



National Caregiver Support Collaborative

Building our capacity to support family, kinship, and tribal caregivers

Innovations in Caregiver Services & Supports Initiative

Fostering Partnerships Between Child Welfare and Aging Systems to Improve Support for Kin Caregivers Webinar

September 9, 2026

Webinar Instructions

Audio Options

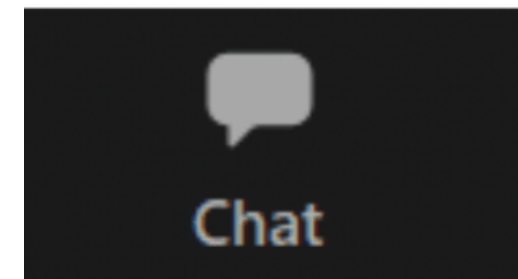
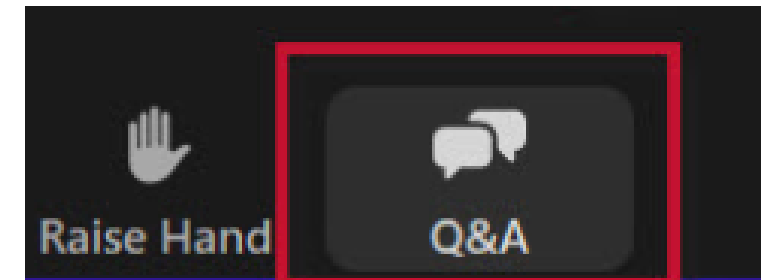
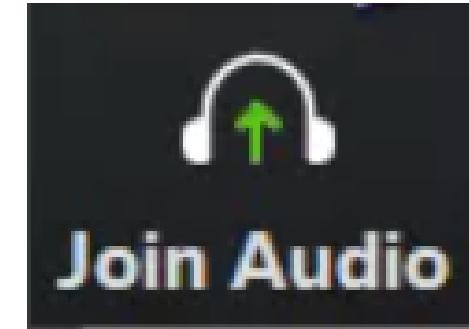
- Use your computer speakers OR dial in using the phone number in your registration email.
- All participants are muted.

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

- You can submit questions for the panelists at any time during this presentation. On the Zoom module on the bottom of your screen, click the Q&A icon, type your question in the box and submit.

Chat Feature

- The Chat feature allows webinar attendees to communicate with the host, co-hosts and panelists for the duration of the webinar.



CLICK HERE TO START CHAT

Accessibility and Support

- **ASL services are being provided today and will be pinned**
- **CART services are also being provided.**
 - Click on the CC Show Captions button or click on the link in the chat
- **Screen Reader Users: Reduce unwanted chatter**
 - Request speech on demand: Insert, Spacebar, "S"
- **To get our attention if you need tech assistance:**
 - Raise or Lower Hand: Alt + Y

About USAging



www.usaging.org

Caregiving Touches Nearly Every Community

- **63 million** caregivers
- **2.5 million** children are being raised by grandparents or other relatives
- **1 in 5** report poor health and major financial strain
- Caregivers provide **\$1.01 trillion** in unpaid care annually



National Caregiver Support Collaborative

Goal: Increase recognition, support and inclusion of family caregivers served through OAA Title III-E and VI-C programs

Six national projects advancing the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers:

- Awareness & outreach – *Community Catalyst*
- Caregivers as partners in health care teams – *UCSF*
- **Strengthening caregiver services & supports** – *USAging*
- Financial and workplace security – *USC*
- Data, research, evidence-based practices – *NAC*
- Understanding and testing navigation services – *USAging*

Innovations in Caregiver Services and Supports Initiative

Project Goal:

Enhance the capacity of the Aging Network to strengthen innovation in person and family-centered services and supports that meet the needs of the nation's caregivers.

Key Activities:



Build peer learning through the [Caregiver Champion Collaborative](#)



Share replicable programs via [Caregiver Services and Supports Innovations Hub](#)



Fund [pilot sites](#) to test and scale innovation



Convene national in-person and [virtual learning events](#)



Develop practical [Action Guides](#) for the Aging Network

Caregiver Services & Supports Action Guides

Action Guide Topics:

- Person Centered, Trauma-Informed Care
- Respite care
- Education, Counseling & Peer supports
- Whole-Person Health
- Leveraging Volunteers
- LTSS/Future Care Needs
- **Kinship Care**
- Emergency Planning and Preparedness



National Caregiver
Support Collaborative

USAgings
Leaders in Aging Well at Home

generations
united
Because we're stronger together™



Innovations in Family
Caregiver Services and
Support

Fostering Partnerships Between Child Welfare and Aging Systems to Improve Recognition of Support for Kin Caregivers

Introduction

An estimated 53 million Americans provide care for an older adult or someone living with illness or disability.¹ Family caregivers provide a wide range of services, such as transportation, food preparation, housekeeping and personal care, enabling care recipients to live at home or in the setting of their choice with dignity and independence. Without supportive services, nearly 62 percent of caregivers have suggested that the individual they care for would be living in a nursing home.² Additionally, there are at least 2.4 million children being raised by grandparents or other relative caregivers, serving as a safety net and providing care when children's parents are unable.³

This Action Guide is part of a series to help Aging Network organizations develop innovative caregiver services and supports that meet the needs of a growing population of caregivers.

A **family caregiver** is an adult family member or other individual who has a significant relationship with, and who provides a broad range of assistance to, an individual with a chronic or other health condition, disability or functional limitation. This includes any grandparent or relative adult who has primary responsibility for grandchildren or other children who cannot remain with their parents.⁴

Background on Kin Caregivers

"Child Welfare" is an umbrella term used to describe the public child welfare or "foster care" system, including countless community organizations and nonprofits that work to ensure children are safe and parents have the support needed to care for them.

Kin caregivers, sometimes referred to as grandfamily caregivers, exist in all geographical regions and are in every socioeconomic bracket. Kin caregivers have unique strengths and challenges which must be considered when developing support services. Research repeatedly confirms that when a child cannot be raised with their parents, remaining with a relative or close family friend is the next best option. Compared to peers raised in unrelated out-of-home placements, children raised by kin caregivers have more placement stability, better behavioral and mental health outcomes and a stronger tie to their cultural identity and family customs.⁵

Kin caregivers also have a unique set of needs due to the way their family is formed. Often the children come to kin caregivers unexpectedly and in

National Partners Advancing Caregiver Innovation



The Center on Holocaust Survivor Care
Institute on Aging and Trauma



**generations
united**

Fostering Partnerships Between Child Welfare and Aging Systems to Improve Recognition of Support for Kin Caregivers





Generations United

The only national organization dedicated to bringing every generation to the table

In policy. In practice. In community.

Every Generation.

Every Voice.

One Future.

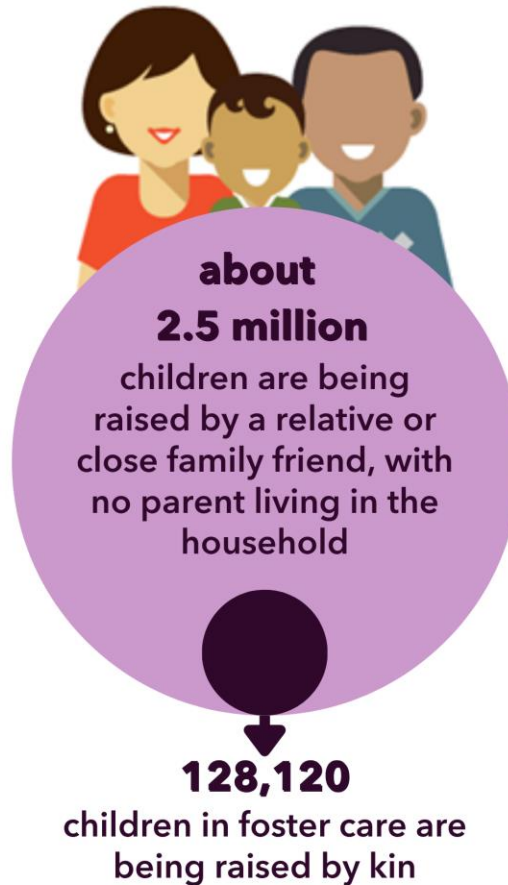
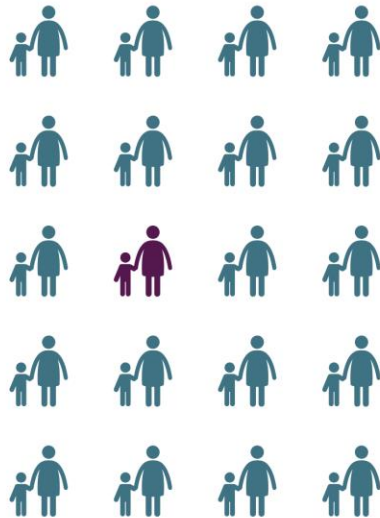
Kinship Care

The term kinship and grandfamilies refer to families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children whose parents are unable to do so.

