

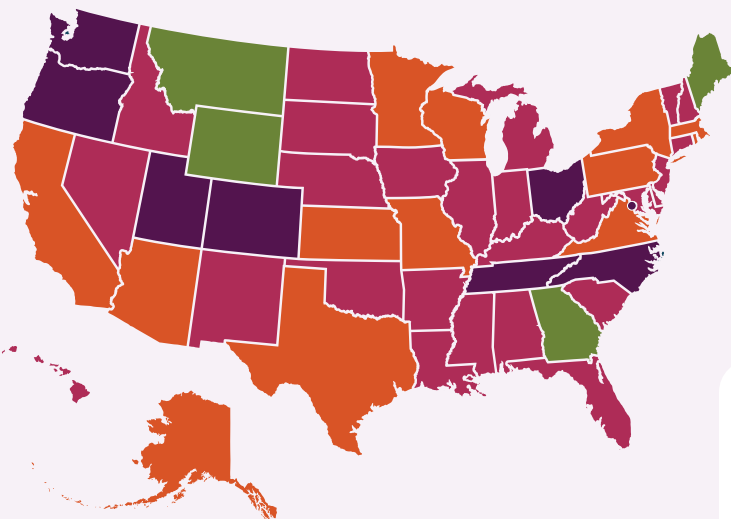


Across the country, grandparents, other relatives, and close family friends are raising more than **2.4 million children** whose parents cannot, in families known as grandfamilies or kinship families. These families form for a range of reasons, including parental opioid or other substance use, incarceration, military deployment, severe disability, teenage pregnancy, and death. **For each child in foster care with a kin caregiver, there are 19 outside of foster care with a grandparent or other kin raising them.**

Children thrive in the care of their kin, with safer and more stable childhoods than children raised by non-kin foster parents. While there are many positives for the children and their caregivers, there are significant challenges too. Kinship/grandfamilies typically form suddenly and in a time of crisis. The caregivers often face bureaucratic obstacles enrolling the children in school and consenting to their basic health care. Going to court to get a legal relationship with the child can help, but that takes time and money.

ABOUT THE GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK

The Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (Network) is helping community-based organizations and government agencies in states, tribes, and territories improve supports for grandfamilies and kinship families. Generations United and its partners have built the only national technical assistance center for those who serve kinship/grandfamilies, in cooperation with the U.S. Administration for Community Living. The Network is uniquely positioned to elevate replicable state and local programs and practices that provide cost-effective community supports to the families. We are proud to have assisted agencies and community-based organizations in a variety of ways, including by answering individual requests for assistance; elevating exemplary kinship programs; and providing trainings tailored to a state, tribe, or territory's needs.



ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

A Snapshot of the Network's Services & Reach

- Individual Assistance
- Individual Assistance + Exemplary Programs
- Individual Assistance + Trainings
- Individual Assistance + Exemplary Programs + Trainings

SINCE FALL 2021, THE NETWORK



REACHED OVER 625,000 INDIVIDUALS

including more than 6,000 who subscribe to our monthly newsletter and over 3,000 followers on LinkedIn



RESPONDED TO OVER 900 ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

from all 50 states and several tribes and territories



SUPPORTED OVER 65,000 PROFESSIONALS

during 100+ presentations, tailored trainings to 21 states, peer-learning communities, and webinars



PUBLISHED OVER 100 PRACTICAL RESOURCES

that fill gaps



DESIGNATED 15 KINSHIP PROGRAMS

as Exemplary and elevated their replicable practices to others



CONDUCTED 50+ CROSS-SYSTEM MEETINGS and 6 HALF-DAY CONVENINGS

with each state and several tribes and territories to explore strengths and challenges serving kin



INTENSIVELY SUPPORTING 3 JURISDICTIONS

- Idaho, Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, and San Diego County - through our "Bridging Systems for Kinship Families" initiative



Provided a series of trainings and ongoing assistance to **WISCONSIN** to help its child welfare agency with its kin-licensing work and to help its Aging Network reach and serve grandfamilies.



Helped **KANSAS** initiate planning to implement its Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) and streamline its kin-specific foster care licensing. In **TEXAS**, presented to the DFPS Foster Care and Kinship Policy Subcommittee to inform its efforts to implement kin-specific licensing.



Elevated the **NEVADA** kinship navigator model in the Title IV-E Clearinghouse to **UTAH**. Utah now follows that model and receives title IV-E support.



Helped **VIRGINIA** develop a Kinship Convening Group comprised of government, faith-based, and private agencies, which led the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services to implement a Lifespan Respite Voucher Program for kin caregivers.



