Using New Federal Funding Opportunities to Develop Effective Kinship Navigator Programs

Southern Region

December 5, 2018
Housekeeping

- To hear the presentation
  - Listen through your computer speakers
  - Or call in on your phone
  - (914) 614-3221, Access Code: 373-853-722

- 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 and www.grandfamilies.org

June 12-14, 2019 Biennial Conference in Portland, OR – see 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

- **Larry Cooper**, Chief of Prevention and Intervention Services, Children’s Home Network Inc.

- **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

generations
united
Because we're stronger together*
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 1 child in foster care with relatives there are 19 children being raised by grandparents or other relatives outside of the foster care system. 74
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
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:
  ■ Used some form of control group such as untreated, wait listed, or placebo group
  ■ Superior to comparison group on at least one outcome
  ■ At least one study rated “moderate” or “high” on study design and execution
Evidence-Based Standards cont’d

- **Supported:**
  - Rigorous random-controlled trial OR rigorous quasi-experimental research design
  - Superior to comparison
  - Independent review
  - 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:**
  - Rigorous random-controlled trial OR rigorous quasi-experimental research design
  - Superior to comparison
  - Independent review
  - 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 one 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
Children's Home Network
IMPROVING LIVES AND CHANGING LIFE STORIES

Centralized Intake
1-888-920-8761

Kinship Navigators

Family Finding
Developmental Specialist
Legal Assistance

Family Support Coordinators
Health and Wellness
Support Groups

Established in 2000
Kinship Navigator Components

- **Children’s Home Network Inc.** kinship navigator integrated the program support model with three unique innovations:
  - 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
Outcomes

- 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
Wide Variety of Easy-to-Access Services

- Centralized Intake
- Psychosocial/Historical Assessment
- Case Management
- Family Support Plan
- Navigation
- Advocacy
- Community Outreach and Public Education
- Offer Educational Workshops
- Support Groups for Youth and Adults
- Substance Abuse Workshops & Linkage to Services
- Link to Legal Services
- Family Team Conferencing
- Link to Tutoring
- Link to Mentoring
- Health Assessment
- Link to Respite Services
- Link to Coordinated Child Care
- Link to Adult and Youth Counseling
- Follow-up Support
“I really enjoy listening to what others go through with their kids and what they do to make it better and easy with the kids. Enjoying the talks.” Caregiver discussing conversations with Peer Navigators.
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

- 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
Additional Components

Develop a crisis plan
Integrate data across systems
Provide education on policy and legislation
Conduct follow up with clients
Use public and private data sharing and integration to serve families
Provide peer-to-peer support through support group, peer navigators, and/or grandparent ambassadors
Offer services to specialized populations (i.e. immigrants)
Provide advocacy
Engage youth and promote leadership development
Provide parenting education
Use technology innovations and online portals and e-applications
Offer case planning and management

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.
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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

- November 30, 2018 Program Instruction - ACYF-CB-PI-18-11: Requirements for Participating in the Title IV-E Kinship Navigator Program at www.grandfamilies.org/Resources/Kinship-Navigator-Programs

- 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

- State specific fact sheets at www.grandfamilies.org/State-Fact-Sheets

Questions

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