



# **Bridging Systems for Kinship Families**

Application Information Session and Q&A

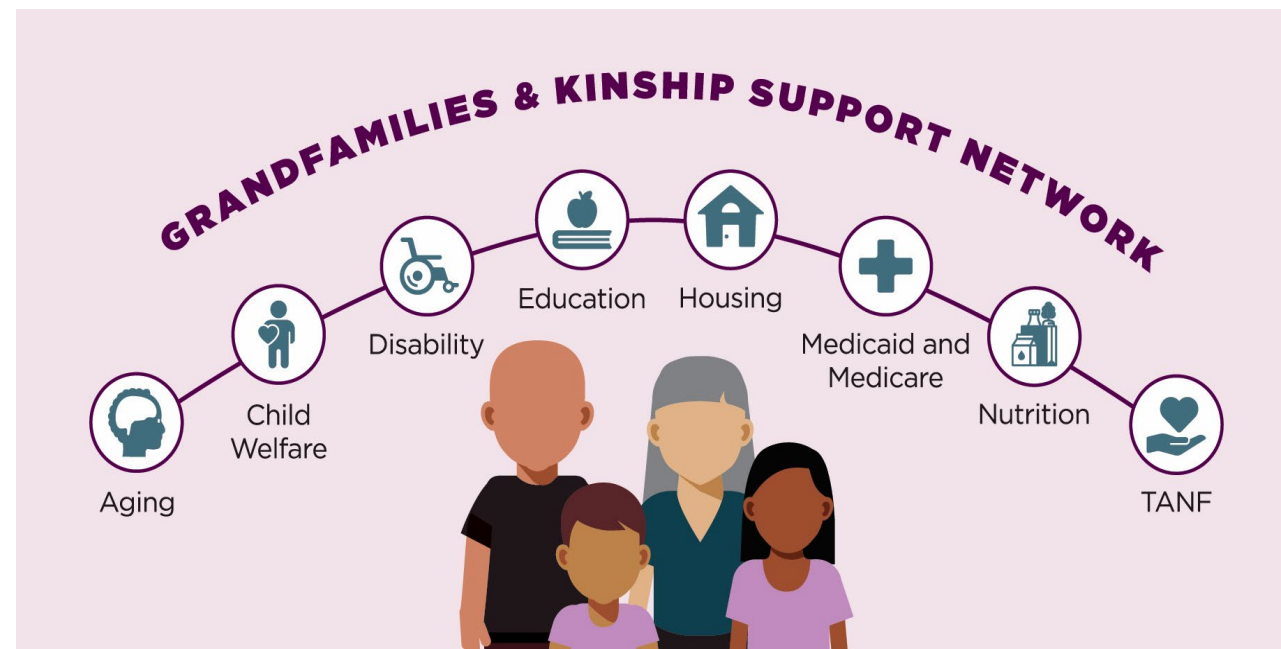
**November 30, 2023**



# GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK

A National Technical Assistance Center

- \$10 million for 5 years, awarded to Generations United as a cooperative agreement in September 2021, overseen by the Administration for Community Living (ACL)
- Purpose is to provide technical assistance to the array of government agencies and organizations that serve kinship families
- Not designed to help the families directly – will improve systems for families now and into the future.



# National Partners



# Subject Matter Experts

**Alexandra Ashbrook, JD**  
Food Research and Action Center  
(FRAC)

**Terry Cross, DHL**  
National Indian Child Welfare  
Association (NICWA)

**Joseph Crumbley, PhD**

**Angelique Day, PhD, MSW**  
University of Washington

**Gail Engel**  
GRAND Voice

**Jatrice Martel Gaiter, JD**  
Volunteers of America (VOA)

**Marina Nitze**  
New America Foundation Fellow

**Steven Olender**

**Melinda Perez-Porter, JD**  
Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)

**Heidi Redlich Epstein, JD, MSW and  
Emily Peeler, JD, MSW**  
American Bar Association (ABA)  
Center on Children and the Law

**Andrew Russo**  
National Family Support Network

**Sarah Smalls**  
GRAND Voice

**Tyreasa Washington, PhD, LCSW**  
Child Trends

**Nancy Young, PhD**  
Children and Family Futures

# 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, and nonprofit organizations.



## 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](http://www.GKSNetwork.org).

# How We Help (continued)



## 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.

# Bridging Systems for Kinship Families

**Goal:** To help jurisdictions identify and meet self-determined goals to work cross-system to the benefit of kinship/grandfamilies.



# Objectives

1. Create high impact partnerships across systems.
2. Optimize the effectiveness of jurisdictions' programs and services for kinship families
3. Implement diversity, equity, and inclusion practices with a focus on supporting kin caregivers and the children in their care who are Black, Indigenous, Latino, and/or living in underserved rural areas.
4. Amplify the voices of those with lived experience to shape programs, services and systems.



# Where will this opportunity be provided?

The Bridging Systems for Kinship Families initiative will be launched in two jurisdictions, in states, territories, and/or large counties.

Additionally, a tribe or tribal organization will be selected and supported by Network partner, National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)

# Criteria to Qualify

1. Lead agency must be a state, large county, or territorial government agency focused on an area or areas in our Network umbrella:



# Criteria to Qualify (continued)

2. Project team must be committed to cross-system partnerships and include at a minimum:

- two government agencies, including lead applicant
- one community-based nonprofit with jurisdiction wide-impact
- two lived experts

# Expectations from Lead Agency

- Commit to work for two years with the Network to co-develop and implement an action plan to enhance services and supports for kinship families.
- Commit to actively participate in monthly meetings and act on identified tasks in preparation for each meeting.
- Designate two staff members from each of the partner agencies to work on this effort.

# Expectations from Lead Agency (continued)

- Ensure that project team members participate in monthly meetings and act on identified tasks in preparation for each meeting.
- Engage lived experts in meetings and ongoing work.
- Collaborate with Child Trends who will help assess and document site progress.

# Commitments from the Network

1. Provide in-depth, ongoing assistance with the project free of charge by the nation's leading kinship experts.
2. Designate a Network staff lead to serve as a point-of-contact.
3. Facilitate monthly meetings and serve as a resource between meetings.
4. Provide on-site technical assistance up to two times per year.
5. Provide compensation to lived experts.

# Project Timeline

**January 30th, 2024 (11:59 PM ET)** – Application period closes.

**February 2024:** Network staff will reach out to each lead agency that submits a complete application to schedule a 60-minute virtual interview.

**March 2024:** Network will notify applicants of decisions.

# QUESTIONS?



# Additional Questions

Feel free to contact us with any questions.

Kylee Craggett

Technical Assistance Specialist

Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network at

Generations United

[kcraggett@gu.org](mailto:kcraggett@gu.org)



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.