

Evidence-Based Kinship Navigator Programs: Which Federally Approved Model is Right for Your State or Tribe?

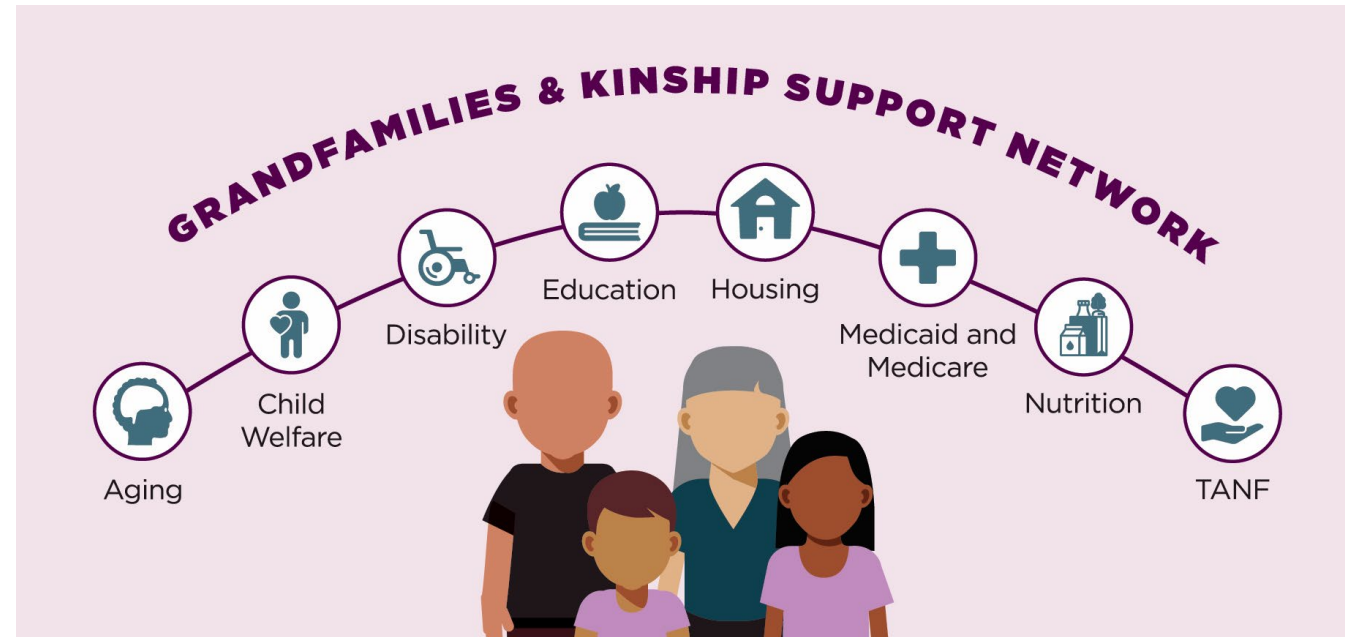
November 18, 2025

- Welcome, 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
- **We will provide a separate meeting link for a 30-minute Q&A with our presenters, starting in an hour, at 3 PM ET**
- By the end of the week, all participants will receive a link to the slides and the recording

GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK

A National Technical Assistance Center

- Since 2021, Generations United, in cooperation with the U.S. Administration for Community Living, has operated the first-ever federally funded technical assistance center on kinship/grandfamilies
- Purpose is to provide technical assistance to the array of state, territorial, and tribal government agencies and organizations so they can better serve the families by working across systems and maximizing resources



How We Help



Learning Collaboratives and Information Dissemination

The Network hosts [webinars](#) and facilitates learning collaboratives.



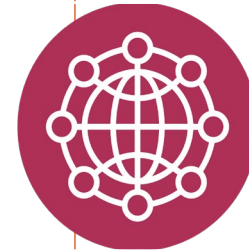
Individual Assistance

We respond to [individual requests for help](#) from government agencies and nonprofit organizations.



Bridging Systems for Kinship Families

The Network is helping Idaho, San Diego County, and Oneida Nation of Wisconsin 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.

Connect & Access Support

Sign up for our monthly newsletter with all things kinship.



Request assistance

For the latest updates, follow the Network on LinkedIn!





