



Kinship

Children's Home Network®

IMPROVING LIVES AND CHANGING LIFE STORIES®

Kinship Care: Innovative Practices to Support Growing Number of Children Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives

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Presentation Objectives

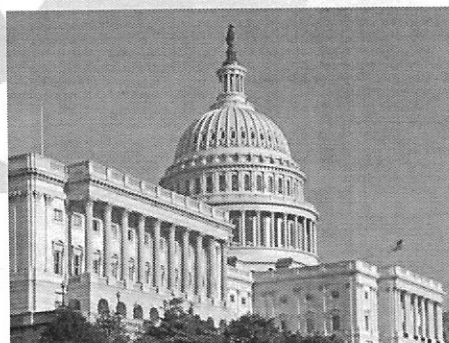
- A. What we know about Family First Act and Kinship Care
- B. Lessons learned to support relative caregivers
- C. Kinship Navigator Services
- D. Practice implications
- E. Future directions

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A. What we know about Family First Prevention Services Act

- On Feb. 9, President Donald Trump signed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (H.R. 1892)
- Full bill H.R. 1892 available at [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov)
- Huge Step forward for relative caregivers!

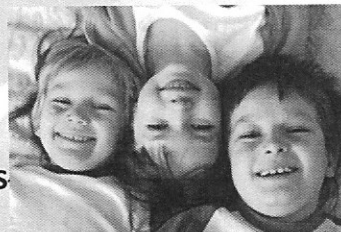


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Themes of the Family First Act

- **PREVENTION** is important – Previously majority of federal child welfare \$ available only after child in foster care- For \$7 (child welfare) there was \$1(prevention)
- Children do best in **FAMILIES**
- **REDUCE OVER-RELIANCE ON GROUP CARE-** should be short term, quality, treatment-oriented
- Investments in **EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS** Federal funds for proven approaches



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Family First Act – Kinship Navigator Programs

- As of **October 1, 2018**, states 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



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A. What we know about Kinship care

Kinship care is the full time care, nurturing and protection of children by relatives, members of their tribes or clans, Godparents, Stepparents, or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child

This definition is designed to be inclusive and respectful of cultural values and ties of affection. It allows a child to grow into adulthood in a family environment

Child Welfare League of America

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Why do we want to talk about it?

- **Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)**- Federally reimbursable Kinship Navigation services if implementing an evidenced based approach.
- Approximately **7.6 million children** live with a relative who is the head of the household in the U.S.
- **2.6 million** children are being raised by a relative and do not have a bio-parent in the household nationwide
- **Over 130,000** children in out-of-home care live with relatives
- For every child in foster care living with a relative there are 20 being raised by a relative caregiver outside of the foster care system nationwide
- **2,572,146 million** are Grandparents raising grandchildren
- Kinship care is the fastest growing type of out-of-home placement

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NATIONAL STATISTICS

FORMAL CARE:

The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) 2018 (National Numbers)

Number of children in foster care: 437,283 (sept 30, 2018)

-Relative Foster Home: 139,004 (32% of total)

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	19%	49,765
1 Year	7%	19,465
2 Years	7%	17,606
3 Years	6%	15,613
4 Years	5%	14,152
5 Years	5%	13,301

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	62%	163,543
Drug Abuse (Parent)	36%	94,386
Caretaker Inability To Cope	14%	35,802
Physical Abuse	13%	33,672
Housing	10%	27,323

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Numbers - Locally

- 361,006 Florida Grandchildren living with their own Grandparents.
- 151,683 Grandparents responsible for their own Grandchildren without a parent in the household

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Florida ranks 3rd in the number of Grandparents and other relatives raising children in the United States

Formal Foster Care System (as of 6/30/2019) Total 23,476

- 9,974 Children in out-of-home care (OHC) with relatives
- 3,132 Children in OHC with non-relatives
- 7,227 Children in Licensed Foster Care
- 1,913 Children in Residential Group Care

Source: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/programs/childwelfare/dashboard/c-in-oo-h.shtml>

