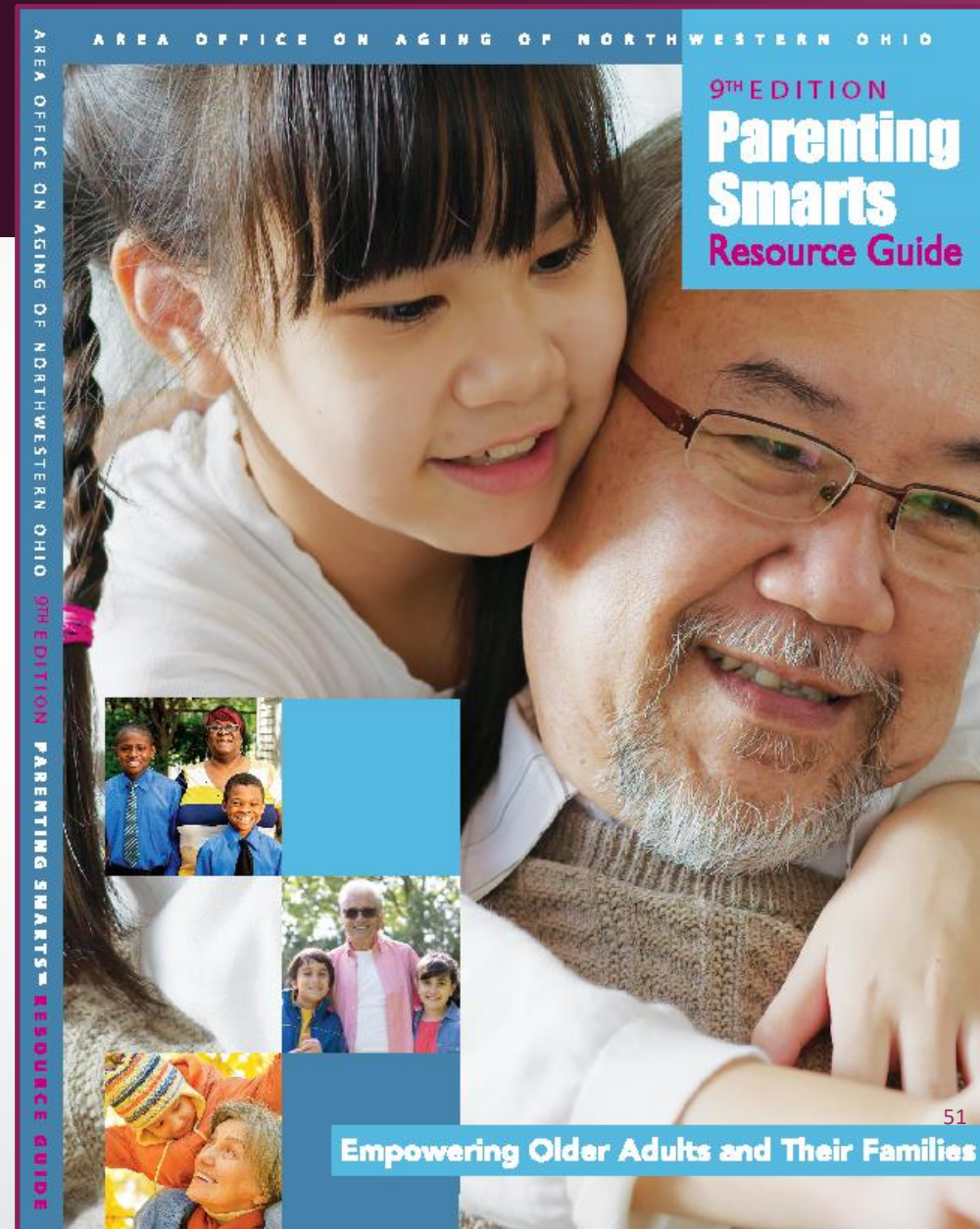
Self-Subscribe to the Kinship Newsletter and E-Blast at www.areaofficeonaging.com