◀ Resource Library

GENERAL RESOURCE

Kinship Navigator Programs Around the United States

Follow Evidence-Based Model with Fidelity

- Title IV-E child welfare agencies that want to follow one of evidence-based models that are in the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse with fidelity rather than evaluate their own program can follow the guidance in ACYF-CB-PI-18-11 to submit a Title IV-E Plan Pre-Print Attachment XII and revise their cost allocation plan.
- Once the attachment has been approved by the Children's Bureau and the jurisdiction's cost allocation plan has been modified and approved, 50% of all allowable program, administrative, and training expenditures for the title IV-E kinship navigator program are federally reimbursable.

Title IV-B Competitive Opportunity

- \$10 million in new competitive FY 2026 grants for kinship navigator programs
- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) expected around May 2026, with Grant Forecast sooner
- Nonprofits or universities can be lead applicants
- Any nonprofit or university lead applicant should closely collaborate with their jurisdiction's title IV-E child welfare agency
- NOFO expected to require naming an evidence-based model to follow
- The Network will send out an email blast to all our newsletter subscribers when the opportunity is announced

Welcome Our Presenters



Rosalyn Alber,
Kinship and Lifespan Respite
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Home & Community Living
Administration,
Washington State Department
of Social and Health Services



Amanda Krotke, Ph.D.,
Kinship Navigator Fidelity
Analyst, Home & Community
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John Fowler, Ph.D.,
Research Scientist,
University of Washington
School of Social Work

Welcome Our Presenters



Ali Caliendo, Ph.D.,
Executive Director,
Foster Kinship,
Nevada



Leah Dods,
Deputy Director,
Foster Kinship,
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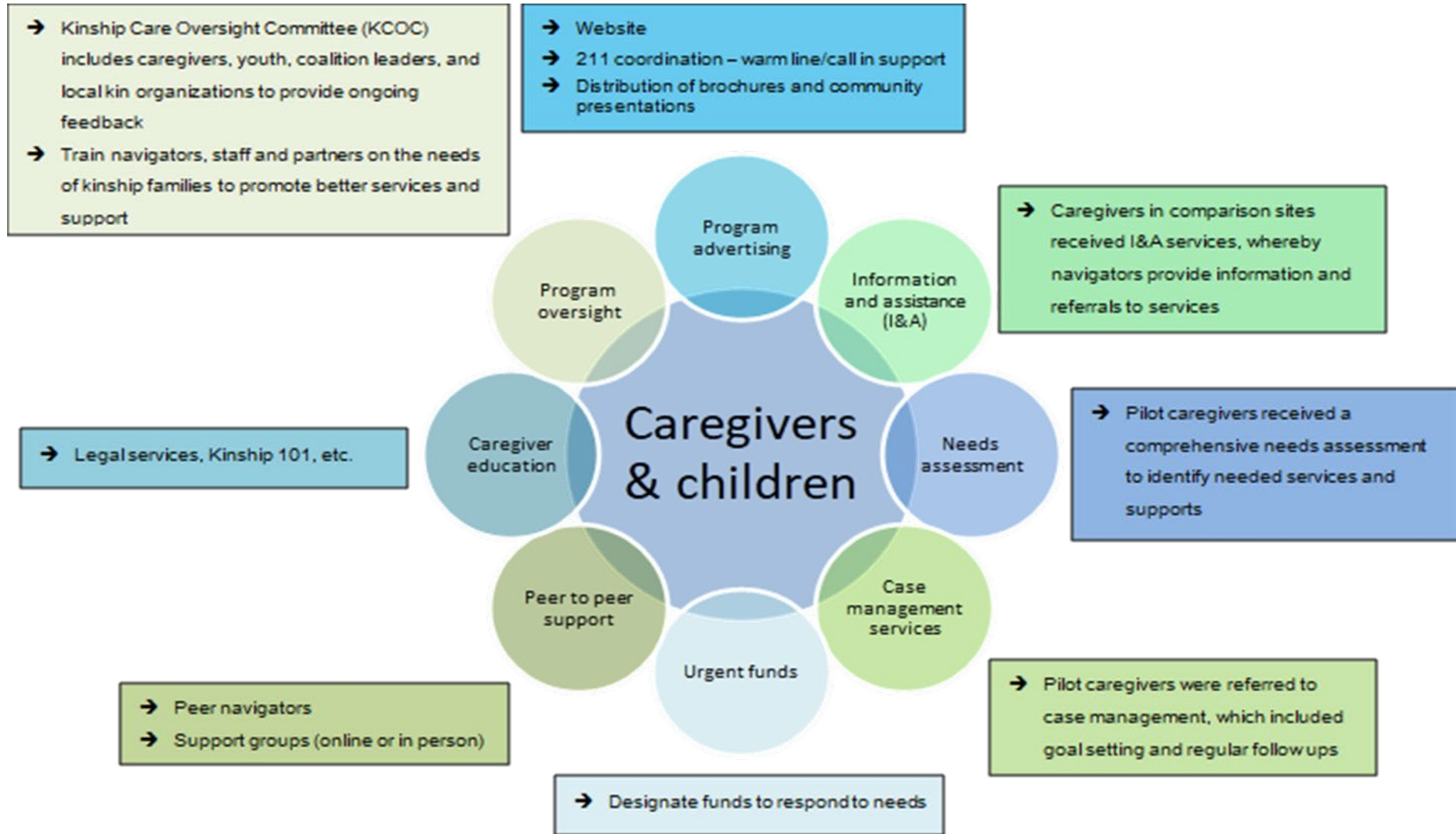