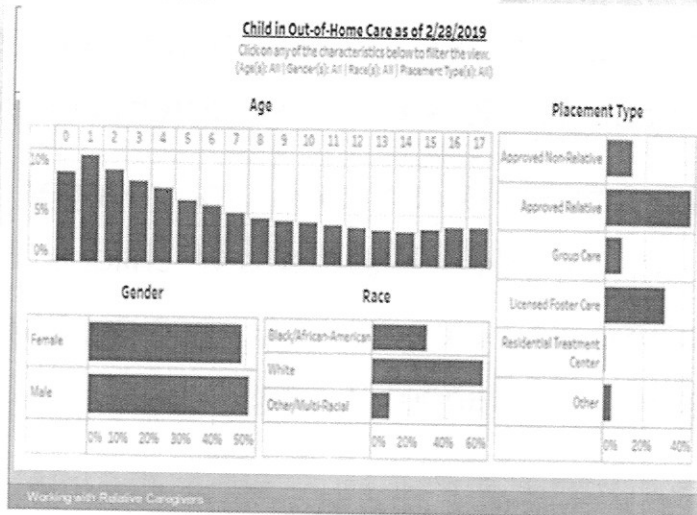
- DCF has a 65% target for Out of Home Care population in relative/non-relative care

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Florida Out-of Home Care



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Why Kinship Care is Needed

- Children may be unable to live with their parents because of:
 - Parental substance abuse
 - Death of a child's parent
 - Incarceration
 - Domestic violence
 - Mental health issues
 - Parental abandonment
 - Child neglect or abuse
 - Teenager not ready to be a parent

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WHO ARE OUR KINSHIP FAMILIES?

- A 21-year-old college student caring for her 2-year-old niece while her sister is in jail.
- A 45-year-old cousin caring for younger cousins (in addition to her own children) because both parents have been deployed through the National Guard.

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WHO ARE OUR KINSHIP FAMILIES?

- An 80-year old grandmother who was awarded permanent guardianship of her teenage grandchildren due to her daughter's substance misuse.
- A 42-year uncle who agreed to care for his 2-year-old twin nephews while his sister and her boyfriend "get their lives together."

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Why is Kinship Care Preferable?

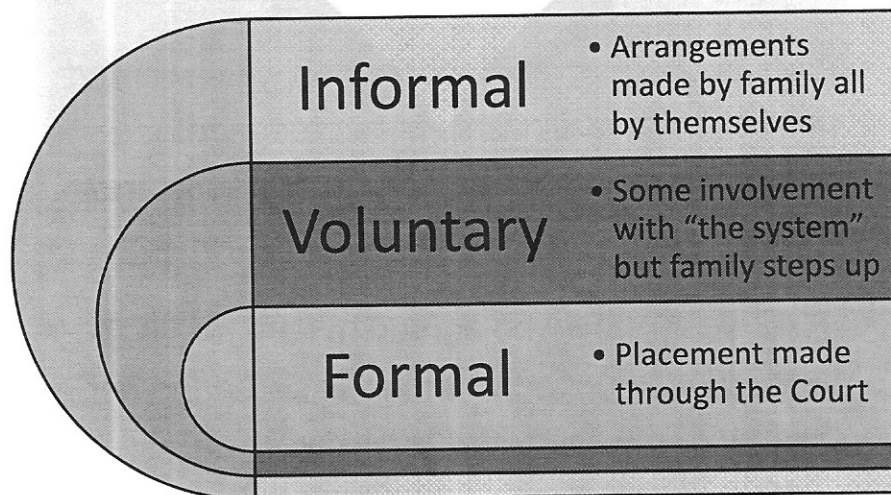
- Children live with people they know and trust
- Kinship care supports family preservation
- Children keep their family identity
- Lessens the feeling of separation and loss
- Kinship is strength based, not limitation based
- Kinship care supports community and culture

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Different Types of Kinship Arrangements



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Primary Needs Identified by Caregivers

