Using New Federal Funding Opportunities to Develop Effective Kinship Navigator Programs

West Coast, Midwest, Alaska and Hawaii

December 4, 2018
Housekeeping

- To hear the presentation
  - Listen through your computer speakers
  - Or call in on your phone
  - (631) 992-3221, Access Code: 816-722-618

- Q&A/Discussion
  - You can type your questions at any time in the “chat” box.
  - We will respond to them at the end of the presentation.

- PowerPoint slides and a recording of the webinar will be available on the Generations United website later this week.

- Registrants will also receive an email with a link to the recording this week.
Generations United’s National Center on Grandfamilies

- Generations United’s mission is to improve the lives of children, youth, and older adults through intergenerational collaboration, public policies and programs

- Since 1998, Generations United’s National Center on Grandfamilies:
  - Guided by GrAND Voices – a network of caregiver advocates
  - Advocacy on Capitol Hill
  - Leads an advisory group of organizations, caregivers and youth that sets the national agenda
  - Provides technical assistance to states and other providers
  - Raises awareness through media outreach, weekly communications and events
  - Provides information and resources at [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org) and [www.grandfamilies.org](http://www.grandfamilies.org)

- June 12-14, 2019 Biennial Conference in Portland, OR – see [https://guconference.org/](https://guconference.org/)
Casey Family Programs

Thank you for your partnership

Casey Family Programs
Speakers

- **Ana Beltran**, Special Advisor, National Center on Grandfamilies, Generations United

- **Jaia Peterson Lent**, Deputy Executive Director, Generations United

- **Hilarie Hauptman**, Kinship Care and Lifespan Respite Program Manager, Home and Community Services, Aging and Long-Term Support Administration, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

- **Bacall Hincks**, Program Administrator, Grandfamilies, Children's Service Society, Utah

- **Kerry Littlewood**, President, AAJ Research & Evaluation
Children Thrive in Grandfamilies

Percent of Children in Foster Care Being Raised by Relatives

- 2008: 24%
- 2017: 33%

9% Increase

www.gu.org
Children in Grandfamilies

7.7 million
Number of children who live with a relative who is the head of the household

2.6 million
Number of children who are being raised by a relative or close family friend and do not have a parent living in the household

139,017
Number of children being raised by relatives in the child welfare system
For every 19 children raised by relatives or other parents, there are 1 child in foster care. 74 foster care system kids die.
History of Federal Funding for Kinship Navigator Programs

- Fostering Connections and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fostering Connections)

- Family Connection Grants - competitive grant opportunities

- Funded 2 rounds in 2009 and 2012 of 3-year grants with state matching requirements
Requirements under Federal Law for Kinship Navigator Programs

- Must be coordinated with other State or local agencies that promote service coordination or provide information and referral, including 2–1–1 or 3–1–1 where available

- Must be planned and operated in consultation with kinship caregivers, organizations representing them, youth raised by kinship caregivers, relevant government agencies and community-based or faith-based organizations

- Must establish information and referral systems that link (via toll-free access) kinship caregivers, kinship support group facilitators, and kinship service providers:
  - to each other
  - eligibility and enrollment information for Federal, State, and local benefits
  - relevant training to assist kinship caregivers
  - relevant legal assistance and help obtaining legal services
Requirements under Federal Law for Kinship Navigator Programs cont’d

- Must provide outreach to kinship care families, including by a kinship care website, other guides or outreach materials

- Must promote partnerships between public and private agencies, including schools, community based or faith-based organizations, and relevant government agencies

- May also establish and support a kinship care ombudsman with authority to intervene and help kinship caregivers access services; and support any other activities designed to assist kinship caregivers in obtaining benefits and services

42 U.S.C. § 627
Section 427 (a)(1) of Social Security Act
Cross-site Evaluation Highlights

According to the evaluation of the 2009 grantees, positive outcomes for those receiving kinship navigator services included:

- **Safety**: Relative caregivers receiving navigator services achieved identified safety goals for their families.

- **Permanency**: Children in the care of relative caregivers receiving navigation services had higher rates of permanency through legal guardianship and reunification with parents.