Larry Cooper,
Executive Vice President
of Innovation,
Children's Home Network,
Florida

Washington State Kinship Navigator Case Management Model



Essential Program Components



Outcomes Measured

Access the full
report here:



Long-Term Benefits of Case Management

One year after case closure, Caregivers in case management were...

- 5.1x more likely to Attend kinship care support groups
- 3.6x more likely to Get assistance with accessing legal services and information
- 1.4x more likely to Feel better able to cope with caring for their child

One year after case closure, Children involved in case management were...

- 3.3x more likely to Have attended well-child visits since coming to live with their kinship caregiver
- 5.0x less likely to Have left the home due to placement instability
- 2.5x less likely to Visit the Emergency room, saving on average \$1,196 per visit*

Examples of Program Add-Ons

Add-Ons are site specific

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| ■ Clothing Bank | ■ Family Events |
| ■ Legal Clinics | ■ Different types of support groups |

Adaptations That Require Evaluation

- Tribal Kinship Navigator Assessment

Key Resources & Contact Information

<https://bit.ly/wakinship>

[WA DSHS Kinship
Website](#)



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Kinship Interdisciplinary Navigation Technologically- Advanced Model (KIN-TECH™) – Florida



Essential Program Components

The KIN-TECH™ integrated the kinship support model with three unique innovations

- 1) Shoulder to Shoulder Public Benefit Application
- 2) Peer-to-Peer Navigation
- 3) Interdisciplinary Team

Outcomes Measured

- Improved safety and permanency at 12, 24, and 36 months follow-up
- Improved caregiver well-being
- Improved protective factors
- Improved application and enrollment of financial benefits and resources
- Increase in percentage of children's first placement with relatives

Examples of Program Add-Ons

Kin As Teachers- (K.A.T. 2.0) An Early Childhood Intervention for Kin

- KAT 2.0 can improve child developmental outcomes and the safety of the family environment for kinship families.
- The second iteration of an adapted evidence-based program (Parents as Teachers) specifically designed for kinship families with children aged birth to five years of age.
- The Kin As Teachers 2.0 Program can be mounted on kinship navigator framework to provide developmental specialization to ensure that children living in kinship families achieve their developmental milestones.

Time For Me

- Development, Dissemination and Deployment of A Community Partnership Driven Self Compassion and Care Toolkit for Kinship Navigator Evidence Based Practice.
- This self compassion and self care toolkit is focused on improving knowledge and practice of healthy behaviors.

Adaptations That Require Evaluation

Ratings on KIN TECH™

Title IV E Prevention Services Clearinghouse

<https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov/programs/950/show>

California Evidence Based Clearinghouse

<https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/kinship-navigator-chn-kn-children-s-home-network/>

Key Resources & Contact Information

1. Carter, S., **Littlewood, K., Cooper, L.**, Spadola, C.E., Rosenthal, M., Bennett, R.L., & Pandey, A. (2023). Time for Me: Development and results of an RCT of a kinship navigator self-compassion and care toolkit for caregivers by caregivers. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 152, 107076, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2023.107076>, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740923002712>
2. **Littlewood, K., Cooper, L.**, Rosenthal, M., Averett, P., Pylant, J., Bennett, R., & Spadola, C.E. (2023) Supporting the lived experience through the implementation of peer-to-peer kinship navigation services, *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, DOI: [10.1080/10911359.2023.2187914](https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2023.2187914)
3. **Littlewood, K., Cooper, L.**, Carter, S., Rosenthal, M., Ward, C., Navarro, J., Demarco, S., & Pandey, A. (2022). Children's Home Network Kinship Navigator Program Kin as Teachers 2.0: Early childhood intervention for kin. *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*, DOI: [10.1080/15350770.2022.2090479](https://doi.org/10.1080/15350770.2022.2090479). To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15350770.2022.2090479>
4. **Littlewood, K., Cooper, L.**, Yelick, & A., Pandey, A. (2021). The Children's Home Network Kinship Navigator Program Improves Family Protective Factors. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 126, 106046, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2021.106046>
5. **Littlewood, K., Cooper, L.**, Pandey, A. (2020). Safety and placement stability for the Children's Home Network kinship navigator program. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 106, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.CHIABU.2020.104506>