Based on the USF Kinship Needs Survey:

- Child Care
- Financial Support
- Medical Care
- Educational Assistance for Children
- Counseling for Children
- Support Group(s) for Caregivers
- Legal Assistance
- Information about Program and Services

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Public Assistance for Relative Caregivers

Nationally

- **Only 12%** of kinship families receive TANF (child-only) cash assistance, even though nearly 100% of children are eligible,
- **Only 42%** of kin households receive SNAP (food stamps) assistance,
- **Only 42%** of children receive Medicaid for the children in kin care
- **Only 17%** of working kin caregivers receive Child Care assistance
- **Only 15%** of low income kin caregivers receive public housing assistance

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Public Benefits in Florida

TANF	CHILD ONLY	2 children	3 children	Minimum Foster Care Payment
Florida	\$ 180	\$ 241	\$ 303	\$ 417

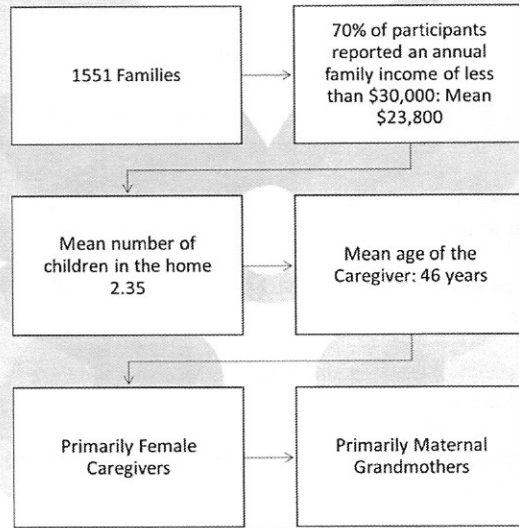
Relative Caregiver (RCG) and Non-Relative Subsidy Funds for dependency cases once adjudicated	\$242-\$298 per child
Proposed Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) Effective July 2019	\$333 (licensed as Level 1 Foster Home)

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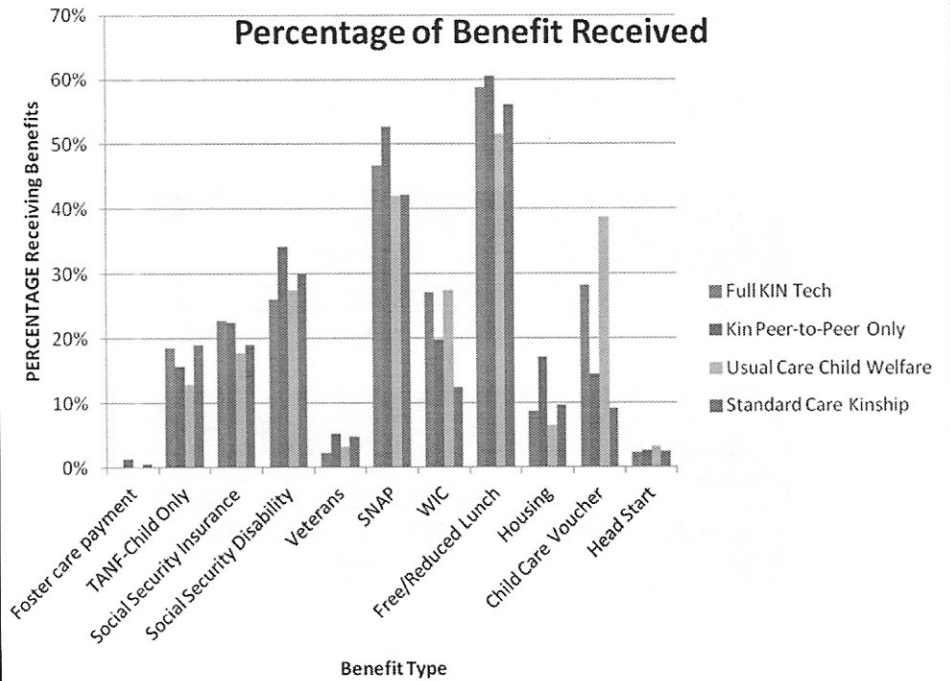