- **Well-being**: results showed that kinship navigator programs were successful at ameliorating the needs of grandfamilies.
Current Federal Funding for Kinship Navigators

Three Opportunities:

- 2018 $20 million appropriation
- 2019 $20 million appropriation
- Family First Prevention Services Act
2018 and 2019 Kinship Navigator Appropriations

- 2018 funds:
  - 46 States, 8 tribes, and 2 territories applied and received funds
  - Did not apply: Delaware, Chickasaw Nation, Idaho, Maine, South Dakota
  - Penobscot Nation among tribal recipients is located in Maine

- 2019 funds: Expected to be similar process
  - May be used to develop, enhance and/or evaluate kinship navigator programs
  - Do not have to meet the federal kinship navigator requirements during the project period, as long as the programs are designed to ultimately fulfill these requirements
  - Programs will be required to meet all of the kinship navigator federal requirements to qualify for the Family First Act ongoing federal reimbursement
Family First Act – Kinship Navigator Programs

- As of **October 1, 2018**, states and some tribes can receive federal reimbursement for up to 50% of their expenditures to provide kinship navigator programs that meet **evidence-based requirements** of promising, supported or well-supported practices.

- Children not required to meet Title IV-E income eligibility requirements and are not required to meet definition of candidate for foster care.
Family First Evidence-Based Requirements for Navigators

- Points to Evidence-Based Standards for prevention programs (Section 471(e)(4)(C) of the Social Security Act)

- Must be promising, supported, or well-supported

- Qualifying evidence-based programs will be identified by evidence-based clearinghouse.

- Federal clearinghouse is separate from California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse with different criteria
Family First Evidence-Based Requirements for Navigators

- Program Instruction released Nov. 30, 2018 (ACYF-CB-PI-18-11)

- Title IV-E agency has discretion to determine scope of population: inside or outside foster care system, legal relationship etc.

- Statute does not define kinship caregiver so may include tribal kin, extended family or other “fictive kin” caring for children.

- Not required to operate in all counties or locations in state/tribe but encouraged to implement as broadly as possible.
Family First Evidence-Based Requirements for Navigators

- Initial list of programs under consideration included two kinship navigator programs
  - Children’s Home Network Inc., Kinship Interdisciplinary Navigation Technologically-Advanced Model (KIN-Tech), Florida
  - Children’s Home Society of New Jersey, Kinship Navigator Model

- Approval of qualifying programs expected in Spring 2019.

- Additional programs will be added on a rolling basis.

- Awaiting additional information on process and criteria for systematic review to come in Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse Procedures Handbook.
Family First Evidence-Based Requirements for Navigators

- Particular consideration given to programs:
  - Recommended by state and local government administrators
  - Rated by the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse
  - Evaluated by Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstrations
  - Recipient of Family Connection Discretionary Grant
  - Recommendation solicited from federal partners
Evidence-Based Standards

- **All Evidence-Based Programs:**
  - Book or manual
  - No evidence of harm
  - Overall weight of studies show benefit

- **Promising:**
  - Superior to comparison group on at least one outcome
  - Independent review says well-designed/executed
  - Used some form of control group such as untreated, wait listed, or placebo group
  - At least one study rated “moderate” or “high” on study design and execution
Evidence-Based Standards cont’d

- **Supported:**
  - Superior to comparison
  - Independent review
  - Rigorous random-controlled trial OR rigorous quasi-experimental research design
  - Carried out in usual care or practice setting
  - At least one study carried out in that setting rated “moderate” or “high” on study design and execution
  - Sustained effect **6 months** beyond treatment on at least one outcome

- **Well-Supported:**
  - Superior to comparison
  - Independent review
  - Rigorous random-controlled trial OR rigorous quasi-experimental research design
  - Carried out in usual care or practice setting
  - At least two studies carried out in that setting, with non-overlapping analytic samples, rated “moderate” or “high” on study design and execution.
  - At least of those studies shows sustained effect **12 months** beyond treatment
Evidence-Based Standards cont’d

- **Target Population:**
  - Law specifically names measured improvements in child and parent outcomes. Kinship caregiver outcomes are not named.
  - Program instruction references “adult (parent and kin caregiver) well-being.

