

Exemplary Kinship Programs In Action

March 19, 2024

- We will begin at the top of the hour
- Please type in the **chat** box- your name, state, tribe (if applicable), and role
- Type questions in the **chat** box at any point during our time together
- All participants will receive a link to the slides and recording by the end of the week

**GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP
SUPPORT NETWORK**
A National Technical Assistance Center

- 5-year (2021-2026) cooperative agreement with Administration for Community Living
- Purpose is to provide technical assistance to the array of tribal, state, and territorial government agencies, as well as non-profit organizations that serve kinship families
- Not designed to serve the families directly – working to improve systems for families



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, and community-based nonprofits.



A Centralized Hub

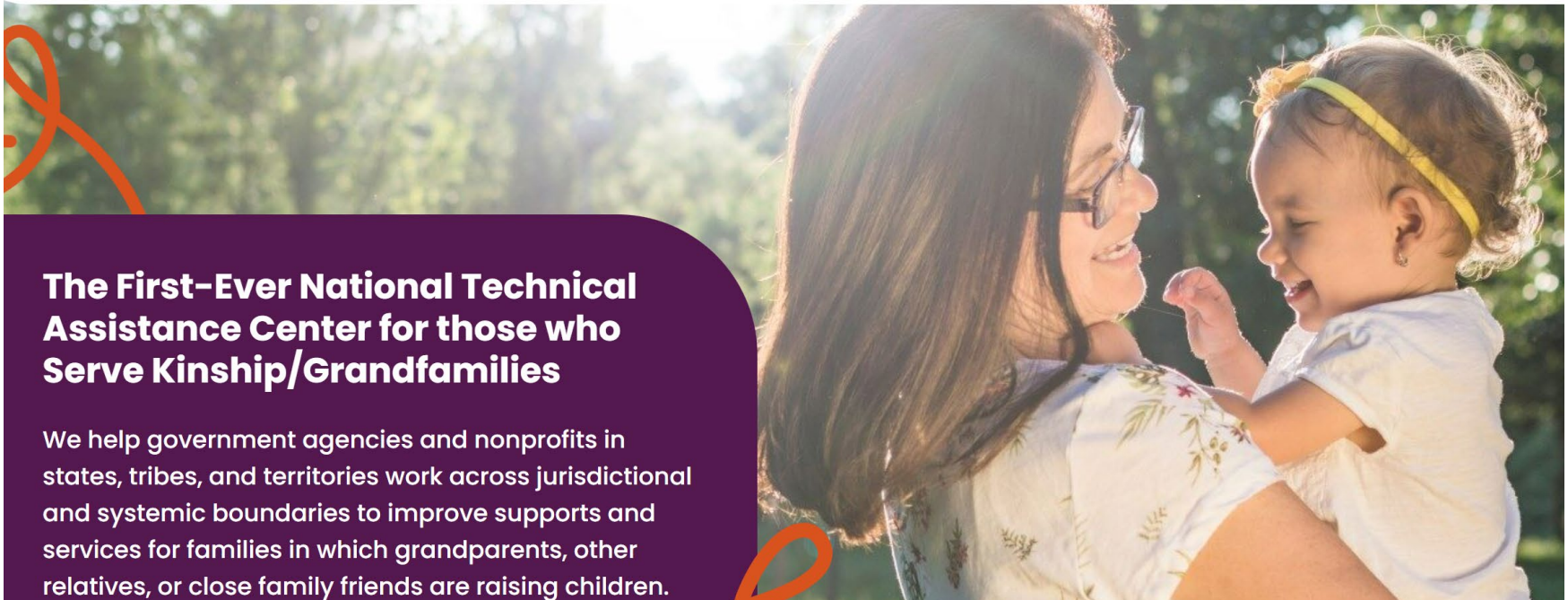
The Network is elevating exemplary kinship/grandfamily practices and programs from around the country on its accessible website, www.GKSNetwork.org.



< Resources

EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS

Elevating Exemplary Kinship Policies, Practices, and Programs



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.

www.GKSNetwork.org

Stay Connected & Access Support

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



For the latest updates, follow the Network on LinkedIn!