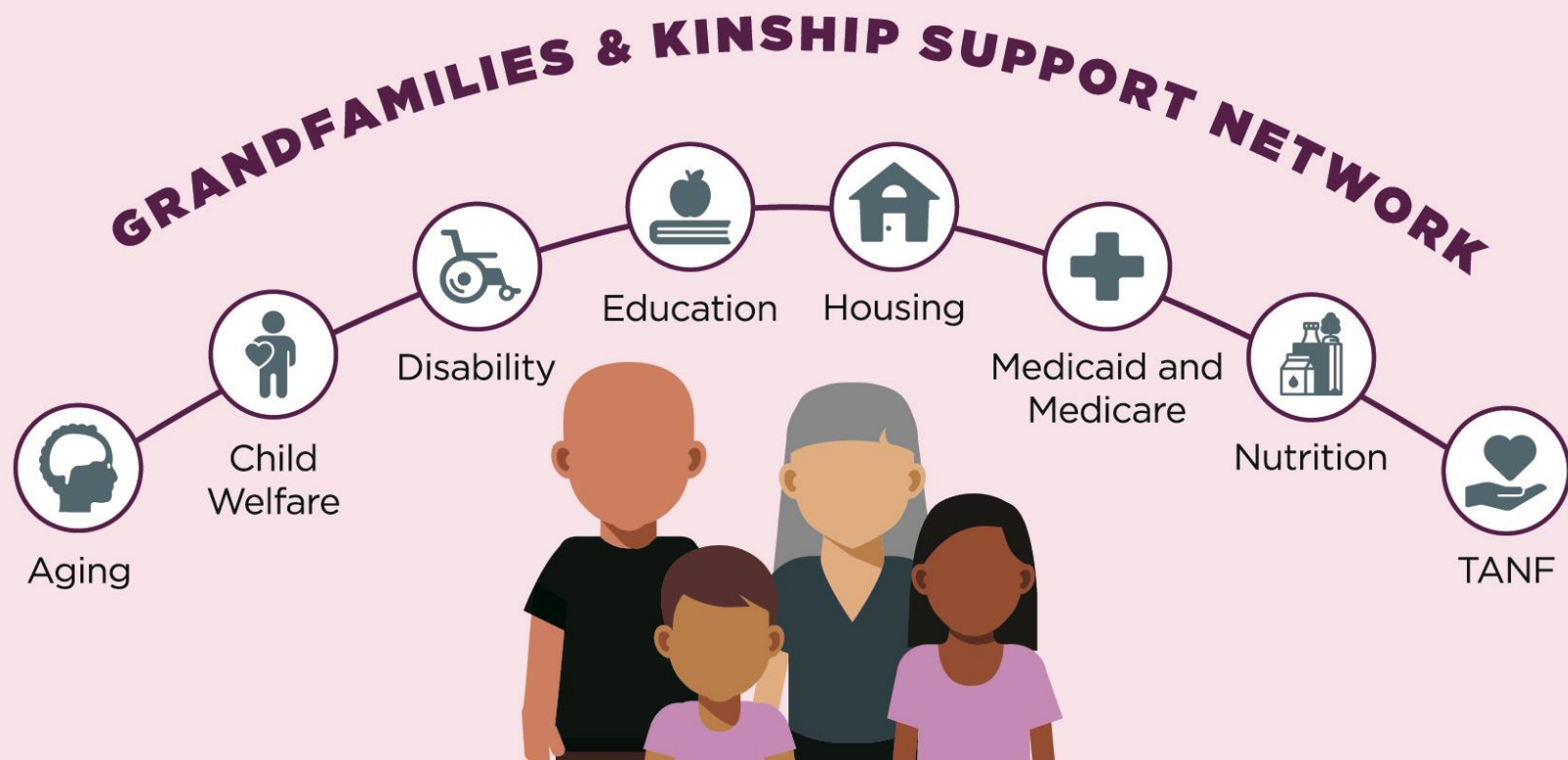


Children in Kinship/Grandfamilies

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



System Connection



Action Guide Work Group

- **Bryn Ceman**, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.
- **Charlotte Stephenson**, Lived Expert
- **Connor Callahan**, Advancing States
- **Jane DeBroux**, Dane County Area Agency on Aging
- **Leland Kiang**, USAging
- **Nancy Mendoza**, Ohio State University School of Social Work
- **Tacia Spooner**, Georgia Division of Children and Family Services
- **Robyn Wind**, Generations United & Lived Expert



Caregiver Quote



“Our local AAA was incredibly supportive. They offered a range of resources from gift cards to training sessions and facilitated access to support groups. Their assistance helped us better manage the responsibilities that come with raising grandchildren.

– **Antoinette (kin caregiver to two grandchildren)**

Action Guide Content

01

Background on Kin Caregivers

02

Kinship Program Examples

03

**Tips for Developing Equitable
Policies and Protocols**

04

Tangible First Steps

Including support groups, respite care,
and concrete goods

05

Additional Resources

No cost resources to better serve kin

Resources



Grandfamilies 101

A 90-minute workshop for organizations partnering with kin caregivers



Aging Network Supports for Kin/Grandfamilies

Tips for partnering with the Aging Network to serve kin caregivers



Grandfamily Support Groups

A practical resource that includes 7 Tips for starting a kinship support group



Including Kin/Grandfamilies in State and Area Plans on Aging

Example language to use when developing plans

Generations United Global Conference 2027

July 21–23, 2027 | Arlington, Virginia
Minutes from Washington, DC

Stay tuned at guconf.org



Thank you!

Kylee Kern, LMSW

kkern@gu.org

gu.org



**generations
united**



WA State
Home and Community Living Administration
(HCLA)

Kinship Program Services 2026



Washington State HCLA Kinship Program Services

Kinship
Navigator
Program
(KNP)

Kinship
Caregiver
Support
Program
(KCSP)

Tribal
Kinship
Navigator
Program

Kinship
Navigator
Case
Management
EBP

Kinship Care Oversight Committee (KCOC)

- A committee that meets monthly for kinship caregivers to give input and guide agencies on practice and services for the kinship community.
- Created in 2003.
- Provides guidance to the Legislature in identifying, supporting, and strengthening kinship care families.
- Provides a space to share and get information about state policy changes, local initiatives, and concerns.

Group members include:

- State agencies
- Kinship caregivers
- Child and caregiver advocates
- Nonprofits
- Tribes
- Legal community

RCW 74.13.621 — Kinship care oversight committee.

- The department shall consult with the oversight committee on its efforts to better collaborate and coordinate services to benefit kinship care families.
- The oversight committee must consist of a minimum of **30% kinship caregivers**, who shall represent a diversity of kinship families. Statewide representation with geographic, ethnic, and gender diversity is required. Other members shall include representatives of the department, representatives of relevant state agencies, representatives of the private nonprofit and business sectors, child advocates, representatives of Washington state Indian tribes as defined under the federal Indian welfare act (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et seq.), and representatives of the legal or judicial field. Birth parents, foster parents, and others who have an interest in these issues may also be included.
- The kinship care oversight committee shall update the legislature and governor annually on committee activities, with each update due by December 1st.
 - [Yearly KCOC Committee Report](#)

Kinship Navigator

- Statewide-funded by the state legislature since 2005.
- Based at Home and Community Living Administration (HCLA)
 - contract with Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)
 - AAAs provide services or subcontract with local agencies



Kinship Navigators

Kinship Navigators provide information, assistance, and support to caregivers raising their relatives' children both **inside** and **outside** of the formal child welfare system.

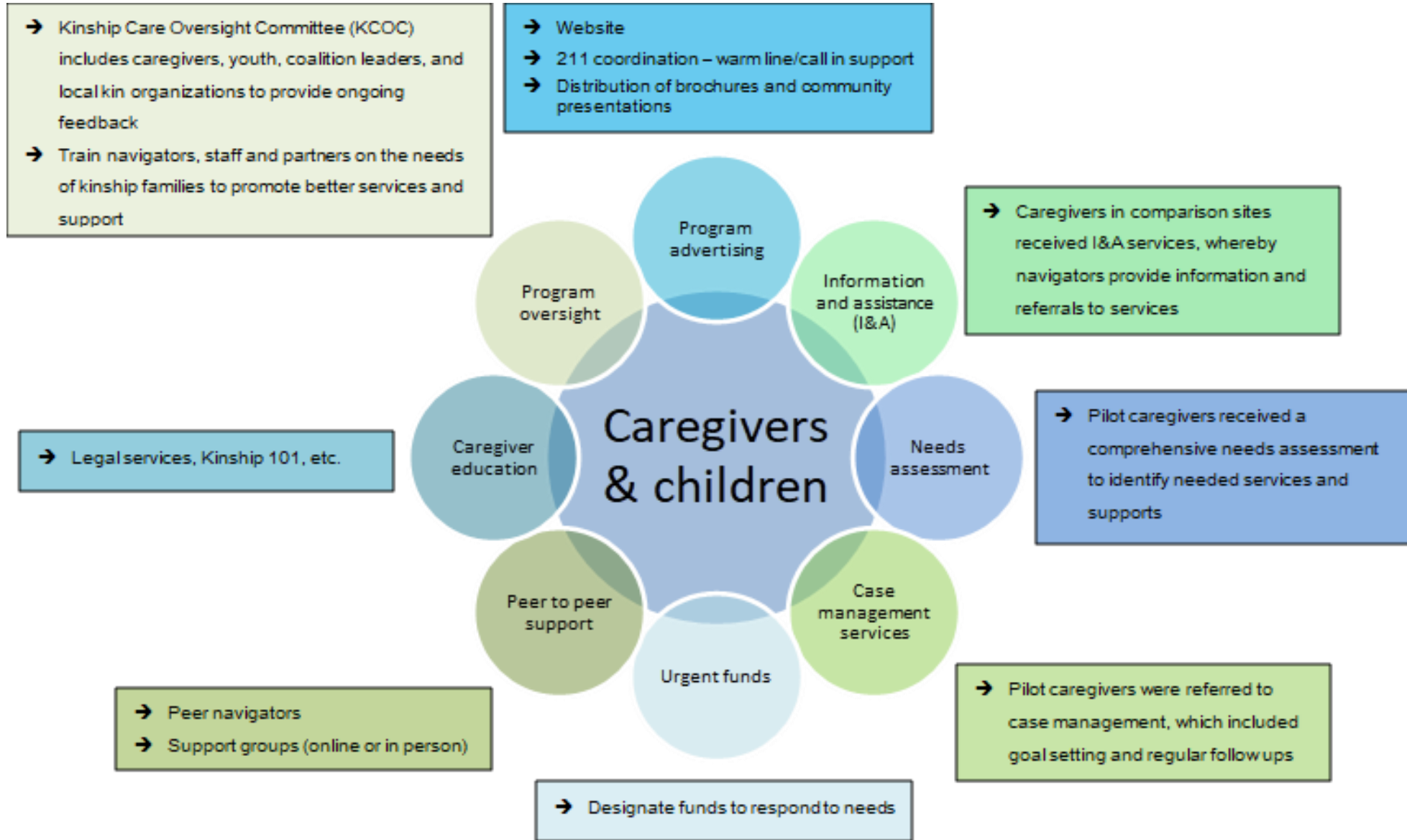
They help find resources such as:

Financial	Medical
Behavioral health	Childcare
Education	Legal
Social	Support Groups

Kinship Case Management

- In 2018, the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) partnered with the University of Washington (UW) and the Department of Social and Health Services Home and Community Living Administration (HCLA) to develop, implement, and evaluate an enhanced Kinship Navigator program in select counties already providing Kinship Navigator services across the state.
- Information about the program, including a program manual, can be accessed on the [HCLA](#) website.
- In 2024, the Washington State Kinship Navigator Program was recognized as an evidence-based program after receiving a “supported” rating from the [Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse](#).