- **Measuring Outcomes for Kinship Navigators:**
  - Outcomes include those related to prevention service (mental health, substance use prevention and treatment and in-home services) such as: child safety, child permanency, child well-being and adult (parent and kin caregiver) well being.
  - Target outcomes for kinship navigators may also include: access to, referral to, and satisfaction with services and programs.

- Programs with implementation training, staff support or fidelity monitoring tools/resources will be prioritized.
Program Models
Existing Kinship Navigator Programs – Lessons Learned

- A variety of programs around the country

- At least 70 we know of – list at www.grandfamilies.org/Resources/Kinship-Navigator-Programs

- Generally better not to house the Kinship Navigator at the child welfare agency –
  - Trust issues
  - Limited reach

- Combination of peer to peer and professionals is important

- Not just a phone line
Strategies

- Can build on existing opportunities—consult GrandFacts State Fact Sheets for states, tribes and counties with existing programs

- Work with programs that serve grandfamilies

- Schools of Social Work are good sources for assistance in evaluating programs

- Individualize data reports from providers for accountability
Washington State - History of Kinship Navigator Supports

- 2002 Survey Results of 2425 Caregiver Responses included in Kinship Care Legislative Report:
  - #1 Unmet need: Receiving Information about programs and services

- 2003 - SHB1233 Kinship Navigator / Pilot Project to assist kinship caregivers to understand and navigate systems of services and supports for children in out-of-home care
Evaluation of the Washington Program

- Washington State’s program started in 2004 as a pilot funded by Casey Family Programs and is now funded in large part by the state.

- A 2005 Casey evaluation of the program’s first 16 months showed that:
  - Relative caregivers had a better understanding of services and benefits available to them.
  - An estimated 690 children did not have to enter foster care.
  - 98 percent of caregivers who used the service were satisfied.

To qualify for ongoing federal reimbursement for evidence-based Kinship Navigator Programs under Family First –

WA is working on a reasonable control treatment group design.
Kinship Navigator Program – Washington State

- Washington’s Kinship Navigator Program is managed out of the state’s Aging and Long-Term Support Administration and has 7.5 full time equiv. navigators covering 30 of 39 counties

- These navigators:
  - Provide information and assistance to caregivers
  - Pro-actively mediate with state agency staff and/or service providers
  - Help caregivers navigate the legal system with clinics, statewide guide, DVDs
  - Distribute a $1 million state fund to provide urgent needs fund
  - Provide supportive listening to grandparents and relatives of all ages
  - Reach out and locate grandfamilies in their service area; newsletters, presentations, flyers
  - Develop strong relationships with support groups, kinship collaborations and other agencies
  - Refer to www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare and printed resources, e.g., health care consent
  - Distribute recreational passes (zoo, aquarium, science center, etc.)
  - Can access services for caregivers through Area Agencies on Aging network and supports

- 8 Tribes also receive kinship navigator funding, although it is limited. They do not yet have all the same resources (e.g., legal clinics and support groups)
WA State Kinship Navigator Program Family First Evaluation

- Select/implement Kinship Care Needs Assessment and adapt for Tribes
- Strengthen outreach for kinship caregivers: online Kinship TANF video, referral consent process, update resource brochure
- Conduct/analyze statewide surveys - kinship caregivers / kinship youth
- Host Kinship Care Evaluation Committee: youth, caregivers, navigators
- Strengthen toll free connections (e.g., 211, Community Living Connections, Family Help Line)
- Update online intake / reporting system: outcomes for children and caregivers
- Update/implement Casey Family Program’s KN replication manual
Voices of Children – Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives

- Printed booklets and display boards spread word on kinship care through youth ages, 5-19 with stories, poems, pictures
- Governors participation Awards - $100/ free night waterpark hotel
- Family Education and Support Services/DSHS co-sponsor

- Kinship Navigator, Caregiver, GrAND Member - Lynn Urvina by granddaughter Tara drawing:
  It’s just me and my grandma and grandpa. They take care of me. They love me for always!
Contact Information

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Grandfamilies Kinship Care at Children’s Service Society of Utah

We approach Kinship support from four main areas in our program:

- **Kinship Navigator Services**: Includes Guardianship, Specified Relative Grant, School Registration support, connections to community resources