3 Year Evaluation of Caregivers



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Percentage of Benefit Received





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Kinship Navigation
Centralized Intake
1-888-920-8761

Community Outreach

Peer Navigation	Academic Support
Intake and Referral	Health and Wellness
IN HOME Family Support Coordination	Community Collaboration
Interdisciplinary Teams	Early Childhood Development
	Support Groups

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C. CHN Kinship Navigation Program

Currently serving:

- Hillsborough
 - Pinellas
 - Pasco
 - Osceola
 - Orange
 - Seminole
- Manatee
 - Sarasota
 - Desoto
 - Miami-Dade



Key Navigator Components

- Assisting with applying for Financial assistance through ACCESS (TANF-Cash Assistance, SNAP-Food Stamps, Medicaid and SSI)
- Intensive in-home Case management and Navigation services through Kinship
- Advocacy and Advocacy Training
- Health and Well-being via Self Care/Self Compassion
- Tutoring/Academic Support/Summer Reading incentives
- **KIN AS TEACHERS** Early Child Care/Early Educational Services
- Child Development Assessments
- Support groups monthly (day and evening)
- Legal assistance through Local Legal Aid, Bay Area Legal Services' and Gulf Coast Legal Aid programs

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KIN AS TEACHERS

Kin caregivers gain hands-on assistance by Kin Developmental Specialist:

- Serves a special population of vulnerable children who have highest rates of child maltreatment
- Relatives raising children when parents are unable or unwilling to provide care are presented with many challenges, including:
 - Drug exposure
 - Learning disorders
 - Poor academic performance
 - Low self esteem
 - Depression
 - Behavioral problems

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KIN AS TEACHERS

Kinship caregivers, (mostly grandparents) often feel a lack of confidence and knowledge about raising children in today's world.

- HOME Observation for Measurement of the Environment (Bettye M. Caldwell and Robert Bradley)
- KIN Knowledge Questionnaire
- ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE
- GGK-Growing Great Kids

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HOME INVENTORY

To gather information in the child's home using scoring that is based on observation.

It is designed to provide systematic measurement of the family environment.

Infant Toddler HOME: (0-3)

Divided into 6 sub scales: Responsivity, Acceptance, Organization, Learning Materials, Involvement, Variety

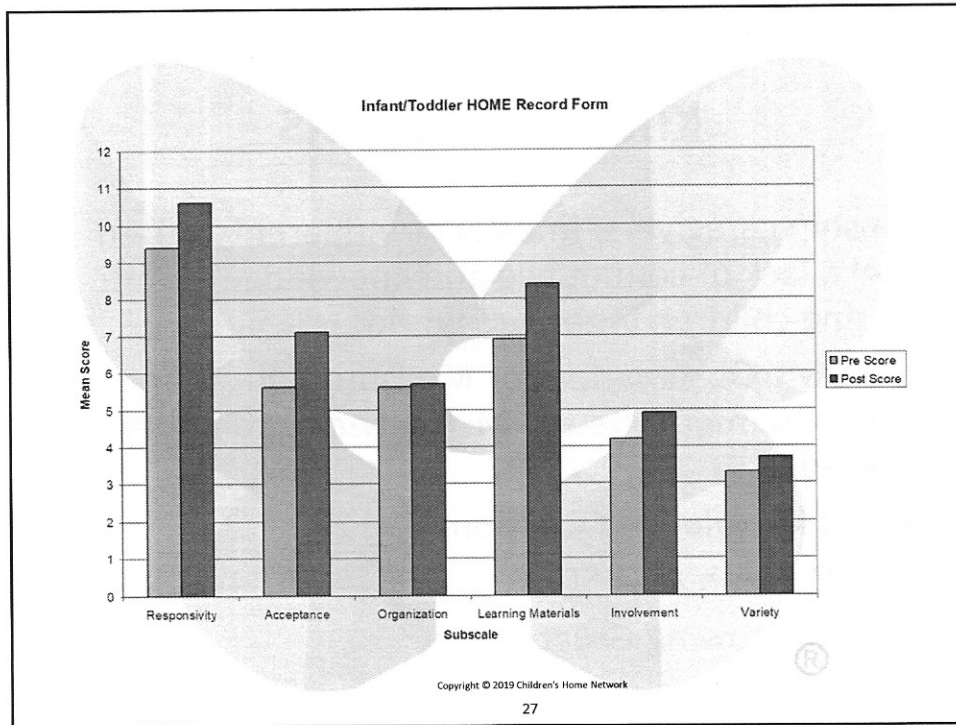
Early Childhood HOME: (3-5)

