



Across the Map, Around the Table: Six FRC Models Lifting Up Kin Caregivers & Grandfamilies

March 25, 2026

- 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 panelists, starting in an hour and 15 minutes, at 3:15 PM ET**
- By the end of the week, all participants will receive a link to the slides and the recording

Overview



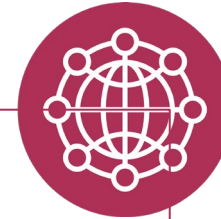
- Welcome & Framing
- Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network Overview
- National Family Support Network Overview
- FRCs Overview
- FRC Spotlights Panel
- Wrap Up
- Q&A + Deeper Dive – lookout for a Zoom meeting link at the end in the chat

Who We Are & How We Help



Learning Collaboratives and Information Dissemination

The Network hosts webinars and facilitates learning collaboratives.



A Centralized Hub

The Network is elevating exemplary kinship/grandfamily practices and programs from around the country.



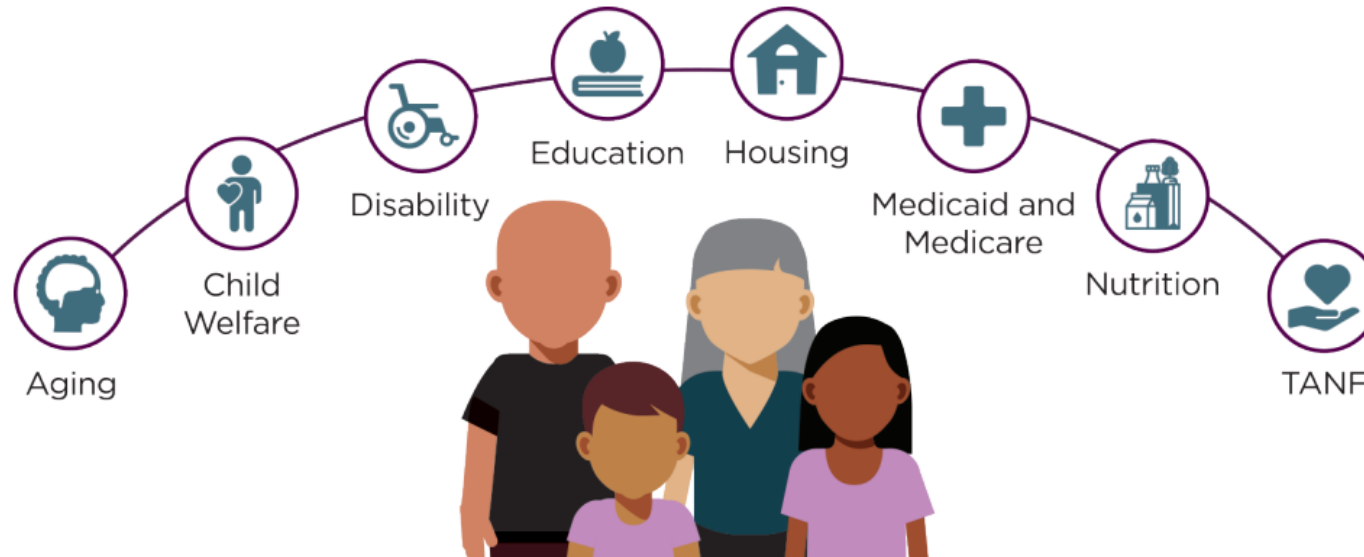
Bridging Systems for Kinship Families

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.




Individual Assistance


We respond to individual requests for help from government agencies and nonprofit organizations.



Resources for FRCs Serving Kinship Families



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KINSHIP MATTERS TO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

INTRODUCTION TO KINSHIP FAMILIES & GRANDFAMILIES


Kinship families, also known as grandfamilies, are families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children whose parents are unable to do so. Reasons kinship/grandfamilies form include parental alcohol and other substance use, military deployment, incarceration, mental or physical illness, deportation, and death. Family Resource Centers (FRCs) often serve kinship/grandfamilies yet may not provide tailored services specifically for them.




2.4 million grandparents in the U.S. are raising their grandchildren



1 million other kin such as aunts and uncles, also raise relative children




For every 1 child being raised by kin in foster care, there are **18 children** being raised by kin outside of foster care




31 percent of children in grandparent-headed households are living below the poverty level

Being part of a kinship family benefits both kin caregivers and the children in their care. Compared to children living in foster care with non-relatives, children with relatives experience **greater safety, stability, and well-being**. Kin caregivers report feelings of **satisfaction, pride, and meaning in their role**. However, these caregivers also face an array of challenges. They may lose their peer group; feel socially isolated; and/or experience guilt, deep concern, and/or grief related to their own adult child or relative who cannot parent. These emotional challenges are compounded by the stress of needing to meet the child's basic needs, including their nutrition, education, and health care, all without the automatic legal authority that parents have.