To Replicate KIN TECH™ in your own community:

Larry Cooper, MSW, LCSW
Executive VP of Innovation

office: 813-901-3423

email: lcooper@childrenshomenetwork.org

Visit <https://mykinship.org>

To learn more about the model.

www.childrenshomenetwork.org

To learn more about the Children's Home Network.

Foster Kinship Navigator Program – Nevada



Essential Program Components



Evidenced-based, trauma-informed support services

Foster Kinship provides comprehensive support services informed by best practices and trauma-informed principles.



Peer professionals guide caregivers through systems

Foster Kinship's model focuses on peer professionals who have lived experience in kinship care and/or child welfare to provide personalized guidance and support.



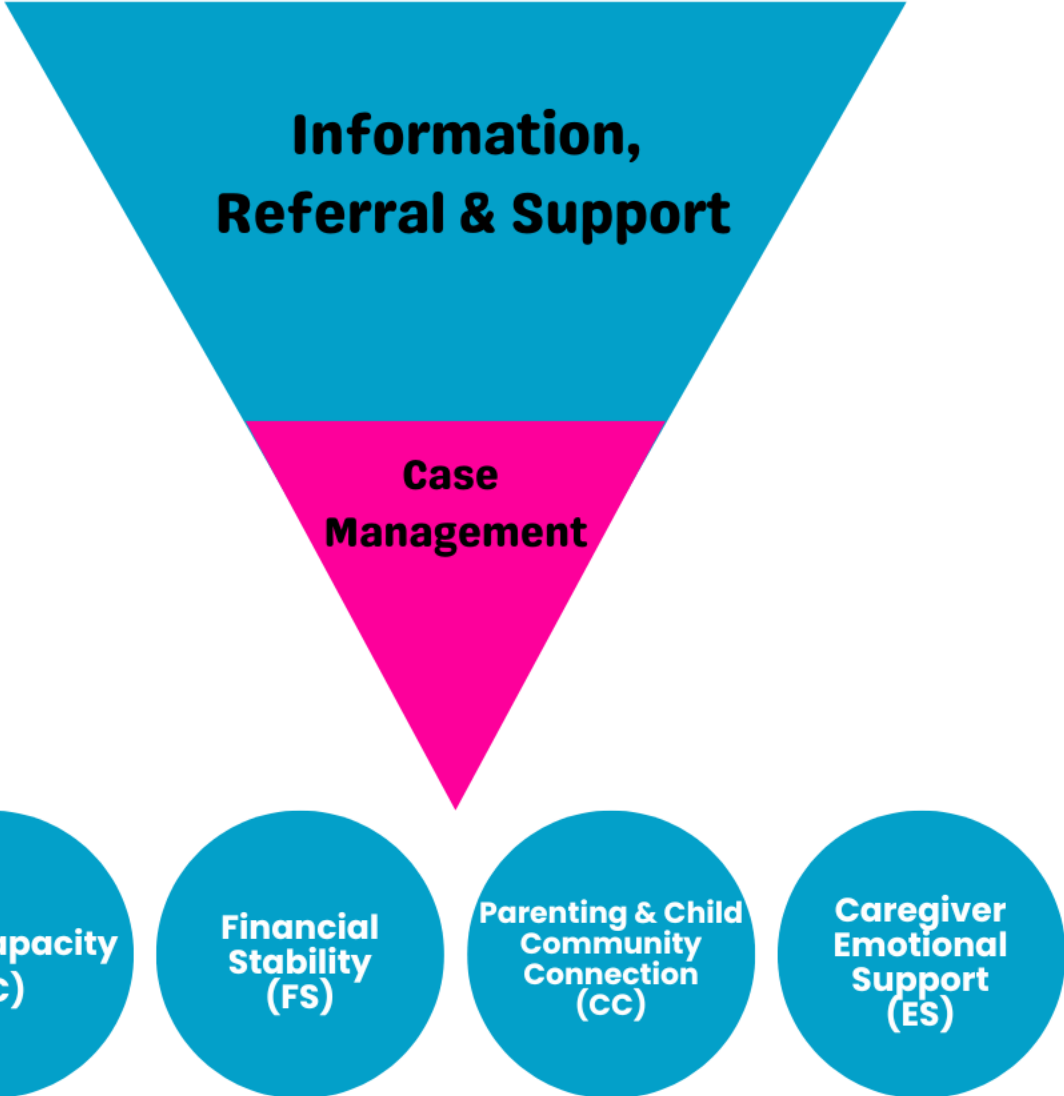
Goal: Legal, financial, emotional, and parenting stability