OUR WORK IS HELPING FAMILIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES



ALABAMA

“Y’all are such an amazing resource. As we are starting to dive into the work of serving kinship families, we are grateful for the guidance and the way you have welcomed us to this work, including connecting us with resources and stakeholders specific to our state. I’m excited about continuing to learn from your vast expertise as we build partnerships with folks in our state. Together, we can do so much to benefit kinship families.”

*Joan Witherspoon-Norris, Executive Director,
Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers*



ALASKA

Holly Handler, a former attorney for Alaska Legal Services, co-founded the Kin Support Program – Haa Yaitx’u Saiani out of a desire to serve grandparents and other family members struggling to care for young relatives outside the foster care system in a remote area of Alaska.

“From questions about launching as an independent nonprofit to managing referrals and evaluating the program, the Network could answer absolutely every question I had. They put me in touch with other small, independent programs like the one I was hoping to build so I could leverage their best practices. I had an extraordinary counseling session with one of the subject matter experts, Dr. Angelique Day, who helped me design our program evaluation. With the Network’s consistent support, I opened our doors, and now have grown my staff size and served 35 client families in just six months.”

*Holly Handler, Co-Founder, Kin Support Program –
Haa Yaitx’u Saiani*



OHIO

In 2024, the Network designated the Kinship Navigator Program at the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. (AOoA) as an **Exemplary Program**. Program Director Arcelia Armstrong shared that the designation is enhancing their ability to secure funding, improve services, and increase reach. Specifically, Arcelia believes that the designation helped give them the credibility to secure **opioid settlement funds**, thereby allowing them to serve an additional 240 kin caregivers (120 per year) through caregiver support groups and other resources.

The Network’s support and partnership in Ohio has had ripple effects in other states, as well. For example, the AOoA shared their replicable practices with the Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging, teaching them how to build partnerships to most efficiently reach and serve kinship families, even with limited staff and other resources.



ONEIDA NATION OF WISCONSIN

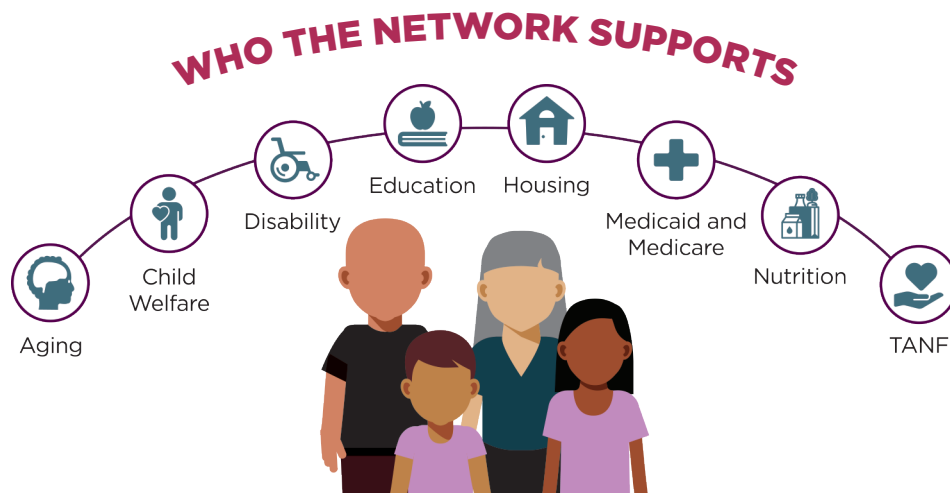
“The technical assistance we are receiving is hands-on and engaging while encouraging the Oneida Nation to lead the Bridging Systems for Relative Caregivers Project with a cultural and sovereign lens. We are excited to see how our continued work will improve services to some of our most valuable community members now and for the next seven generations.”

*Louise Padron, MAC, Oneida Family Services
Supervisor, Oneida Nation of Wisconsin*

GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK

Leveraging decades of experience working with and on behalf of grandfamilies, Generations United runs the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (Network). We do this work with five partner organizations and an array of subject matter experts, in cooperation with the U.S. Administration for Community Living.

As the nation's only technical assistance center on the families, we work to help jurisdictions implement programs and practices that maximize human and financial assets, break down bureaucratic barriers, and better meet the needs of kinship/grandfamilies where they live.



LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

Please make sure you've joined our Network by signing up for our newsletter, so you're among the first to hear of our latest resources and opportunities.



LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN HELP!

Complete this short form and we'll get back to you, free of charge.

A project of Generations United.

**generations
united**

Because we're stronger together®

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