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.

WHO is WATCHING THE CHILDREN? Development of the Kinship Care Project

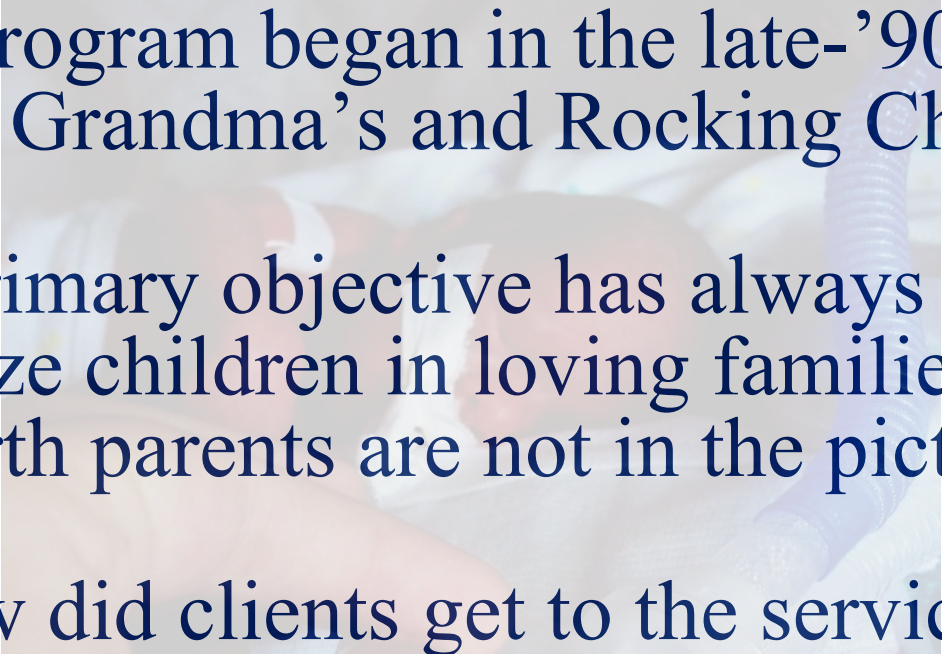
Presented by

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Atlanta Legal Aid Society

Kinship Care Services

- 
- Program began in the late-'90's
Grandma's and Rocking Chairs
 - Our primary objective has always been to stabilize children in loving families when birth parents are not in the picture
 - How did clients get to the services??

The Project of Today

- Who are our clients?

Clients are income-eligible for Legal Aid
Special funding

Clients are caring for children for whom they
are not parents

- How do clients get to services today?

- - Kinship Care Line
- - Collaboration with Kinship Groups
- - Pro bono component
- - Intraoffice Referrals
- - Senior Hotline

More help is always needed

The need continues...

As of 2023 over 319,766 children in Georgia lived in a home with a relative other than their parent. (see **Grandfacts** state fact sheet for Georgia)

Our service area encompasses the entire state of Georgia for advice and counsel. We provide direct representation in the 5-county metro-Atlanta area.

In 2023, we were able to provide assistance to over 722 children in our metro-Atlanta area.

What can we do??

Adoptions

Guardianships

Custody

School Enrollment

We also help families to access available Public Benefits



How do we do the work?

Staff: 4 Staff Attorneys plus Managing Attorney.
A Senior Paralegal, and a Intake Paralegal

Network and Collaboration: Department of Aging Services, Department of Family and Children's Services, Kinship Navigators, Project Healthy Grandparents, ISDD and other local kinship support groups.

Kinship Care Line: 855-357-6566

We successfully train more than 50 volunteers each year on the mechanics of handling adoptions or assisting with Public Benefit applications. We have had extensive volunteer involvement since the Project began!