Divided into 7 sub scales: Learning Materials, Language Stimulation, Physical Environment, Responsivity, Academic Stimulation, Modeling, Variety

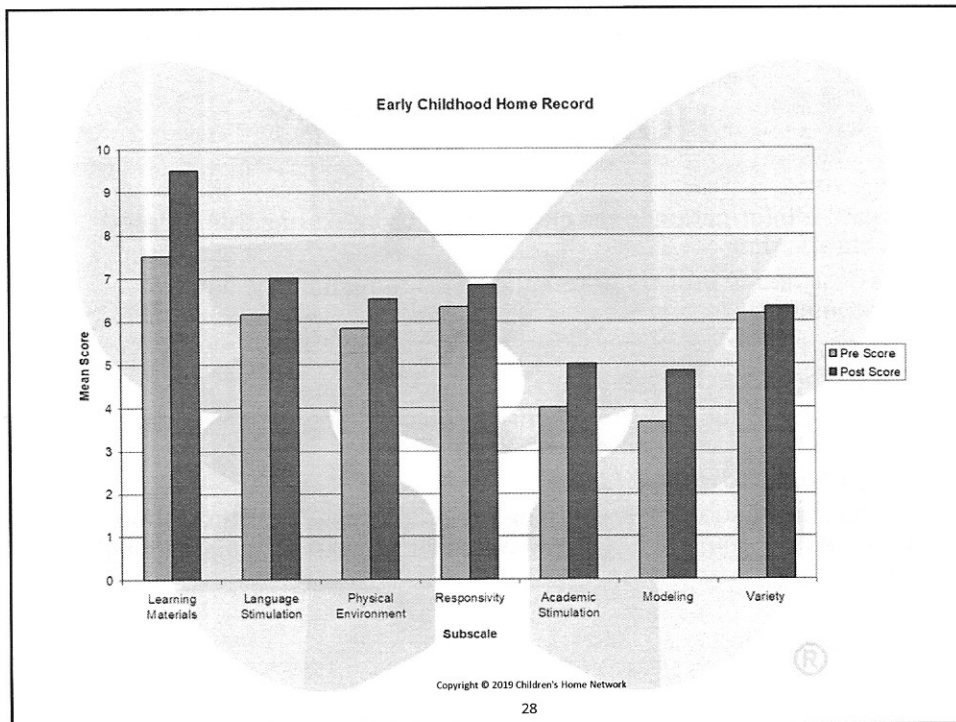
Pre and Post

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Case Studies and Considerations

1. Physical Limitations

- What to do when caregivers have physical limitations?

2. Practical and Developmental Toys

- Where to find educational toys?

3. A safe sleeping environment

- What makes it so difficult to sleep safely?

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C. Kinship Navigation Services

Peer-to-Peer Kin Navigators who have varying levels of education and experience in helping others, which has highlighted the importance of using peers because they have close ties to the communities they serve.