Parenting Smarts Resource Guide

- ❖ **The *Parenting Smarts Resource Guide, 9th Edition*, includes a wealth of information and resources for kinship families.**
 - **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





Special Events

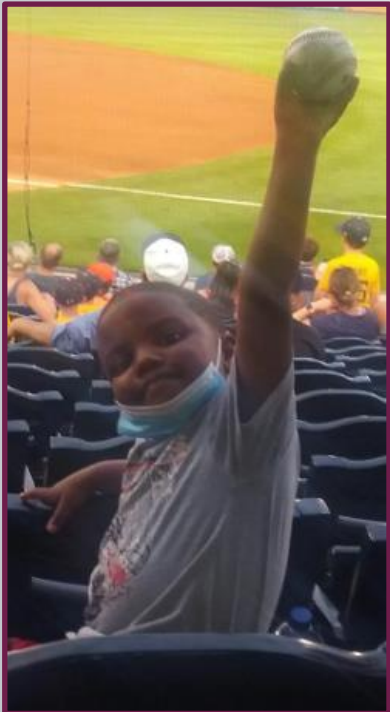
Generous donations from community partners allow us to offer:

- 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



Special Events

- 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.





Special Events

- **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.





Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) Stabilization Program

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.



Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) Stabilization Program

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



What our Community Partners are Saying

- ❖ 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 un-necessarily 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

T OGETHER
W **E** CAN
A CHIEVE
M ORE



Contact Us



Presenters:

- ❖ **Arcelia Armstrong, LSW, Coordinator, Caregiver Support and Kinship Programs**
Direct Phone: (419) 725-6963
Email: aarmstrong@areaofficeonaging.com

- ❖ **Marsha Rose, LSW, Kinship Navigator Program Supervisor**
Direct Phone: (419) 725-7039
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Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.