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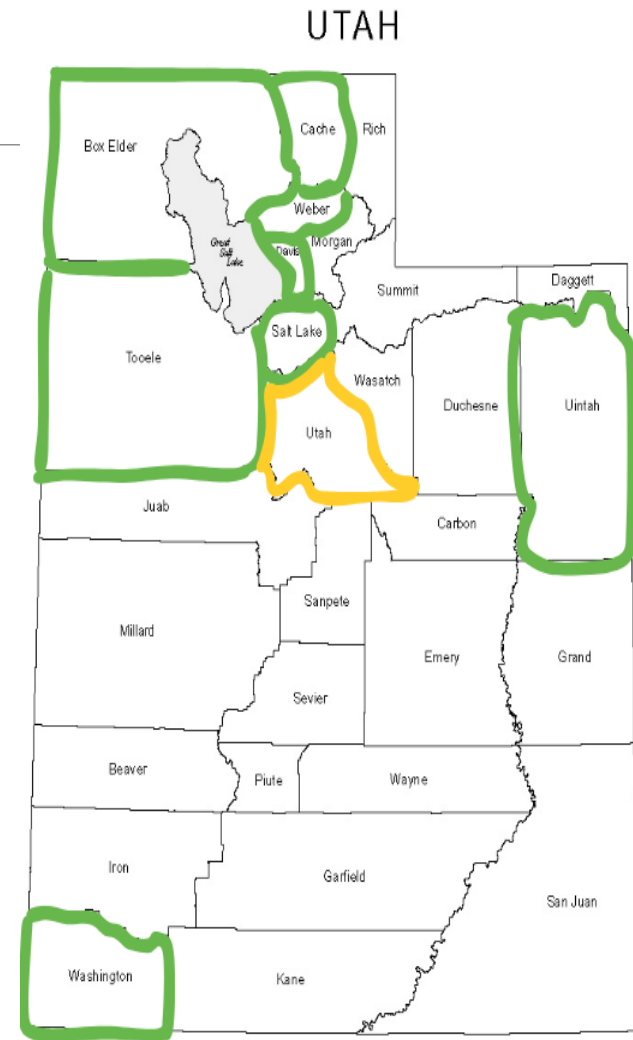
Children's Service Society of Utah

GRANDfamilies


GRANDfamilies Kinship Care at Children's Service Society of Utah supports kinship caregivers and children by providing inclusive support services in collaboration with trusted community partners to build safe, stable, and resilient kinship families.

History of GRANDfamilies

- Established in 2002 as the first kinship support program in the State of Utah, serving Salt Lake County
- Opened offices in 7 additional counties from 2012 to 2024
- Began offering virtual services statewide in 2020
- Funding for the GRANDfamilies program comes from Title IV-E, Utah State Legislature, other grants/contracts, and private donations