Essential Components



Kinship Caregivers Support Program (KCSP)



KCSP funds are to provide durable goods for kinship caregivers who are not involved with the child welfare system. These funds can also be used for camps and youth activities as a form of respite

Tribal Kinship Navigator Programs

- Tribal Kinship Navigator Program-seven of 29 federally recognized tribes in WA state partner with HCLA to provide Tribal Kinship Navigator Program.
 - Lummi
 - Nation Samish
 - Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe
 - Quileute
 - Yakama
 - Makah
 - Colville

Websites

HCLA

- How to find local Navigators
- Examples of what Navigators typically help with
- KCSP -Not available to families with open DCYF cases.

<https://bit.ly/wakinship>



DCYF

- What is kinship care
- Kinship Care Licensing
- Child Welfare Kin-First Culture

<https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting/kinship-caregivers/overview>

Thank you!

Home and Community Living Administration (HCLA)



Rosalyn Alber, Kinship, Lifespan Respite, and Family
Caregiver Support Program Manager
rosalyn.alber@dshs.wa.gov

Amanda Krotke, Kinship Fidelity Analyst
amanda.krotke@dshs.wa.gov



Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)

Geene Delaplane
Kinship and Guardianship Program Manager
Geene.Delaplane@dcyf.wa.gov

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO

Kinship Navigator Program

USAgings/Generations United Webinar highlighting Kinship Action Guide

September 9, 2026

**Arcelia Armstrong, LSW, Director
Caregiver Support & Kinship Navigator Programs**



The Kinship Navigator Program is made possible through the support of the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services, Lucas County Children Services, & the OneOhio Recovery Foundation.

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM



Supporting Kinship Caregivers. Strengthening Families.

Area Office on Aging
of Northwestern Ohio



WEBINAR FOCUS

- 01 What we do
- 02 How we built it
- 03 Why it matters
- 04 What others can replicate



A0oA Kinship Navigator Program



The Kinship Navigator Program is nationally & globally recognized as “Exemplary” by the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (A National Technical Assistance Center). We offer a robust service menu, have rich community partnerships, & are a model for best-practice excellence.



Kinship Families



Serving grandparents & relative caregivers in Lucas County for over 26 years.



Helps kinship caregivers find & access services to meet their own needs, the needs of the children they are raising, & promotes effective partnerships across sectors, among public & private agencies.



Provides services to over 1,300 caregivers in Lucas County.



Diverse funding through:

- National Family Caregiver Support Program
- Lucas County Senior Services Levy
- Lucas County Children Services Levy
- Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services
- OneOhio Recovery Foundation via Lucas County Children Services
- USAging Caregiver Navigation Grant



“Grandparents & Relatives Raising Children”

WHY KINSHIP NAVIGATION MATTERS

WHO STEPS IN

Grandparents, other relatives, and family friends — often overnight and unexpectedly.

WHAT THEY FACE

Legal, financial, health, school and behavioral-health systems, all at once.

THE CHALLENGE

Families may not know where to start, who to call, or what supports exist.



THE OPPORTUNITY

A trusted navigator turns a complicated system into a connected pathway of support.

What Does AOoA's Navigator Model Do?

One program. Multiple points of support.



NAVIGATE

- Individualized information and referrals
- Connection to legal and financial resources
- Help identifying community services



CONNECT

- Kinship support groups
- Kinship Club
- Peer connection and reduced isolation



EDUCATE

- Caregiver education
- Trauma-informed / child-trauma programming
- Parenting and family-strengthening programs



REMOVE BARRIERS

- Transportation assistance
- Childcare during selected activities
- Virtual participation when appropriate



Partnerships make the Model Stronger



IN KIND



- Donation of Space
- Donation of Time & Expertise
- Donation of Services
- Donation of Tangible Items
- Distribution of Materials

MONETARY



- Grant Funds
- Donation of Funds

CONTRACTUAL



- Program Funders
- Program Requirements
- Program Purchased Services

TECHNICAL SUPPORT



- Local Organizations
- Statewide Organizations
- National Organizations
- Funders

MEDIA



- Websites
- Social Media
- Advertisements
- Print Media Articles
- Podcasts
- Radio Programs
- Broadcast Television
- Public Television



GOAL: Determine which partnership types are the best match for your strategic goals, increasing your success in managing uncertainty, reducing risk, & driving growth.



There are no limits to the types of partnerships that can be considered – local, state, & federal.

Partnerships Make the Model Stronger



AOoA SERVES AS A CONNECTOR

Kinship family → Kinship Navigator → Community partners

We don't have to provide everything ourselves.

EXAMPLES OF PARTNERSHIP ROLES

Mental / behavioral health

Legal services

Schools and education

Child welfare

Health and wellness

Libraries & community orgs

Transportation

Other caregiver & family support

KEY LESSON

Build a network around the caregiver—not another silo.

What Does Impact Look Like?

Impact is bigger than a service delivered.



For caregivers

- Less isolation
- Greater awareness of available resources
- Increased confidence navigating systems
- Opportunities to build peer relationships
- Practical skills to support children



For children and families

- More informed and supported caregivers
- Stronger caregiver-child relationships
- Greater access to appropriate services
- More stable family support



For the community

- Better coordination among systems
- Stronger cross-sector partnerships
- Earlier identification of kinship families
- A more visible and responsive support network

NAVIGATION + CONNECTION + EDUCATION + PARTNERSHIPS = STRONGER SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP FAMILIES

From AOoA Experience to Action

What can another Aging Network organization replicate?

1

START WITH THE CAREGIVER

Listen first. Identify the actual barriers families experience.

2

CREATE A CLEAR ENTRY POINT

Make it easy for a caregiver to find a person who can help.

3

MAP THE COMMUNITY

Know your legal, health, behavioral-health, education, child welfare and family-support partners.

4

BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

Create warm handoffs—not just phone numbers.

5

REMOVE ACCESS BARRIERS

Consider transportation, childcare, technology and scheduling.

6

MEASURE WHAT MATTERS

Track not only services delivered, but changes in connection, confidence, access and family stability.



TAKEAWAY

Kinship navigation is not simply a program. It is a way of organizing the community around the needs of kinship families.



REASONS FOR CAREGIVING

Families step in when parents cannot

The causes are complex—and often intertwined.

PRIMARY DRIVER OF TODAY'S GROWTH

**Substance use disorder
& the opioid crisis**



NINE COMMON REASONS

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 01 | Mental health issues | 06 | Neglect & abandonment |
| 02 | Substance use disorders | 07 | Teen pregnancy |
| 03 | Economic instability | 08 | Military deployment |
| 04 | Incarceration | 09 | Parental illness or death |
| 05 | Abuse | | |

Each family's path is different; support must meet the whole context.

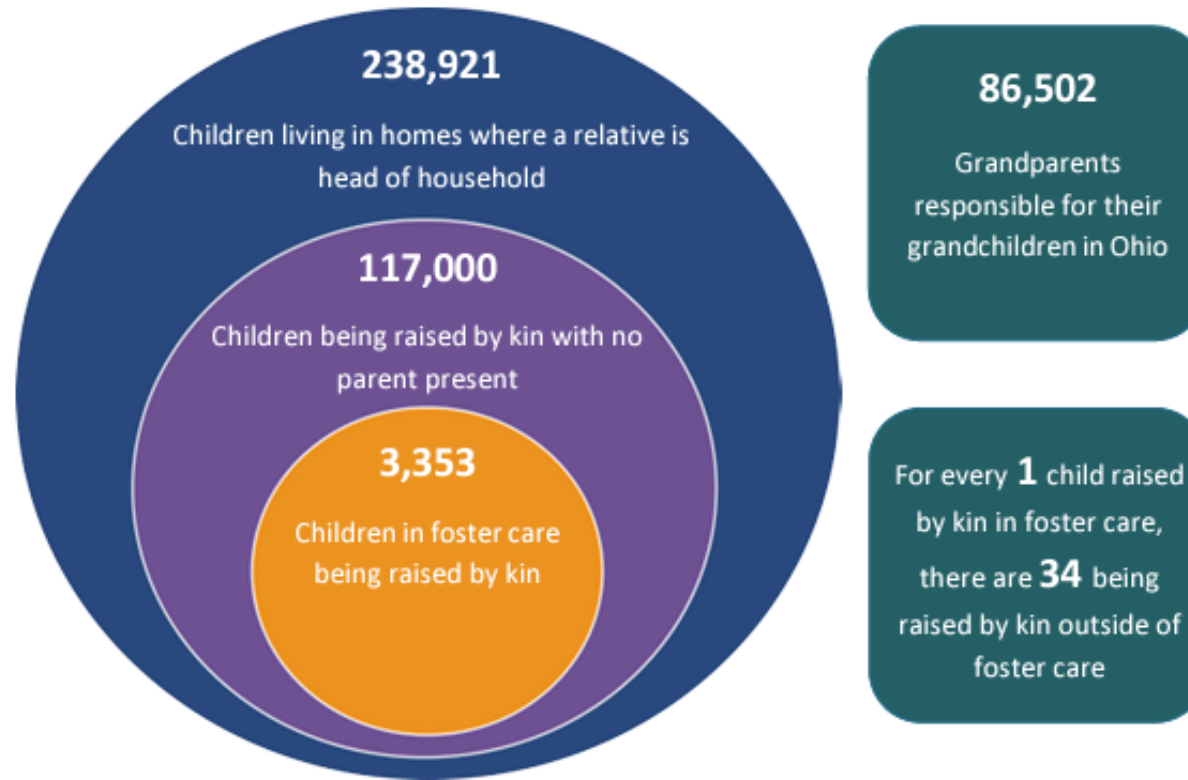


Quick Facts & Statistics



Ohio

Grandfamilies Data





AOoA Kinship Navigator Program

Nationally & Globally Recognized & “Exemplary” Designated



Kinship Navigator Program



Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio (AOoA)

The Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. (AOoA) has a Kinship Navigator Program that helps grandparents and relatives care better and longer for the children they raise. This program has served as a primary support to kin caregivers in Lucas County, Ohio for more than 23 years. In 2000, the Kinship Navigator Program grew out of a statewide initiative by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services that sought to address the rising need for support for kinship families. Since, then, through strong local collaboration among the directors of the county's aging, child welfare, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) agencies, the Kinship Navigator Program at AOoA has been supporting kin caregivers and the children they raise.

The AOoA promotes the health, well-being, and safety of older adults, persons with disabilities, and family caregivers to foster independence. The Kinship Navigator Program contributes to this mission by helping kin caregivers of all ages access vital resources for themselves and the children in their care to promote stability and permanency. Their success is a result of diverse partnerships, effective cross-system collaboration, and compassionate rapport-building with families, among other strengths. As a result, the Kinship Navigator Program at AOoA has earned the Exemplary Kinship Program designation from the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network.

Eligibility for Services and Intake

To receive services from the Kinship Navigator Program, kin caregivers do not need to meet any requirements based on age, income, or legal or familial relationship to the child. The program serves both kin caregivers who are raising children in the custody of child welfare and those who are not under child welfare custody. Kin caregivers must be residents of Lucas County, they must be raising a child aged 18 or younger, and the birth parent of the child cannot be living with the child or kin caregiver.

Kin caregivers who contact the Kinship Navigator Program are offered a welcome packet, which includes a welcome letter, the Kinship Navigator Program's resource

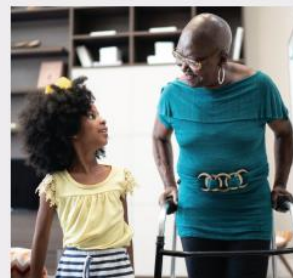


PROGRAM EXAMPLE

Getting In-Kind Gifts and Pro-Bono Services for Kinship/Grandfamilies. Two Examples from: AgeSpan and Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. www.agespan.org and www.areaofficeonaging.com

Since 1997, AgeSpan, an Area Agency on Aging, has partnered with other organizations working with older adults to establish the Breakfast Exchange Club of Greater Haverhill under the arm of the National Exchange Club. Club members support the community by fundraising to support the needs of older adults. The Breakfast Exchange Club helps pay for “specific needs” that are outside the AAA's kinship/grandfamily budget such as holiday gifts for grandparents and their grandchildren, grocery store gift cards, summer camp fees, and other extracurricular activities for children. The Breakfast Exchange Club has also helped a grandchild with vision loss attend a summer camp on Martha's Vineyard and paid for another grandchild to participate in a cheerleading competition in Florida.

Over time, AAAs can turn one or two partnerships into many. That's what the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. did. The AAA has served kinship/grandfamilies for 20 years and supports more than 1,100 kinship/grandfamilies. In this time, the agency has cultivated cost-neutral partnerships with many organizations, including more than 60 nonprofits, managed care plans, government agencies, and universities. These partners offer a variety of free goods and/or pro-bono services to the kinship/grandfamilies the AAA serves. For example, one nonprofit partner provides free winter coats to children in kinship/grandfamilies. Managed care partners pay for



turkeys and hams during the holidays. Other partners help with gift cards, school supplies, space for AAA events, minor league baseball and hockey tickets, and pro bono legal assistance for the families.

When asked how other AAAs and Title VI programs can replicate its success, Collette Cordova, Vice President of Special Contracts and Analytics at the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. suggested they build and nurture relationships at the local level by engaging in meaningful outreach activities. She also encouraged AAAs and Title VI programs to find opportunities to teach other entities about kinship/grandfamilies. Requests to partners, she says, may start small and build over time.

Kinship/Grandfamilies: The Role of Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging Programs

13



Identifying Local Champions



Key takeaways from the third of five sessions for social service professionals who want to improve outreach to kin caregivers

Experts: **Teresa English** is the program administrator of the Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program, based in Memphis, Tennessee. **Marsha Rose** is the supervisor of the Kinship Navigator Program for the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio. Both of the programs were designated as Exemplary by the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network.

Why This Topic Is Important: Identifying and connecting with public and private community organizations can be challenging, but community partners can help promote, enhance, and support the work of social service professionals serving kinship families.

How to Identify Local Champions

► **Make a “wish list” of resources and services that your families need but your program does not provide.**

- For example, you may frequently encounter clients who would benefit from mental health services, respite, recreational support, tutoring, or food.
- Find local entities that can address these needs (or others). Seek partnerships that ensure that families have access to the services and supports most relevant to them.

“You have to look at agencies that may have a common interest and investment, whether it be from the caregiver aspect or from serving the kids.”

— Marsha Rose

The AOoA Kinship Navigator Program is globally & nationally recognized & was one of the first programs nationwide to earn the “Exemplary” program designation by the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (A National Technical Assistance Center).



A0oA Kinship Navigator Program Team

CALL (419) 382-0624 x 2228 | FAX (419) 382-4560 | EMAIL KinshipMailGroup@areaofficeonaging.com | VISIT www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com



Kinship Team

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM TEAM



**ARCELIA ARMSTRONG, LSW, DIRECTOR
CAREGIVER SUPPORT & KINSHIP PROGRAMS**

Office 231
Extension 1163
aarmstrong@areaofficeonaging.com



**MARSHA ROSE, LSW, SUPERVISOR
KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM**

Office 236
Extension 2228
mrose@areaofficeonaging.com



RHEA DAWSON, NAVIGATOR

Office 233
Extension 1175
rdawson@areaofficeonaging.com



JACIA GIBSON, NAVIGATOR

Office 233
Extension 1285
jgibson@areaofficeonaging.com



“Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!”



Program Eligibility & Referrals



OUR SERVICES ARE **FREE**
FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS WHO MEET
THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



Caregiver is a resident of Lucas County, Ohio.



Caregiver is the primary caregiver raising a child or children from birth to 18 years of age with no biological parent living in the home.



There are:

- No caregiver age requirements; must be an adult caregiver age 18 or above.
- No caregiver or household income requirements.
- No legal custody or guardianship requirements.
- No child welfare system involvement is required.

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM – Referral Form

Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.
Phone: 419-382-0624 ~ 800-472-7277
Fax: 419-382-4560
Email: KinshipMailGroup@areaofficeonaging.com

DATE: _____
REFERRAL SOURCE: _____
CONTACT NAME: _____
PHONE NUMBER: _____
FAX NUMBER: _____

KINSHIP CAREGIVER INFORMATION

Caregiving related to opioids: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Last 4 digits of SSN#: _____
Last 4 digits of SSN#: _____

LCCS SACWIS #: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____
Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Street Address: _____ Apt. #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Home Phone#: _____ Work Phone #: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐
Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐

Race: _____
Race: _____
Marital Status (OPTIONAL): _____
Relationship To Child/ Children: _____

Living Arrangements: _____

KINSHIP CHILDREN CARING FOR:

Names of child/ children:

Last:	First:	Date of Birth:
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Current Services in Place: _____

Open case with LCCS: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name of LCCS Caseworker and contact info: _____

Please call referrer? ☐ Yes ☐ No Follow-up requested? ☐ Yes ☐ No

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services & Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services.

LUCAS COUNTY
Job & Family Services
Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.
ALCOA COUNTY
Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.
CHILDREN

Revised: 05/20/2025 (AIR)



Send Referrals to KinshipMailGroup@AreaOfficeOnAging.com



Kinship Flyer & Quick Facts





**Area Office on Aging
of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.**

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Grandparents & Relatives
Raising Children



GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP
SUPPORT NETWORK
EXEMPLARY
POLICY • PRACTICE • PROGRAM

Read about our
Exemplary Designation
at www.gksnwork.org

GET OUR **FREE** SERVICES CALL (419) 382-0624

- ✓ INFORMATION & REFERRAL
- ✓ ONGOING ASSISTANCE
- ✓ SUPPORT GROUPS
- ✓ CLUB MEETINGS
- ✓ EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS
- ✓ CAREGIVER EDUCATION
- ✓ SPECIAL EVENTS
- ✓ QUARTERLY RESILIENCY RAFFLE
- ✓ QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
- ✓ TWICE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER
- ✓ PARENTING SMARTS RESOURCE GUIDE
- ✓ ACCESS TO AOOA PROGRAMS & EVENTS

KINSHIP QUICK FACTS

2.5 million children in the US live with grandparents or other relatives without parents in the home.

100,000 children in Ohio live in homes where the head of household is a grandparent or other relative (4% of children in the state).