The ultimate aim of Foster Kinship's navigator model is to help kinship caregivers achieve holistic stability and well-being in their caregiving role.

Foster Kinship's navigator model is an evidence-based, trauma-informed program that helps kinship caregivers achieve legal, financial, emotional, and parenting stability, increasing access to resources and reducing disruptions from kinship placements into traditional foster care.



Accurate Information at the Right Time



Information, Referral & Support

Case Management

Legal Capacity
(LC)

Financial
Stability
(FS)

Parenting & Child
Community
Connection
(CC)

Caregiver
Emotional
Support
(ES)

Less bureaucratic friction

Caregiver expend fewer hours and less emotional bandwidth chasing information

Lower stress and higher self-efficacy

Caregivers have more psychological “room” to focus on parenting rather than paperwork

Greater service uptake and timely financial supports

Raise household resources (e.g. TANF, KinGAP, childcare subsidy, SNAP, Medicaid, legal guardianship assistance)

Improved household stability

Bills paid, connected to resources, and a calmer home environment - all factors strongly associated with lower placement disruption rates



Types of Support	Services	Outputs (KPIs)
Informational	Helpline, website, resource locator tool (RLT), resource center, provide basic information on kinship family types and the corresponding legal options, financial support options, and referrals to internal and community resources.	# of Helpline calls, RLTs provided, cases opened, website usage
Instrumental – Tangible	Notary, copy services, mailing service, filing services, vital records payments, basic needs (as available) like clothing, car seats, beds, formula, diapers, and safety items.	# of notary service, filing service, vital records payments, basic needs items provided, safety items provided
Instrumental – Technical	Case management gaining legal capacity, accessing financial support, navigating systems, and complex emotional needs.	# of legal sessions, financial sessions
Emotional	1:1 peer support, support groups, trauma-informed trainings, and behavioral workshops.	1:1 support provided, family events attended, support group attendees



Outcomes Measured

Short-Term Outcomes

%age of caregiver's who meet their case plan goals*:

Legal - 80%

Financial 80%

Community Connection - 90%

Emotional Support - 90%

*baseline for fidelity

Measured by:

Case plan & activity data.

Two independent quasi-experimental studies confirmed the Foster Kinship's Navigator model impact.

Compared to similar caregivers who did not receive Foster Kinship services, those who did were:

- 3.4x more likely to become licensed foster caregivers
- 1.71x more likely to receive Child-Only TANF financial support
- 2.99x less likely to experience a placement disruption

The Result: Stronger families, better outcomes for children, and significant cost savings for the child welfare system.

Estimating Costs

- **Staffing:** approx. five full-time positions for every 1,000 new families served annually
- **Direct costs:** Printing, mailing, notary for clients
- **Overhead:** Rent, office equipment, computer, phone

Foster Kinship in NV serves around 6,000 children per year at about \$500/per child.



Examples of Program Add-Ons

Core Components

Foster Kinship works closely with the implementing jurisdiction to provide:

- Mapping Assessment of Jurisdiction Resources
- Creation of Kinship Client Profiles for the Resource Location Tool
- Data tracking tools (*Salesforce optional*)
- Resource Locator Tool for the Jurisdiction
- Cloud-based Jurisdiction Toolkit based on mapping assessment (including all relevant applications, referral forms, process, and resources tied to local resources)
- Roadmap for Formal Kinship Caregivers
- Diversion Guide for Jurisdiction
- Basic Video Library (CW Info Sessions, Legal Options, Financial Options)
- Pre-Screens for legal and financial resources for the jurisdiction
- Updated Kinship Navigator manual for the jurisdiction
- 80 Hours of implementing non-profit (s) staff training, technical support, and coaching