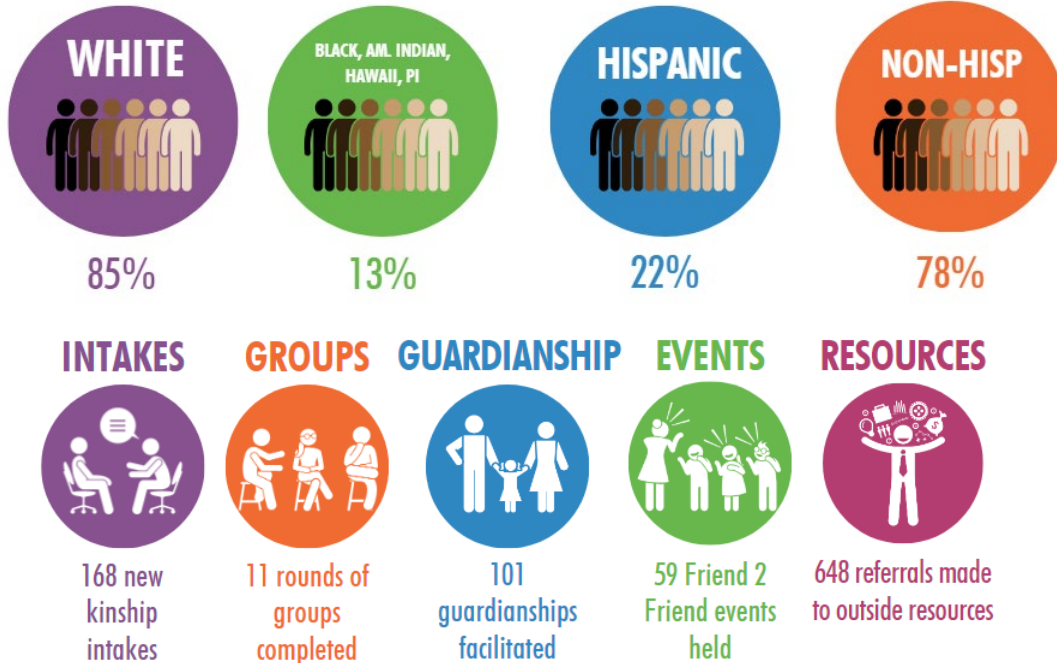


Free services offered:

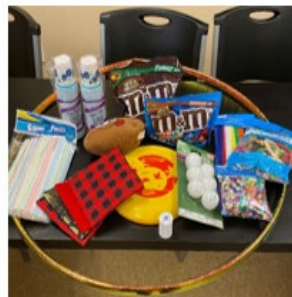
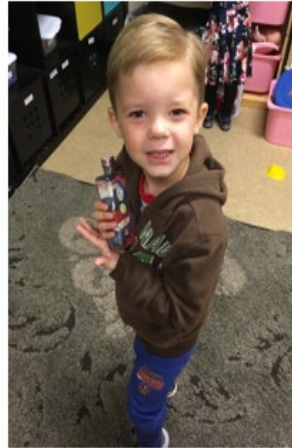
- ▶ Case Management (Intakes, referrals, team meetings, family mediation) 
- ▶ Psycho-Educational classes for Adults, Adolescents, and Children
- ▶ Friend 2 Friend monthly events
- ▶ Short-term clinical services, clinical referrals



How it's going



Psycho-Educational Classes



- ▶ 10-Week session, one 1 ½ hour class each week, 4 sessions per year
- ▶ 3 separate groups for Caregivers, Adolescents (12-18), Children (4-11) all held in the same building at the same time
- ▶ Curriculum written by CSS GRANDfamilies staff and facilitated by Clinical Therapist and Family Advocates
- ▶ Combination of kinship education and support group through discussion

WEEK ONE

Adult Group: Introduction to Kinship Care
Teen Group: Getting to Know You
Children Group: Intro to Interpersonal Skills

WEEK TWO

Adult Group: Dynamics of Kinship Families
Teen Group: Kinship Family Dynamics
Children Group: Developing a Healthy Self Esteem

WEEK THREE

Adult Group: The Need for Permanency
Teen Group: Developing a Healthy Self Esteem
Children Group: Identifying and Expressing Feelings

WEEK FOUR

Adult Group: Healthy Boundaries with Your Family
Teen Group: Identifying and Expressing Feelings
Children Group: Identifying and Managing Feelings

WEEK FIVE

Adult Group: Risk and Protective Factors
Teen Group: Interpersonal Skills Understanding Feelings in Ourselves and Others
Children Group: Kinship Family Dynamics

WEEK SIX

Adult Group: Trauma
Teen Group: Learning Healthy Coping Skills
Children Group: Learning Healthy Coping Skills

WEEK SEVEN

Adult Group: Neuroplasticity
Teen Group: Anger Management
Children Group: Overview of the Effects of Drugs and Alcohol

WEEK EIGHT

Adult Group: Attachment and Bonding
Teen Group: Substance Use and Addiction
Children Group: Handling Peer Pressure

WEEK NINE

Adult Group: Substance Use, Misuse, and Addiction
Teen Group: Peer Pressure
Children Group: Anger Management Techniques

WEEK TEN

Adult Group: Caregiver Support
Teen Group: Stress and Self Kindness
Children Group: Social Skills and Termination

Contact us!



Find us on social media @cssutah

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✓ **Website:**

www.cssutah.org





Families Change Tomorrows

KINSHIP NAVIGATION PROGRAM

Boone, North Carolina



The mission of High Country Caregivers is to provide advocacy, support, and education for kinship caregivers and their families.