For every **1 child** being raised by kin in foster care, there are **10 children** being raised by kin outside of foster care.

\$10.5 billion – The amount grandparents & other relatives save taxpayers each year by raising children & keeping them out of foster care.

Source: Generations United
2022 State of Grandfamilies Report

2155 Arlington Ave. Toledo, OH 43609 www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com (419) 382-0624

The Kinship Navigator Program is made possible through the support of the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services, & the OneOhio Recovery Foundation.





Learn more at www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com



Information, Referral & Assistance

Fiscal Year **2025** **TOP 5**

1. Education – 4,252
2. Food – 1,839
3. Events – 1,312
4. Financial – 1,305
5. Mental Health – 952



2,140 kinship caregivers received Information & Referral services, with **11,927** resources being provided.



Quarterly Support Group & Kinship Club Meeting



AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.
KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

"LET'S TALK" SUPPORT GROUP

Build connections **Learn coping skills**

Improve self-esteem **Feel less isolated**

Reduce anxiety **Improve well-being**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2026
11:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

Sylvania Senior Center
7140 W. Sylvania Ave.
Sylvania, OH 43560 **MAP ON BACK**

TRANSPORTATION | CHILDCARE | SNACKS | REFRESHMENTS

To Register Call a Kinship Navigator:
Rhea Dawson at (419) 490-2942
Jacia Gibson at (419) 725-6900
Questions? Email:
KinshipMailGroup@areaofficeonaging.com

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services, & the OneOhio Recovery Foundation.

THE AOOA KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

March 2026
Kinship Club Meeting
"Financial Literacy: Tools & Resources for Money Management Skills"

Patrice Powers-Barker, (CFLE) Certified Family Life Educator,
Extension Educator, Family & Consumer Sciences,
OSU Extension - Lucas County

LEARN ABOUT FREE COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO IMPROVE FINANCIAL LITERACY & MONEY MANAGEMENT FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, TEENS, & ADULTS.

LEARN HOW TO TEACH MONEY MANAGEMENT TO YOUNG CHILDREN, YOUTH, & TEENS.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH, 2026
5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

MARGARET HUNT SENIOR CENTER
1339 S. BYRNE RD., #28 A/B, TOLEDO, OH 43614 **MAP ON BACK**

TO REGISTER **419-490-2942 OR 419-725-6900**

FREE TRANSPORTATION, CHILDCARE, SNACKS, & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.
VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION AVAILABLE ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS

THE KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY THE AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC., LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES, LUCAS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES, & THE ONEOHIO RECOVERY FOUNDATION.



Learn more at www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com



Evidence-Based Programs

Child Traumatic Stress Workshop & Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE)



Child Traumatic Stress Workshop for Kinship, Foster and Adoptive Parents

Caring For Children Who Have Experienced Trauma

Please Join Us

We invite you to attend the Child Traumatic Stress Workshop for foster, adoptive and kinship caregivers sponsored in partnership with the Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program. Workshop led by Sophia Center's trauma expert Diane Sweinhagen, LPCC-S and Cassandra Quinn, BA, foster and adoptive parent.

Building Support For Kinship Caregivers
Through this series, caregivers will learn about the impact of trauma on development and behavior of children in kinship, foster or adoptive parent care and gain the following knowledge and skills:

- Respond appropriately to behavioral and emotional challenges of traumatized children
- Help traumatized children develop healthy attachments
- Help traumatized children recognize and develop their strengths
- Help traumatized children develop coping strategies
- Take care of themselves and seek support from others

Kinship Navigator Program contact:
Marsha Rose, LSW, Program Supervisor
Phone: 419-382-0624 Extension #2228
Email: mrose@areaofficeonaging.com



Free Three-Part Series:

**Fridays
August 7th,
14th, 21st,
2026
9:30am - 2:30pm**

Location:
Toledo Lucas County
Public Library- Main
325 N. Michigan St.
Toledo, OH 43604

**Sign Up Today!
To REGISTER**

**Call the
Kinship Navigator
Program at:**

**(419) 490-2942 or
(419) 725-6900**



**Are you 55 or older and
looking for an opportunity
to learn how to stay healthy
and meet new people?**

Join us, and bring a friend!

**Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program
at Margaret Hunt Senior Center
1339 South Byrne Rd., Unit 28A, Toledo, OH**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 am – 11:30 am
April 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23**

Sign up by March 31

with Rhea Dawson: 419-490-2942 or Jacia Gibson: 419-725-6900

The educational program offers six lessons that cover a wide range of topics. Join us for this fun program, where you'll meet new people and:

- Learn about the aging process and how to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Celebrate this exciting stage of life and all the benefits that come with it
- Discuss risk factors and behaviors you should avoid to stay healthy
- Examine how alcohol, prescription medications and over-the-counter medications affect seniors differently and how you can avoid problems
- Learn how to use simple tools to help you feel more empowered about your health and the healthcare you receive

**Free \$50 Kroger gift card upon successful
program completion!** (First-time participants only)

For more
information

email: HarborPrevention@harbor.org



Learn more at www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com



Annual Mental Health Education



Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.
2155 Arlington Ave., Toledo, OH 43609 (419) 382-0624 www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com

Kinship Navigator Program EXEMPLARY

Mental Health Education



 **NAMI Greater Toledo**
Sarah Smitley, Family Navigator

Join us to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month!
Experts from NAMI Toledo educate on supporting the mental health of children & teens, accessing community resources, & on emotional well-being & stress management for caregivers.

Tuesday, May 12th, 2026, 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

 **Margaret Hunt Senior Center** Map on back.
1339 S. Byrne Rd., #28 A & B, Toledo, OH 43614
TO REGISTER  419-490-2942 OR 419-725-6900

FREE TRANSPORTATION, CHILDCARE, SNACKS, & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.
A virtual attendance option is available for extenuating circumstances only.

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services, & the OneOho Recovery Foundation.



Benefits for Caregivers:

- ✓ Reduced stigma around the topic of mental health.
- ✓ Increased knowledge of local community resources.
- ✓ Improved emotional well-being.
- ✓ Reduced stress & anxiety.
- ✓ Enhanced self-care.
- ✓ Increased resilience.
- ✓ Improved communication & relationships.
- ✓ Reduced burnout.
- ✓ Increased sense of control.



Learn more at www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com



Annual Summer Series



EDUCATION



MENTAL HEALTH



PERMANENCY & SUPPORT



LEGAL



HEALTH & WELLNESS



CAREGIVER SELF-CARE

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.

Kinship Navigator Program

EXEMPLARY
POLICY • PRACTICE • PROGRAM

2026 SUMMER SERIES

SAVE

DATES & TIMES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 29TH, 2026
THURSDAY, JULY 30TH, 2026
10:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

LOCATION
BOWSER HIGH SCHOOL
2200 ARLINGTON AVE.
TOLEDO, OH 43614

FREE ACTIVITIES

- * CAREGIVER EDUCATION
- * CHILD & YOUTH EDUCATION
- * LUNCH PROVIDED
- * HEALTH SCREENINGS
- * COMMUNITY RESOURCES
- * CAB TRANSPORTATION
- * CHILDCARE RESPIRE
- * MEET KINSHIP FAMILIES
- * ALL THE FUN!

REGISTER

CALL OUR KINSHIP NAVIGATORS
AT (419) 490-2942
OR (419) 725-6900

Agenda ANNOUNCED PRIOR TO EVENT DATES.

- SUMMER SERIES IS AN IN-PERSON EVENT. A VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE OPTION IS AVAILABLE FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.
- ADVANCE REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER SERIES IS REQUIRED FOR CAREGIVERS, CHILDREN, & YOUTH.
- CAREGIVER MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE AT SUMMER SERIES TO UTILIZE FREE ACTIVITIES/SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH.

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services & the OneOhio Recovery Foundation.



Learn more at www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com



Special Events



TICKETS



WINTER COATS



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
OF TOLEDO
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION



MEMBERSHIPS



PAJAMAS



SCHOLARSHIPS



HOLIDAY MEALS



SCHOOL SUPPLIES



QUARTERLY RESILIENCY RAFFLE



Made possible through generous donations from community partners.



Special Events



AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.

EXEMPLARY
POLICY • PRACTICE • PROGRAM

PALMER
ENERGY COMPANY

Kinship Navigator Program

SCHOOL SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2025
11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Margaret Hunt Senior Center
1339 S. Byrne Rd., Suite 28A
Toledo, OH 43614

Questions?
Call (419) 490-2942
or (419) 725-6900

Note: This is a drive-up distribution for registered caregivers.
If you registered for winter coats they will be available at the school supply distribution.
School supplies are available on a first-come, first-served, basis & are not guaranteed.

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services, & the OneOhio Recovery Foundation.

AA Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. ACCREDITED BUSINESS CHILDREN'S SERVICES LUCAS COUNTY ONEOHIO RECOVERY FOUNDATION

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.

EXEMPLARY
POLICY • PRACTICE • PROGRAM

Kinship Navigator Program

WINTER COAT DISTRIBUTION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2025
11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Margaret Hunt Senior Center
1339 S. Byrne Rd., Suite 28A
Toledo, OH 43614

Questions?
Call (419) 490-2942
or (419) 725-6900

Note: This is a drive-up distribution for registered caregivers.
If you registered for school supplies, they will be available at the winter coat distribution.
School supplies are available on a first-come, first-served, basis & are not guaranteed.

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services, & the OneOhio Recovery Foundation.

AA Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. ACCREDITED BUSINESS CHILDREN'S SERVICES LUCAS COUNTY ONEOHIO RECOVERY FOUNDATION

Made possible through generous donations from community partners.



Grandparent Workshop

“Superheroes Need Support Too!”



