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Bridging Systems for Kinship Families

Overview

The Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (Network), the nation’s first federally funded technical assistance center for those who serve grandparents and other kin caregivers and the children they raise, is thrilled to roll out a unique opportunity to work with the nation’s leading experts on kinship families, all free of charge. After reviewing applications and conducting interviews, the Network will select two jurisdictions – states, territories, and/or large counties – and Network experts will provide in-depth support to each. The support will focus on goals identified by the lead agencies and their partners related to collaboration across government systems and nonprofit service providers, with the ultimate purpose of better serving all kinship families, whether they are involved in the child welfare system or not. The Network will help project teams collaborate effectively to address service barriers and leverage resources to maximize support of these families.     
  
To learn more about the goals and criteria of this project, visit <https://www.gksnetwork.org/events/bridging-systems-for-kinship-families/>.   
  
Applications are due by 11:59 PM ET on Tuesday, January 30, 2024.   
  
**Please note the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), a Network partner, will release a separate application to work with one tribe or tribal organization.**  
  
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Application

Can be completed on this fillable electronic [**form**](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=1OGczDeA2Eu4bspgoy1u3Snlzv5sY0dNkmvyj9emyelUQzlEREg0VUtXTkNEOEtGRzlUWU81NFFURS4u) (or use the word template below)

# **Contact Information for Lead Agency Applicant**

1. Lead agency name:

Address:

Website:

Primary staff contact name:

* Title:
* Email:

1. Select the system that best represents your government agency*.*

Aging

Child Welfare

Disability

Education

Housing

Temporary Assistance or Needy Families

Medicaid/Medicare

Nutrition

1. Share the name and title of one additional staff member in the agency who will commit to participating in this project. (At least one participating staff member should have decision-making authority within the agency.)
2. For the above staff member, provide two examples of how their work directly touches kinship-focused supports.

# **General Information on Lead Agency**

1. In two paragraphs, briefly provide an overview of your agency’s kinship services, including the number of kin caregivers, children they raise, and/or kinship families (depending on how you collect data) who are served annually, and how they identify by race and ethnicity.
2. Briefly share why your agency is interested in this opportunity with the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network
3. Since the success of this work requires cross-system collaboration, please provide a brief explanation of existing efforts to promote this type of collaboration, as well as planned efforts to operate in a cross-system framework. (Cross-system collaboration can include any work with service systems different than yours, such as aging, child welfare, disability, education, housing, legal, Medicaid/Medicare, nutrition, and/or TANF, or with tribe(s)).
4. Does your agency offer services to kinship families in which the children are not in child welfare custody (i.e., “informal” families)?(Options: Yes/No/Unsure) If yes, please provide the percentage of your service population who are considered “informal” and please list what services are offered to them.

# **Partner Agencies**

For your application to be considered, you will need to have a partnership with at least one other government agency in your jurisdiction, and your partner must represent a different system than your agency. For example, if you are an aging agency, you could partner with an agency representing any of the other seven systems in the Network's area of emphasis: child welfare, disability, education, housing, Medicaid/Medicare, nutrition, or TANF. Additionally, all project teams must include a community-based nonprofit with jurisdiction-wide impact.

**Agency #1 participating as a partner/co-applicant:**

1. Partner agency name:

Address:

Website:

Primary contact name:

* Title:
* Email:

1. Indicate the system that best represents partner agency 1 or identify if it is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working on behalf of kin.

Aging

Child Welfare

Disability

Education

Housing

Temporary Assistance or Needy Families

Medicaid/Medicare

Nutrition

501(c)(3)/Non-Profit

1. If applicable, what is the primary way your agency currently partners with agency 1?

**Agency #2 participating as a partner/co-applicant:**

1. Partner agency name:

Address:

Website:

Primary contact name:

* Title:
* Email:

1. Indicate the system that best represents partner agency 2 or identify if it is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working on behalf of kin.

Aging

Child Welfare

Disability

Education

Housing

Temporary Assistance or Needy Families

Medicaid/Medicare

Nutrition

501(c)(3)/Non-Profit

1. If applicable, what is the primary way your agency currently partners with this agency?

# **Lived Experts**

1. Please name two kin caregivers, young adults raised in kinship families, and/or parents of children in kinship families who will work with you on this project and provide an up to 150-word biography of each. (If you have not yet identified lived experts, please indicate a commitment to work with lived experts.)

# **Cross-Collaboration Efforts**

1. List the names of other agencies that you plan to engage in this project if you are selected.
2. If none of the agencies listed above operate kinship navigator programs, briefly explain how you will engage your jurisdiction’s kinship navigator program in this project. If your state, territory, or large county does not have one, indicate that here.
3. Does your state/territory/large county have an active kinship coalition or commission? (Yes/No/Unsure)

* If yes, what is its name?
* Is your agency a part of the coalition?

# **Additional Information**

1. Optional: If you have any other information you would like to share to substantiate your application, please do so here. You may also hyperlink to any relevant documents or submit them by email to Kylee Craggett at [kcraggett@gu.org](mailto:kcraggett@gu.org).

The Network is a project of Generations United.