- **10-week Support Group**: Groups are held for adults, adolescents, and children ages 4-11

- **Friend 2 Friend Activities**: Main purpose is to retain the peer support connection established in support groups and ongoing training and support

- **Clinical Counseling and Family Support**
Program Outcomes

- 65% of new families this year report no child welfare involvement or that the case has already been closed
- 33% report having an open case and only 3% reported being foster care licensed
- Over 85% of families reported having Medicaid for children in their care, 90% reported court permanency
- Families that completed the support group, based on the Protective Factors Survey, reported a score of
  - Family Functioning/Resiliency: 80%
  - Social Support: 79%
  - Concrete Support: 74%
  - Nurturing and Attachment: 82%
A Grandma reported at a child welfare immersion training recently that the greatest support she received through the entire process was with the Grandfamilies program.

Families report that the support group and Friend 2 Friends provide them with a sense of normalcy and acceptance for themselves and the children in their care.
Bacall Hincks, LCSW  Grandfamilies Program Administrator

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- bacall@cssutah.org | www.cssutah.org
Kinship Navigator Program – Florida

- **Children’s Home Network** in Tampa has a kinship navigator program with several unique features:
  - one-e-application
  - peer-to-peer support
  - an interdisciplinary team

- It uses an array of standardized assessments to address family needs

- The program incorporates a wraparound model and family driven approach that partners with key community partners
The five-year evaluation of Florida’s 2012 kinship navigator grant showed compelling results for its nearly 3,000 participants:

- **Low rates of re-entry:** 99 percent of participants' children did not enter the child welfare system at the 12-month follow-up, showing placement stability and child safety.

- **Cost-Savings:** Cost of the program is less than half the costs associated with adjudicating a child dependent.
  - Non-relative foster care is 6 times more expensive.
  - Group care is 21 times more expensive.
For Further Information

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+ Evaluation
Steps in Evaluation Planning for Families First Opportunities

1. Build Relationships
2. Understand Context
3. Select Model, Customize and Pilot Test
   A. KNM Evaluator Components for KN Fostering Connections CB Demonstration Projects
   B. Research to Practice Example 1. Children’s Home Network KNP
   C. Research to Practice Example 2. United Ways of CA-2-1-1-CA-iFoster Kinship Navigator Collaborative Project
4. Plan for Outcomes
   A. Child Welfare Outcomes
   B. Research to Practice Example 3: Kinship Sleep
5. Additional information
Select Model, Customize and Test

Lessons Learned from Four Kinship Navigator Demonstration Projects

- Evaluators in the 2012 Fostering Connections (Littlewood & Rosenthal) led conceptual work during the three year demonstration project.

- Developed assessment of theoretical and applied components of the kinship navigator programs.

- Identified essential and additional components to create a model intended to be tested throughout the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act.
These have been identified as essential for organizations to build into their practice to support the implementation of a kinship navigator program.
2012 Evaluator Kinship Navigator Model

Essential Direct Service Components

These components are identified as essential direct service components, or those elements of the program which kinship navigators will perform as part of their basic duties.

- Modify and Update community resources and gaps in services and systems
- Provide referrals or assist caregivers with self-referral
- Provide education to caregivers about available resources
- Recruit participants
- Conduct intake and needs assessment
- Engage and build relationship with kinship families
2012 Evaluator Kinship Navigator Model

Additional Components

These are the service components that can be customizable to meet the unique needs of the kinship families in your own community.
Additional Resources
www.grandfamilies.org

A collaboration of the
ABA Center on Children and the Law
Generations United
Casey Family Programs
Specific Links on www.grandfamilies.org


- Summary of kinship navigator programs and relevant resources, including a chart of 70 such programs at [www.grandfamilies.org/Topics/Kinship-Navigator-Programs/Kinship-Navigator-Programs-Summary-Analysis](www.grandfamilies.org/Topics/Kinship-Navigator-Programs/Kinship-Navigator-Programs-Summary-Analysis)

- State specific fact sheets at [www.grandfamilies.org/State-Fact-Sheets](www.grandfamilies.org/State-Fact-Sheets)

Questions

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