September – National Grandparent & Kinship Month



Annual AOoA Honoring Caregivers Recognition Event



Annually in November – National Family Caregiver Month



Quarterly Newsletter & Twice Monthly E-Newsletter



RESOURCE CORNER

HEAP
Home Energy Assistance Program

Stay Warm During The Cold Winter Months!

Heating Assistance Available!
The Ohio Department of Development and the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. (AOA) want to remind Ohioans assistance is available to help with their home energy bills. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans pay their heating bills. HEAP is a federal program that provides financial assistance to help pay heating bills. HEAP is available to Ohioans who are 62 years of age or older, have a household income at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines, and live in a household with a heating system.

Ohioans can visit energyhelp.ohio.gov to apply online, download a copy of the application, or find contact information for a local Energy Assistance Provider. Senior citizens may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with completing the required documents and completing their HEAP application.

www.areaofficeonaging.com
www.ohio.gov



**"ROOTS OF RESILIENCE:
Empowering Kinship
Families Amid
Opioid Recovery"**

Part of the AOoA "Better & Longer" podcast, "Roots of Resilience" offers support, resources & hope for families impacted by opioids.

Listen to these podcast episodes at www.wgte.org/radio/local-podcasts/better-and-longer or through your favorite podcast platforms such as Spotify, Apple, or Google Podcasts.

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Toledo, Ohio
Permit 1055

ONE OHIO
RECOVERY FOUNDATION

LUCAS COUNTY
Job & Family
Services

**AREA OFFICE ON AGING
KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM
2155 ARLINGTON AVENUE
TOLEDO, OH 43609**

Return Service Requested

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.
The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services & the OneOhio Recovery Foundation.

2026 Spring Newsletter

Kinship Navigator Program



**Area Office on Aging of
Northwestern Ohio, Inc.**
2155 Arlington Ave.
Toledo, OH 43609
(419) 382-0624
www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com

*"The earth laughs
in flowers."
- Ralph Waldo
Emerson*

SAVE THE DATE

"Let's Talk" Support Group

Thursdays
March 12th, 2026
June 11th, 2026
September 10th, 2026
11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Sylvania Senior Center
7140 W. Sylvania Ave.
Sylvania, OH 43560

An opportunity for caregivers of any age to connect with other kinship caregivers going through a similar experience.

Join us to build connections, learn coping skills, improve confidence, feel less isolated, & improve wellbeing.

Light snacks & refreshments provided. Transportation & childcare available for registered caregivers.

Kinship Club Meeting

Thursdays
March 19th, 2026 - "Financial Literacy"
June 18th, 2026
September 17th, 2026
5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Margaret Hunt Senior Center
1339 S. Byrne Rd., #28 A & B
Toledo, OH 43614

An opportunity for caregivers of any age to build their resiliency toolbox.

Join us to learn about community resources.

Light snacks & refreshments provided. Transportation & childcare available for registered caregivers.

SAVE THE DATE

WISE Workshop - Wellness Initiative for Senior Education



Six-Session Workshop
Tuesdays & Thursdays
April 7th, 9th, 14th, 16th, 21st, & 23rd, 2026
9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Margaret Hunt Senior Center
1339 S. Byrne Rd., #28 A & B
Toledo, OH 43614

An opportunity for caregivers age 55 & better to learn about the facts & myths of aging. Join us to learn how to make healthy lifestyle choices, how to use simple tools to feel empowered about your healthcare, & learn about the aging process in a fun & enjoyable way! Caregivers meeting the minimum attendance requirement earn a **FREE \$50.00** Kroger gift card from Harbor upon workshop completion. Transportation is available for registered caregivers. No childcare.

Guiding Good Choices® Workshop



Six-Session Workshop
Wednesdays
April 22nd, 29th,
& May 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th, 2026
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL on ZOOM

Family skill-building workshop for caregivers of any age raising middle schoolers ages 9 -14. Join us to fill your toolbox with skills that improve family bonds, promote healthy behaviors, set clear boundaries, & increase the likelihood that youth will remain drug-free. Caregivers who attend all six sessions will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a **FREE \$100.00** Meijer gift card (donated by the AOoA).

SAVE THE DATE

Mental Health Education

Tuesday May 12th, 2026
12:30 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Margaret Hunt Senior Center
1339 S. Byrne Rd., #28 A & B
Toledo, OH 43614

An opportunity for caregivers of any age to increase their knowledge about mental health & local resources.

Join us to celebrate National Mental Health Awareness Month!

Light snacks & refreshments provided. Transportation & childcare available for registered caregivers.

REGISTER NOW

All programming is for grandparents, relatives, & family friends of any age who reside in Lucas County & are raising children when their biological parents are unable or unwilling to do so.

All programming is **FREE** of charge!



**(419) 382-0624
Ext. 1175 or 1285**

Ask about our **FREE** publications or visit www.areaofficeonaging.com/programs

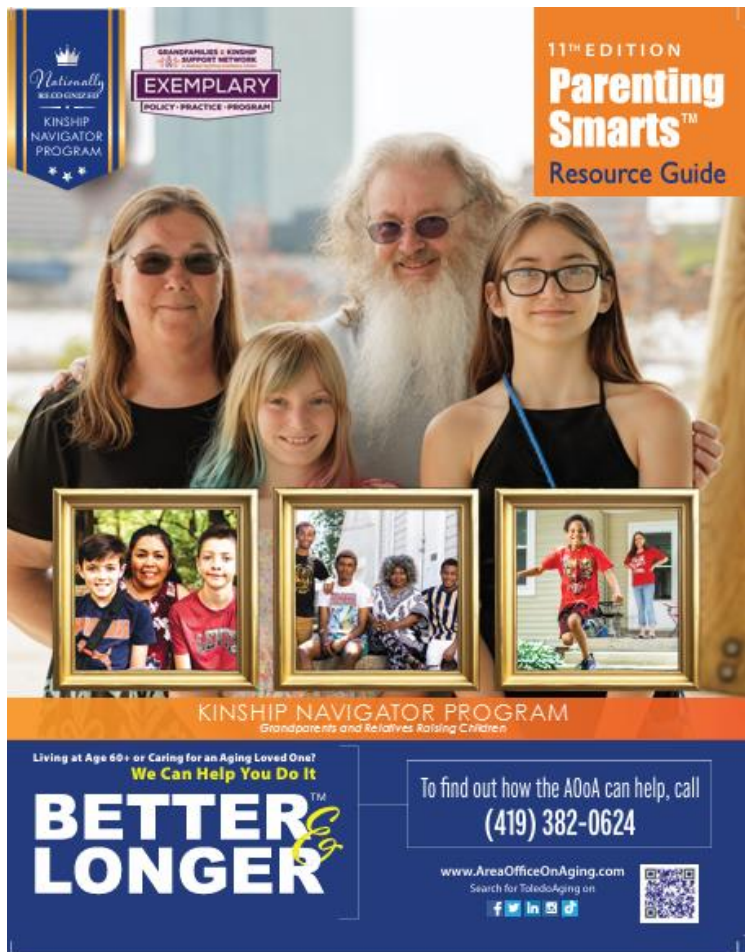


FALL - WINTER - SPRING - SUMMER

Self-Subscribe to our Bi-Weekly E-Newsletter Kinship & Quarterly Newsletter at www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com



FREE Parenting Smarts Resource Guide



100% FREE • 64 PAGES

Practical support for caregivers & professionals

The Parenting Smarts Resource Guide brings essential information together in one easy-to-use publication.

INSIDE THE GUIDE

- The Value of Kinship Care
- Parenting & Child Development
- Help with Expenses — Resources & Public Assistance
- Early Childhood Education
- Education — Help Your Child Succeed at School
- Babysitting & Occasional Care
- Understanding Legal Issues & Help
- Medical Services & Wellness
- Family Activities & Recreation
- And much more



Call (419) 382-0624 to request your **FREE** copy or access the digital version at www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com

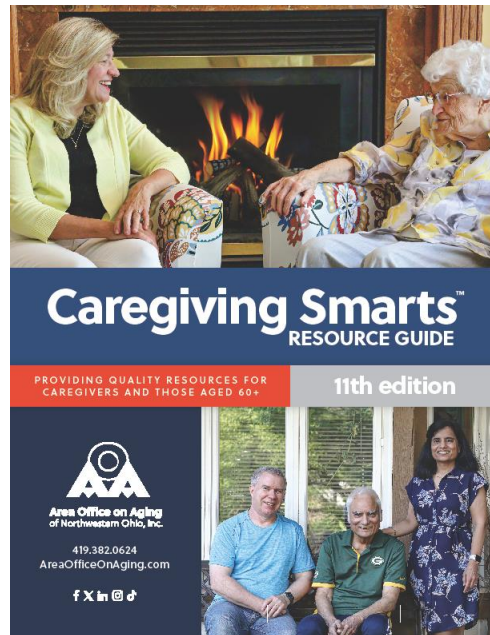


Connection to AOoA Programs & Services



Convenient & seamless access to **FREE** AOoA services

RESOURCE GUIDES



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

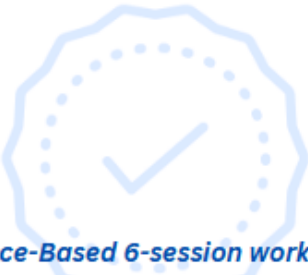
- ▶ Older Adult Resource Guide
- ▶ Caregiving Smarts Resource Guide
- ▶ Aging & Disability Resource Network — Information & Referral
- ▶ Long Term Care Consultation
- ▶ Medicaid & Non-Medicaid In-Home Services
- ▶ AmeriCorps Senior Volunteer Program
- ▶ Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program
- ▶ Nutrition & Wellness Programs
- ▶ AOoA Special Events
- ▶ And Much More!



Call (419) 382-0624 to request your **FREE** copy • Digital: www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com



Evidence-Based Program Guiding Good Choices ®



An Evidence-Based 6-session workshop for parents & caregivers of youth ages 9 - 14 to learn specific actions that promote healthy development & reduce risky behavior in the teen years.