Kinship Navigator Program

2155 Arlington Ave.

Toledo, Ohio 43609

Phone: (419) 382-0624 or Toll Free: 1 (800) 472-7277

Fax: (419) 382-4560

Email: kinshipmailgroup@areaofficeonaging.com

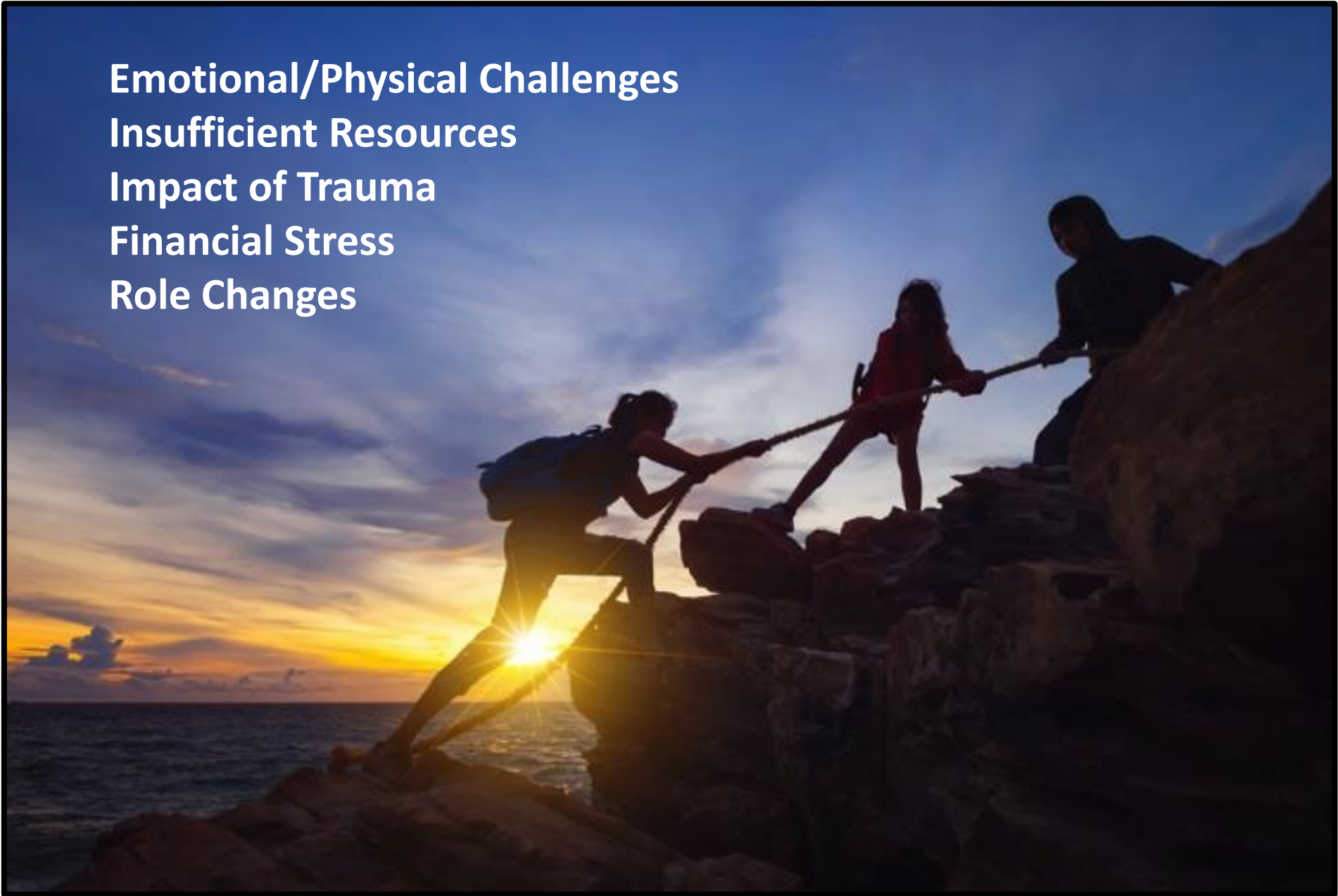
Website: www.areaofficeonaging.com



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

3:00-4:30 PM	CHECK IN, CAMP SET-UP, LAWN GAMES
4:30-7:00	WELCOME, GAMES AND DINNER FACE PAINTING, GIANT BUBBLE STATION PARACHUTE, ARTS AND CRAFTS, LAWN GAMES
7:00-8:00	EDUCATIONAL NATURE HIKE BOARD GAMES
8:00-8:30	GLOW IN THE DARK DANCE PARTY
8:30-9:30	HOW TO BUILD A CAMP FIRE CAMP FIRE FUN, SINGING S'MORES

SUNDAY

7:00-9:30 AM	BREAKFAST
9:30-10:00	INTERGENERATIONAL TREE PLANTING
10:00-11:00	NATURE TOUCH TABLE WITH RANGER BEN



It's all about
partnerships

AGING & INDEPENDENCE SERVICES















Special Considerations

What other older adults and at-risk families can benefit from engaging in nature?



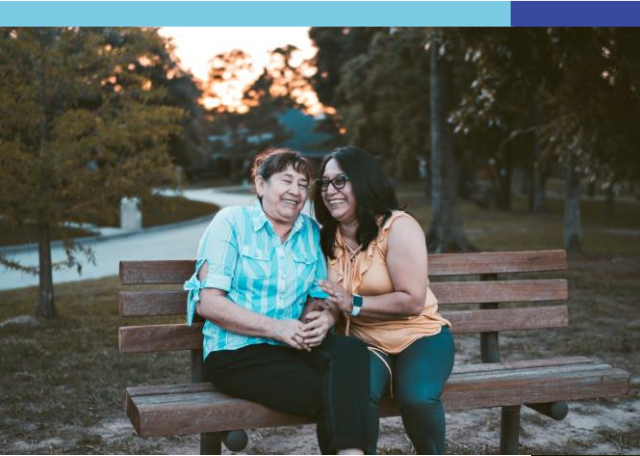


- In the work you do, how can you infuse nature-based solutions?
- Who could be possible partners in your community?