Tena Randecker (Great Aunt-Kin caregiver)

- 2017 CHN Employee of the Year
- Participated in Washington DC in Congressional Foster Youth Caucus Panel and Roundtable Discussion on Kinship Navigator Programs in May 2018
- Kin Navigator since 2012

Paula Davis (Grandmother-Kin caregiver)

- Kin Navigator since 2015
- Participating in LEAD grant to promote Self Care Goals for caregivers
- Featured on ABC Action News on July 25, 2018

<https://youtu.be/cRTVb3a7CgE>

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D. Practice Implications Kin Navigator Results

Kinship Navigator-Children's Home Network (CHN) has conducted one of the largest and only randomized control trials for a kinship navigator program in the country.

Compared with peer-to-peer support, formal care, and usual foster care supports, the CHN's Kinship Navigator-program showed significantly higher self-report scores in arenas related to caring for their placed child such as:

- **Increased access to public benefits**
- **Increased placement stability** at 12, 24 and 36 months
- At the 12-month follow-up period, kinship caregivers enrolled in Kinship Navigator-**scored higher with significant increases in Family Functioning, Social Supports, Concrete Supports, Child Development, and Nurturing & Attachment**
- Kinship Caregivers enrolled in Kinship Navigation services had **higher scores** in **protective factors** at the 12-month follow-up period
- Peer-to-Peer Only group were Grandparents raising Grandchildren who had varying levels of education and experience in helping others, which has highlighted the importance of using peers because they have close ties to the communities they serve

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Trauma sleep concerns for Early Childhood Stages 1-5 years

- High rate of child maltreatment during these years
- Most productive time for brain development
- Access to good quality child care is a major concern in many Florida counties
- Waitlists for subsidized child care are long and difficult to navigate
- Bedwetting and other nocturnal behaviors can be challenging for parents and caregivers

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Safe Sleep Concerns for Newborns

- Co-sleeping: Particularly because we want to rebuild attachment for children who have experienced trauma by holding close at night.
- Preventable infant deaths
- Inconsistent sleep schedule
- High incidence of child maltreatment
- Wide variability of sleep duration for parents and caregivers

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E. Future Directions

Federal Law-Family First Prevention Services Act

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) within Division E, Title VII of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, amended title IV-E of the Social Security Act to allow title IV-E agencies the option to receive title IV-E funding for Kinship Navigator programs that meet certain criteria, including operating in accordance with promising, supported or well-supported practices

Florida Law- HB 1079 (passed in 2018)

DCF to establish and operate a **Guardianship Assistance Program** by **July 2019** to provide guardianship assistance payments to certain guardians beginning on a specified date; providing definitions; providing eligibility requirements; authorizing guardians to receive such payments for certain siblings; requiring the department to annually re-determine eligibility;

- Licensing Relatives/Non-Relatives as Level 1 Foster Parent

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Head Start Role

- Collaboration with Kinship Services and Child Welfare to enhance and facilitate enrollment.
- Increase knowledge of Head Start providers on children raised by Kin Caregivers
- Head Start and Early Head Start provide comprehensive child development programs for low-income children from birth to age five, as well as support and services for their families.
- Head Start programs primarily serve children aged three to five, while Early Head Start serves pregnant women, infants, and toddlers.
- The comprehensive services these programs offer include early education, health screenings, social and emotional health, nutrition, social services, and services for children with disabilities.





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Resources

- **Children's Home Network Kinship Services:** 888-920-8761
- Contact your local Foster Care/ Child Welfare organization to learn about Relative Caregiver/Non-Relative supports
- Contact your local Foster Parent Association
- **Generations United** (National Center on Grandfamilies) at www.gu.org
- Florida Law Help website <http://floralawhelp.org/>
- **Child Welfare Information Gateway**
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/kinship/locating/relationships/>
- **Brookdale Foundation-** National Relatives as Parents Program
<http://www.brookdalefoundation.net/index.html>

For more information, call 888-920-8761

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Articles

Littlewood, K. (2015). Kinship Services Network Program: Five year evaluation of family support and case management for informal kinship families. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 52, 184-191. Retrieved at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2014.10.008>

National Conference of State Legislatures- Article on Family First Prevention Services Act
<http://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/family-first-prevention-services-act-ffpsa.aspx>

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QUESTIONS



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