2006

- HCC Founded To Meet Caregiver Needs
- **Resource Referrals & Support Groups**
- Mitchell, Avery, Watauga, & Wilkes Counties

2019

- Transition to Stand-Alone Non-Profit
- **Launched Kinship Navigation Program**
- Year-End: 45 Children, 26 Caregivers

2022

- Expanded into Ashe & Yancey Counties
- **Catalyzed Youth Focused Programs**
- Year-End: 213 Children, 163 Caregivers

2023

- Added 2nd Site: Kinship Korner
- **Increased Focus on Counseling Needs**
- Year-End: 385 Children, 304 Caregivers





YEAR-OVER-YEAR PROGRAM GROWTH

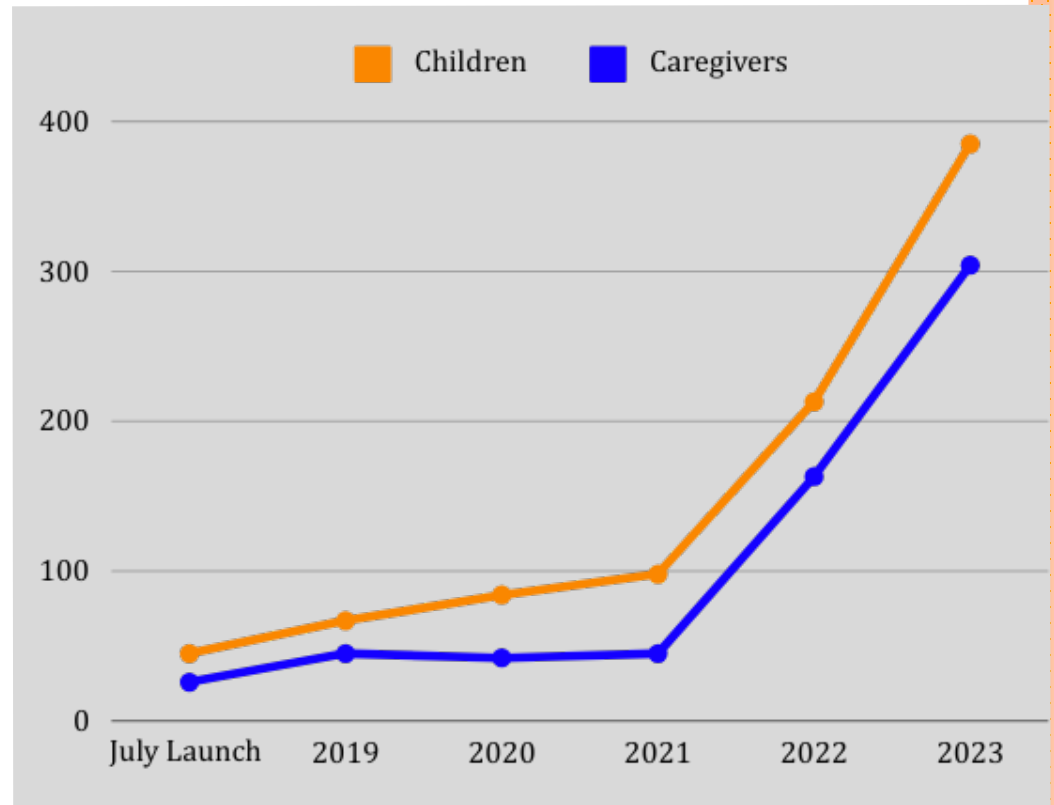
Caregivers

The number of caregivers supported by High Country Caregivers

