



Kinship care tip sheet

What is the role of the kinship navigator?

- Work with FCMs to identify relatives for possible placement.
- Work with FCMs to assess placement options.
- Work with FCMs to navigate systems that provide long-term connections for families.
- Help families locate services that support the needs of children in their care.

Why are we doing this? Research shows:

- Kinship connections help maintain critical family relationships.
- Safety, well-being, stability and permanency can be achieved and sustained longer when connections with families/kin occur.
- Kinship care preserves the child's cultural identity and relationships with their community.

What are the outcomes we want to achieve?

- Assist families in staying together.
- Increase relative/kinship placements and decrease residential and traditional foster placements.
- Encouraging kinship caregivers to become licensed so they receive financial support.
- Help caregivers find and use programs and services to meet the needs of children they are raising.

- Help caregivers identify their own needs.
- Train kinship caregivers through licensing and support services.
- Help caregivers obtain benefits and services.
- Help caregivers develop and maintain caregiving plans on a short- and long-term basis.
- Identify safety, stability and permanency efforts for children in their care.
- Identify relatives for placement opportunities.

What do we measure during our collaboration?

- How many relatives we reached out to.
- Relationships/family connections preserved.
- Achievement of a placement.
- Types of services located to assist the family.
- Stability of youth over time.
- Relatives licensed as foster parents.
- Achievement of permanent, essential connections and family homes.