Benefits for Caregivers & Families:

- ✓ Strengthened family bonds.
- ✓ Improved caregiver-child communication.
- ✓ Increased ability to better manage family conflict.
- ✓ Increased the use of guidelines, monitoring, & consequences to help guide preteen & teen behavior & decision making.

Twice Annually in April & September



Proven Outcomes for Youth:

- Reduced alcohol & marijuana use by 41%.
- Reduced progression to more serious substance abuse by 54%.
- Increased the likelihood that non-users will remain drug-free by 26%.
- Reduced depression symptoms by 28% through the end of 12th grade.



Made possible through our partnership with Lucas County Children Services & a grant award from the OneOhio Recovery Foundation to enhance the well-being of individuals, children, families, & caregivers impacted by the opioid epidemic.



Evidence-Based Program Guiding Good Choices ®



FREE

GUIDING GOOD CHOICES ®

FAMILY SKILL BUILDING 6-SESSION WORKSHOP SERIES FOR CAREGIVERS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLERS AGE 9 - 14

EXEMPLARY
POLICY • PRACTICE • PROGRAM

EVIDENCE-BASED

zoom PLAN TO ATTEND ALL 6-SESSIONS TO QUALIFY FOR RAFFLE OF \$100 GIFT CARDS AT WORKSHOP CONCLUSION

Join us to fill your caregiver toolbox with skills to increase family bonds, promote healthy behaviors, & set clear boundaries.

Evidence-Based Proven Outcomes for Youth

- Reduced alcohol & marijuana use by 41%.
- Reduced progression to more serious substance abuse by 54%.
- Increased the likelihood that non-users will remain drug-free by 26%.
- Reduced depression symptoms by 28% through the end of 12th grade.

Wednesdays 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.
October 21st & 28th, November 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th, 2026

REGISTER NOW →

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.
KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM
(419) 490-2942 OR (419) 725-6900

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services (LCCS), & Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services. Guiding Good Choices® was made possible thanks to the support of LCCS & the OneOhio Recovery Foundation.

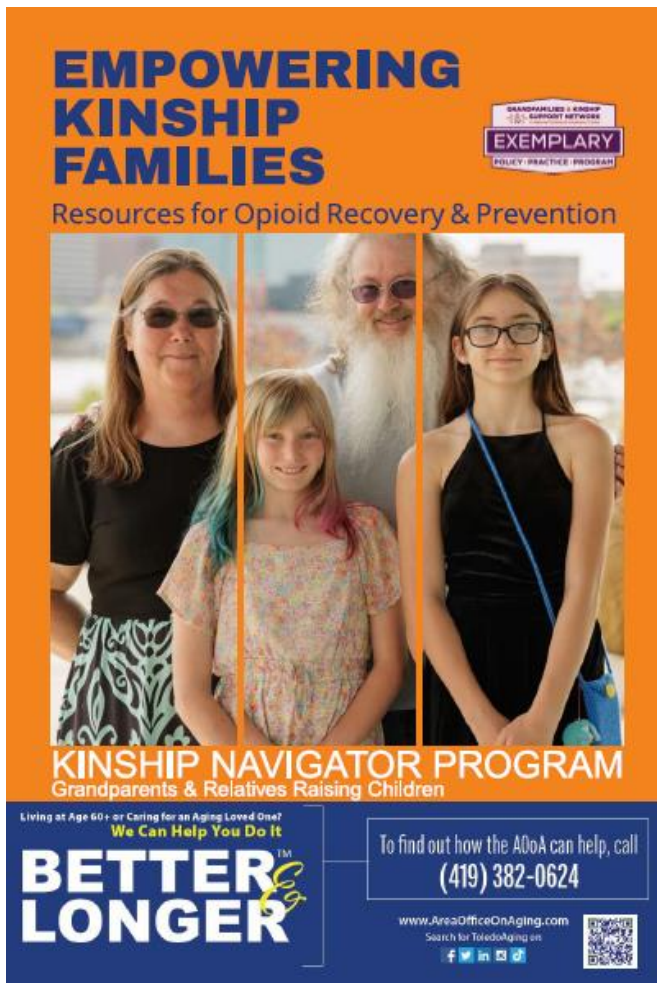
   



Learn more at www.CommunitiesThatCare.net



“Empowering Kinship Families: Resources for Opioid Recovery & Prevention”



“Empowering Kinship Families: Resources for Opioid Recovery & Prevention”



New 10-page publication was released in December 2025.



Companion piece to the existing publication,
“Parenting Smarts Resource Guide, 11th Edition”.



Utilized as a tool for community outreach & education.



Project deliverable as part of our contractual agreement
with Lucas County Children Services & the OneOhio
Recovery Foundation Grant.



Available digitally at www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com
or contact the Kinship Navigator Program & request your **FREE** copy at 419-382-0624.



AOoA “Better & Longer” Podcast - Kinship Series

“Roots of Resilience: Empowering Kinship Families Amid Opioid Recovery”



About “Roots of Resilience”

- Made possible thanks to Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) and the OneOhio Recovery Foundation.
- Provides information and resources relevant to kinship families impacted by the opioid epidemic.
- Produced at WGTE Public Media studio in video and audio format, syndicated to public radio and promoted on all major streaming platforms.
- Two episodes annually.

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.
2155 ARLINGTON AVE., TOLEDO, OH 43609 (419) 382-0624 WWW.AREAOFFICEONAGING.COM

Kinship Navigator Program
Podcast
Roots of Resilience
Empowering Kinship Families Amid Opioid Recovery

Hosts:
Annelise Armstrong
Marsha Rose

- Part of the AOoA Better & Longer Podcast, the *Roots of Resilience* mini-series offers support, resources, & hope for families impacted by opioid use.
- Listen or Watch at www.wgte.org/radio/local-podcasts/better-and-longer or any platform where podcasts are available.

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services, & the OneOhio Recovery Foundation.



www.wgte.org/radio/local-podcasts/better-and-longer



“Roots of Resilience: Empowering Kinship Families Amid Opioid Recovery”



EPISODE 1

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Transformative Impact

- Impact of the opioid epidemic on kinship & grandfamilies in Lucas County.
- Innovative programs, expanded partnerships & resources for families affected by substance use.
- Celebrating the decline in children in LCCS custody and the people helping families thrive.

GUESTS

- Chanda Beal, Director of Social Services, LCCS
- Amy Galvan, Manager, Family & Community Engagement, LCCS

EPISODE 2

NOVEMBER 12, 2025

Nourishing Hope: How Community Partnerships Help Families Heal

- Ripple effects of the opioid epidemic locally – and how a simple meal becomes a lifeline.
- How food, compassionate support & community connection help families stabilize, preserve dignity & rebuild hope.

GUESTS

- Mindy Rapp, Executive Director, SeaGate Food Bank
- Mr. Allen Coley & Mrs. Patricia Coley, Kinship Caregivers

EPISODE 3

MAY 14, 2026

Resilience in Action

- How mental health support strengthens families, stabilizes children & promotes healing across generations.
- The emotional toll of the epidemic, and how stigma, trauma & access to care affect family stability.
- Supports available from NAMI of Greater Toledo and the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County.

GUESTS

- Marriah Kornowa, Executive Director, NAMI of Greater Toledo
- Scott Sylak, Executive Director, MHR SB of Lucas County



One question caregivers actually ask, per episode.

A low-cost, repeatable mini-series model – easy to replicate with a local public media partner.



Value of Community Partnerships



- 
- Benefits caregivers by providing access to support, education, goods & services, & linkage to reliable & committed local providers.
 - Builds capacity & extends program reach without burden to the program budget.
 - Strengthens investment in the local community.
 - Promotes collaboration across multiple systems at the local level.
 - Maximizes the creativity & diversity of thought necessary to address local community needs.
 - Plants the seed & leads to future partnership opportunities.

Saying **YES** to partnership opportunities is key!



TARGETED OUTREACH ACROSS SECTORS

Four trusted networks can extend our reach

Increase program awareness. Build community partnerships.

01 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Child/family services • Job & Family Services
Child support • developmental disabilities
Juvenile/family courts • health & mental health
Housing & advocacy • parks/Metroparks
Social Security • councils • libraries

02 NON-PROFITS

Area Agencies on Aging • places of worship •
behavioral and mental health groups
United Way 2-1-1 • YWCA/YMCA • arts, senior
and community centers
Food banks • local coalitions • credit unions

03 FOR-PROFITS

Hospital systems • childcare centers • physician
and dental offices
Managed care organizations • local businesses
and banks
Transportation companies

04 SCHOOLS

Head Start and early childhood • elementary and
high schools
Private, public, parochial and charter schools
Colleges and universities

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX.

Meet families where trusted systems already serve them.