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Leveraging Family Resource Centers to Support Kinship Families




Key takeaways from learning collaboratives in three states that explored increased collaboration between kinship navigators and Family Resource Centers

Expert Partners


- ▶ **National Family Support Network** – a membership organization that is composed of state Family Resource Center (FRC) networks working together within a collective impact framework to ensure coordinated care for families
- ▶ **Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers** – a membership organization of FRCs that provide services designed to protect children and strengthen families
- ▶ **Minnesota Community & Family Resource Network** – created to develop, launch, and implement FRCs based on community need and driven by community partners working in collaboration with governmental agencies
- ▶ **Ohio Family Support Network** – a membership organization that encompasses a wide variety of community- and government-based service providers that share expertise and resources and develop collaborations in the interest of family support

Why This Topic is Important

Families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children whose parents cannot – known interchangeably as grandfamilies, kinship families, and kinship/grandfamilies – face many challenges when accessing services. The fragmentation of services, lack of awareness of services, and isolation often prevent families from accessing needed supports. FRCs provide resources and support, including service navigation, that can have an enormous, positive impact to smooth what can be a sudden transition to living in a kinship family.



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Family Resource Center Services and Supports for Kinship/Grandfamilies

This fact sheet is for professionals working within an array of government systems and nonprofit organizations that support (or want to support) kinship/grandfamilies. It highlights services that Family Resource Centers commonly offer, which could benefit the families you serve.

Introduction to Kinship Families and Grandfamilies

Kinship families, also known as grandfamilies, are families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children whose parents are unable to do so.

While many kin/grandfamily caregivers experience great satisfaction and pride in taking on this important role, doing so can also be stressful and bring about challenges. About 66 percent of grandparent caregivers are age 55 or older and almost half are no longer in the work force. These retired and older caregivers likely experience financial strain, challenges in making their homes child-friendly, and feelings of social isolation from their peers who are no longer raising children.

About Family Resource Centers

A **Family Resource Center (FRC)** is a community or school-based welcoming hub of support, services, and opportunities for families that:

- ▶ Utilizes an approach that is multi-generational, strengths-based, and family-centered
- ▶ Reflects and is responsive to community needs and interests
- ▶ Provides support at no or low cost for participants
- ▶ Builds communities of peer support for families to develop social connections that reduce isolation and stress

There are more than 3,000 FRCs around the country and, in [39 states and the District of Columbia](#), they have been organized into FRC Networks.

As conveniently located community or school-based hubs, FRCs bundle and co-locate many services, such as home visiting, parenting education, health screenings, child care resource and referral, playgroups, family counseling, government benefits screening, healthy eating and living activities, and food pantries.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Family Resource Center

INNOVATION

New Resource!

Take a deeper dive into the programs that you are hearing from today.

- Connections Family Resource Center (VA)
- Education and Treatment Council Family Resource Center (LA)
- Gallatin County Family Resource Center (KY)
- Highlands Family Success Center (NJ)
- Idaho Hispanic Foundation (ID)
- Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (AZ)

NFSN Mission

- To promote positive outcomes for all children, families, and communities by leveraging the collective impact of state Family Resource Center Networks and championing quality family support and strengthening practices and policies.

NFSN Vision

- A nation in which every family is thriving and every state has a strong and effective Family Resource Center Network.



NFSN Areas of Work

1. **Connecting and convening member networks to enhance their effectiveness** - Increasing connectedness amongst members for peer learning and mutual support.
2. **Promoting Family Support best practice and evaluation** - Raising awareness of what quality Family Support is and promoting a common language, standards, and evaluation of it through the national implementation of the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support.
3. **Raising the visibility of the value and impact of Family Strengthening and Support networks** - in order to strengthen and increase support for families.



Family Resource Centers



Family Resource Centers



Family Resource Centers

- Multi-generational, strengths-based, and family-centered
- Response to community needs & interests
- Accessible - No or low cost for participants
- Community-building - fostering peer support and social connections



Family Resource Centers



Family Resource Centers

- Most Common Service Areas:

- Parenting Support



- Access to Resources



- Child Development Activities

- Parent Leadership Development

OMNI Institute. (2016). Advancing the Family Support & Strengthening Field Project Survey Results

Family Resource Centers



- Peer Support
- Social Connections





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NATIONAL
Family Support
NETWORK

Presenters



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Arizona



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Idaho Hispanic Community Resource Center
Idaho

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Grandfamilies*



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Kentucky



Sheila Liechty

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Educational and Treatment Council, Inc.
Louisiana



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Presenters



China Anthon

Kinship Grandparent
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Chris Robinson

Chair, Connections Family Resource Center
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Shaumbay Fuller

Grandparent
Connections Family Resource Center
Virginia



Connect & Access Support

Request assistance

We will add you to our monthly newsletter list, unless you ask us not to. To see past issues: www.gksnetwork.org/the-network-connection-newsletter/

For the latest updates, follow the Network on [LinkedIn](#)



Join Us for our Next Webinar!

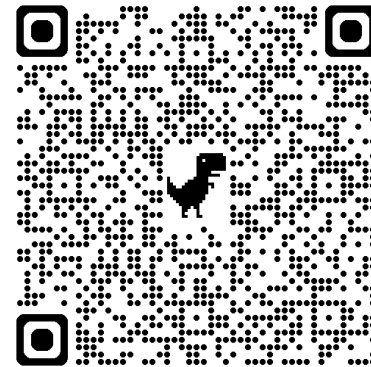


**Family Resilience in
Black Kinship Care:
Perspectives of
Children, Caregivers,
and Birth Parents**

Wednesday April 8, 2026

2:00-3:30 pm ET

Register Here





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