THANK YOU!

AGING & INDEPENDENCE SERVICES



Pam Plimpton
Intergenerational Coordinator
Aging & Independence Services
County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency

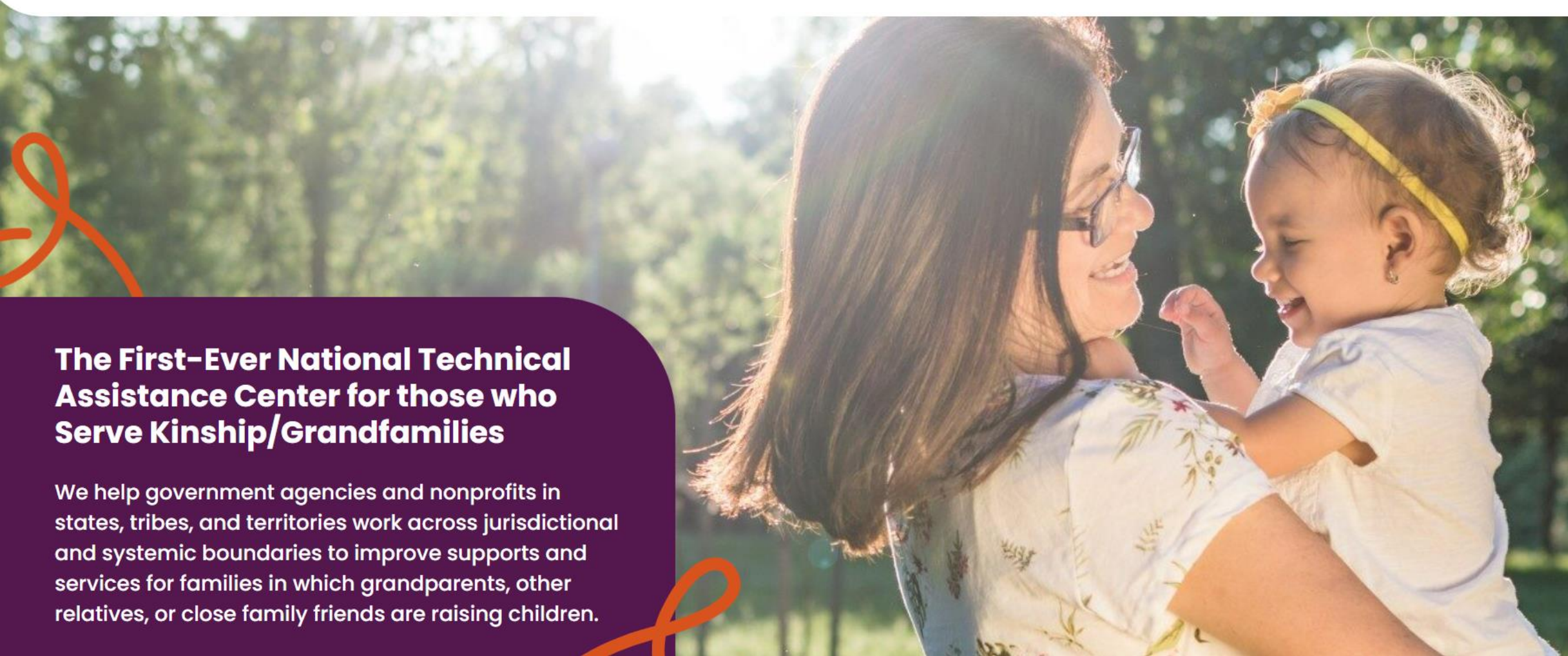
Pam.Plimpton@sdcounty.ca.gov

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.





← Resources

FACT SHEET

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Facts for Grandfamilies and Kinship Families

Download This Resource

← Resources

GENERAL RESOURCE

Kinship Navigator Programs Around the United States

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.

Stay Connected & Access Support

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





The Network is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial 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.