Use Various Outreach Tools & Methods

Increase Program Awareness & Build Community Partnerships

OUTREACH TOOLS

PRINT & TAKEAWAYS

- Annual Event Calendar
- Bi-Monthly E-Newsletter
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Brochures
- Flyers
- Business Cards
- Bookmarks

DIGITAL, PROGRAM & SWAG

- Agency Website
- Social Media Page
- Parenting Smarts
- Empowering Kinship Families
- Program Referral Form
- Agency Swag
- Exemplary Swag

OUTREACH METHODS

SHOW UP & SHARE

- Attend Community Events, Health & Resource Fairs
- Sponsor Community Events
- Distribute Materials to Community Partners & through Library Systems
- Include Program Information on Your Agency & Partner Websites

AMPLIFY THE MESSAGE

- Issue Press Releases to get Media Coverage of Events
- Place Advertisements
- Post on Social Media of your Agency & Community Partners
- Give Media Interviews with Television, Radio, Podcasts, & Newspapers or Magazines

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

- Give Program Overviews to Community Organizations
- Send Targeted Mailings
- Attend Meetings & Opportunities for Business Networking

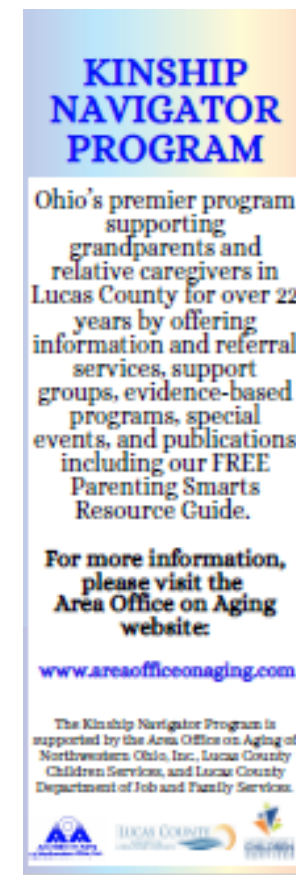
IN PRACTICE

Sample Bookmark

FRONT



BACK





Exemplary Swag - An Outreach Tool



JUSTIN



LISA



PAM



IREATHA



JULIE



RANDY



LYNDA



MARRIAH



CHANDA



TRACY



SAM



JENETTE



ANGELA



REBECCA



JOHN

Celebrate Your Wins!



Key Performance Indicators Demonstrate Success



IMPACT of Data Points:

- Satisfies Customers & Community Partners
- Elevates Your Organization
- Instills Community Confidence
- Fulfills Contractual Obligations
- Demonstrates Community Needs
- Drives Continuous Program Improvement
- Supports Staffing to Meet Capacity
- Breaks Down Service Gaps & Barriers
- Justifies Program Sustainability
- Guides Targeted Outreach Efforts
- Provides Key Points for Future Outreach
- Inspires New Partnerships
- Leads to New Opportunities



Maximize Your Impact!



Thank You!



www.areaofficeonaging.com

Arcelia Armstrong, LSW
Director

**Caregiver Support and
Kinship Navigator Programs**

Area Office on Aging of NWO, Inc.
2155 Arlington Avenue
Toledo, OH 43609-1997
419.725.6963 Direct
419.382.0624 Ext. 1163
1.800.472.7277
419.382.4560 Fax
aarmstrong@areaofficeonaging.com

Grandparents and
Relatives Raising
Children



419.382.0624



Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. – Kinship Navigator Program

Parc Center for Disabilities Caregiver Relief Services

More than just a respite program: Supporting the Whole Family



What Does Caregiving Really Look Like?

- Caregiving is **24/7**
- Managing appointments, therapies, medications, transportation, daily routines, etc.
- Advocating for the child's medical, educational, and social needs
- Balancing caregiving with work, household responsibilities, and other children
- Caregivers may have little time left for themselves



What Does Respite Really Mean?

- Providing families with much-needed short breaks from caregiving
- Available to children birth to age 22
- Up to 20 hours of respite per month
- Designed to give families peace of mind while offering a valuable opportunity to rest and recharge
- Caregivers engage in self-care activities that refuel while the children participate in meaningful time with a trained Family Care Partner



Why Respite Matters

70% of family caregivers have clinically significant symptoms of depression



Children with disabilities and Special Healthcare Needs are 4x more likely to experience abuse and neglect

Caregivers of children with disabilities were 2.3 times more likely to experience serious psychological distress

Supporting the Whole Family

- Wraparound case management
- Support group access for all caregivers in our community
- "Respitality" to take the financial burden off of intentional respite
- In home emotional support available to all family members
- Transition planning support



Supporting Children & Siblings



- Individualized support from SW
- Assistance with transitioning into adulthood
- Emotional support for siblings
- All children in the home are eligible to remain while Family Care Partner is present

The Family Journey to Services

Referral-> Intake -> Assess -> Match -> Support -> Connect -> Reassess

Every family's journey looks different!

- Not a one size fits all program. We adapt to meet each individual family's needs
- We learn about the child, family, household dynamic, and needs.
- Guides us to develop a family support plan



Assessing With Purpose

We don't just collect data...

- PSS-10 measures perceived caregiver stress and allows us to track changes over time
- RAPS allows us to take a deeper look at the family's experiences, child's needs, stressors, strengths, and support system
- Assess -> Identify -> Plan -> Support



From Assessment to Family-Centered Care

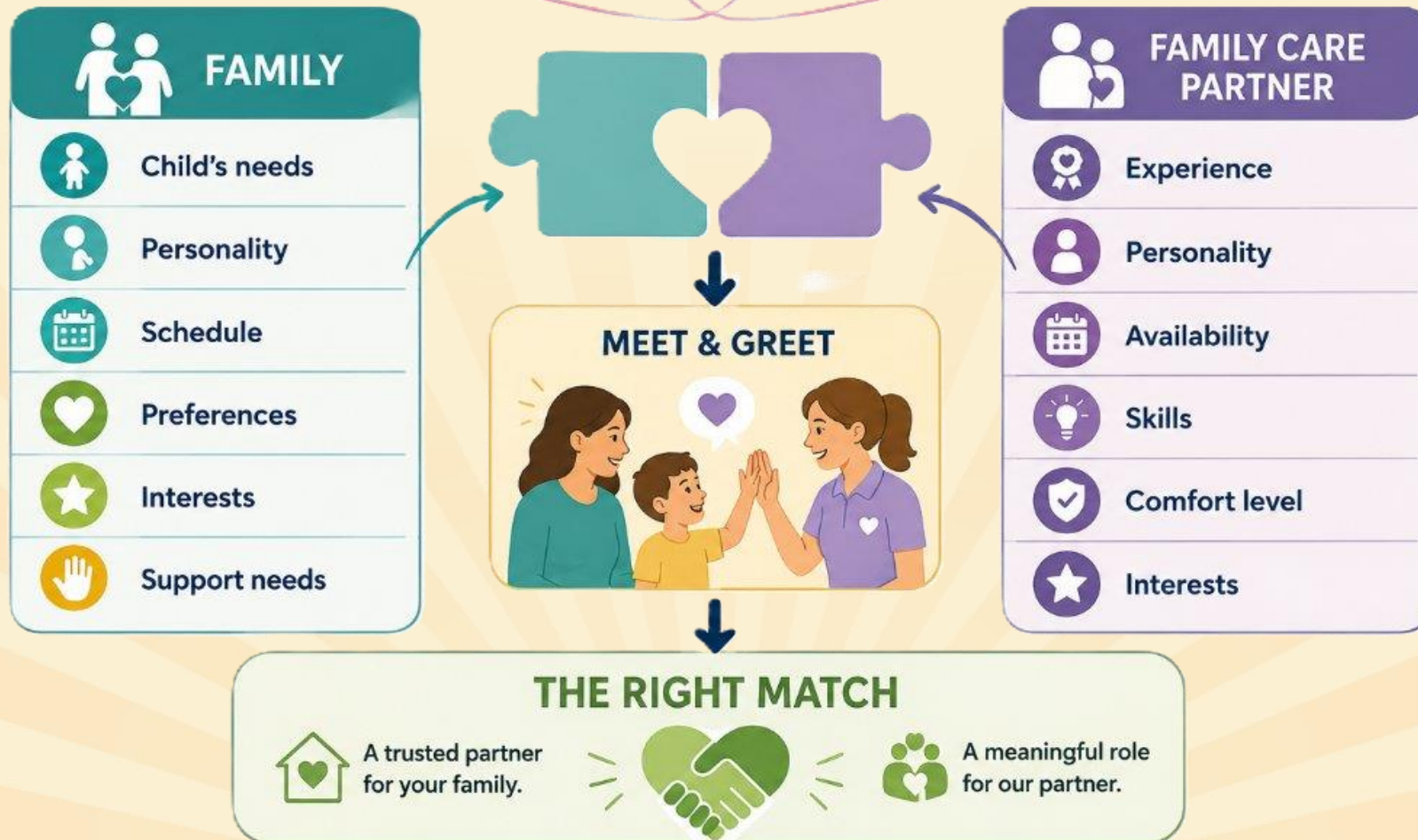


The family tells us their story.
The assessment helps us determine where we can help.



The Right Match Matters

We don't just fill a shift.
We build a relationship.



We Can't Do It Alone

One family may need many systems. They shouldn't have to navigate alone



Community Collaboration In Action

Different partners. One shared goal: Stronger and Resilient Families

Kinship Navigation:

Grandparents and relatives suddenly becoming caregivers may need help navigating benefits, schools, legal resources, childcare, and developmental services.

DCF/Foster Care:

Collaboration can help strengthen caregiver support, connect families with respite and resources, and contribute to placement stability.

Community Philanthropy:

Community partners can fill gaps traditional funding can't: experiences, basic needs, caregiver relief, and special opportunities.



What Does Success Look Like?

Success to us isn't just providing 20 hours of respite a month. Success is...

- A caregiver feeling less overwhelmed
- A child building a trusting relationship with a family care partner
- A grandparent successfully accessing benefits and supports
- A family being connected to long-term success
- A caregiver knowing they don't have to navigate everything alone



Questions??

Ways to Engage Now

- Download the Action Guides!
- Explore replicable programs in the Innovations Hub
- Join the Caregiver Champion Collaborative
- Attend our upcoming NCSC Webinar:
Advancing Caregiver Support Through Replicable Innovations
September 16 – 2:00-3:00pm ET
Registration: <https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register>

Learn more: <https://www.usaging.org/caregiverservices>
<https://acl.gov/ncsc/goal-3-project>



National Caregiver Support Collaborative

Building our capacity to support family, kinship, and tribal caregivers

Thank you for joining today's webinar!



Innovations in Caregiver Services & Supports

caregiving@usaging.org