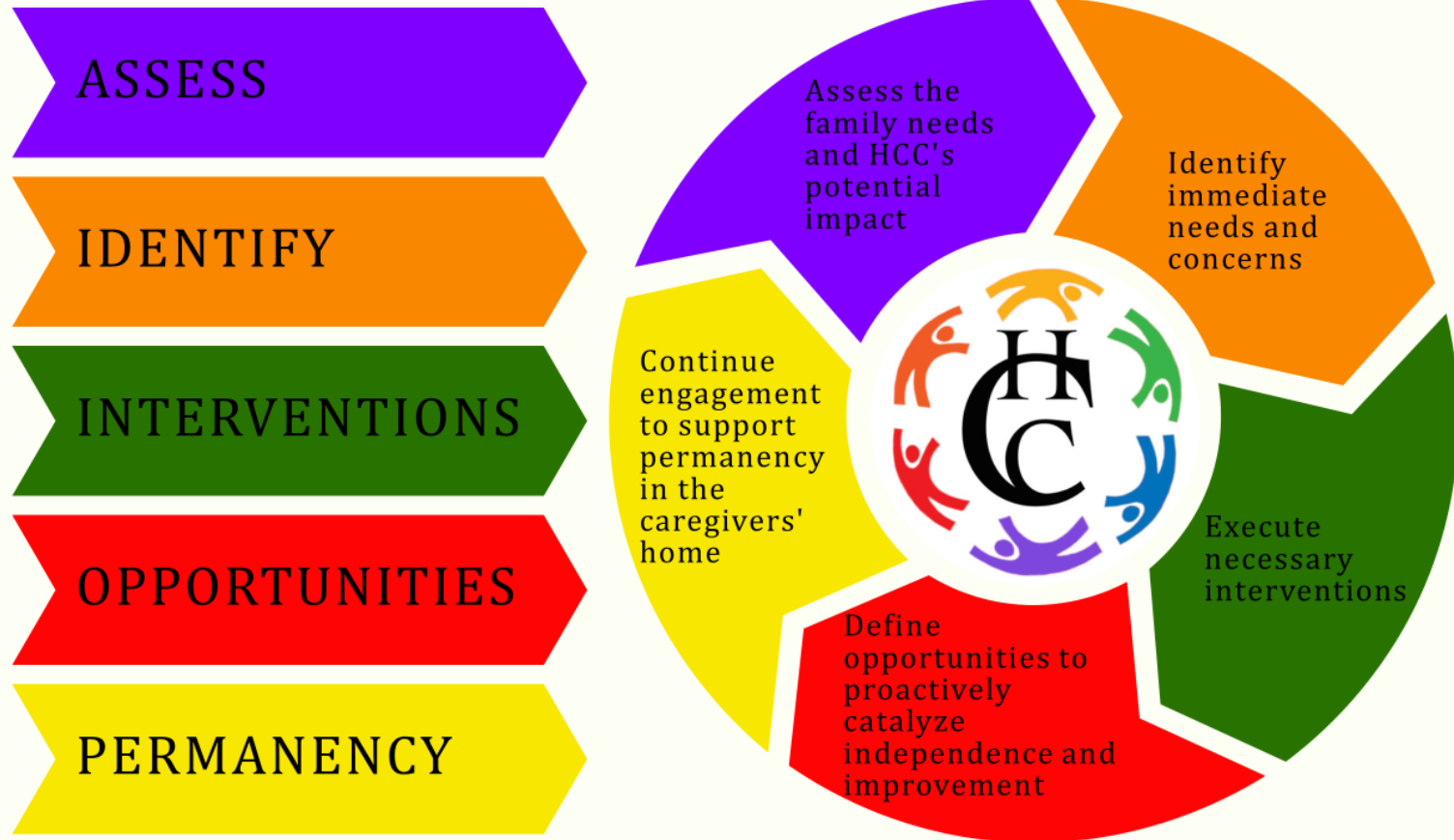


Children

The number of children supported by High Country Caregivers



HCC Kinship Navigation Process



Caregiver Support

- Relatives as Parents – Monthly Support Groups
- Circle of Parents – Weekly Coffee Chats
- Respite During Youth Activities

Youth Interventions

- Monthly Field Trips
- Coaches Kids – Summer Camps
- Eyes In The Wild – Therapeutic Hiking & Camping Adventures
- Pathways To Success – Educational & Career Guidance
- Christmas Angels – Holiday Gifts





Families Change Tomorrows



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