Examples of Program Add-Ons

Caregiver Basics & Stabilization

- Resource center/basic needs
- Emergency financial assistance
- Transportation supports
- Respite Care

Data/Fidelity

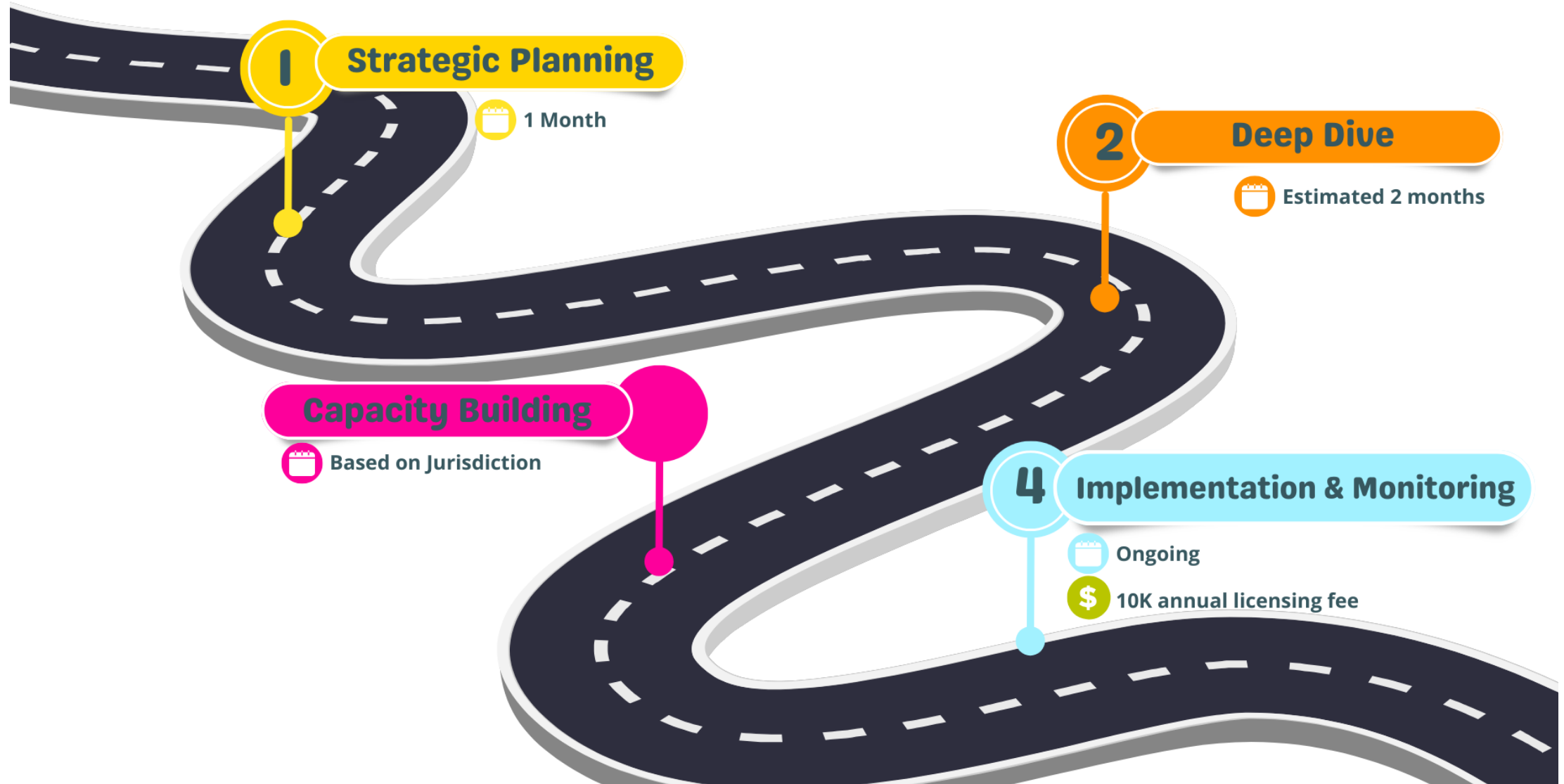
- Salesforce
- Meta-Data

Community & Advocacy

- Kinship Advocacy Network
- Policy feedback loops



Stages of Implementation



Key Resources & Contact Information

For more information, visit our website!

www.fosterkinship.org/model-research/



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Join Us for our Next Webinar



Thursday, December 11, 2025

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET

Register Here





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.