



Supporting Kinship Families in Kentucky



www.kyyouth.org

502-895-8167

Objectives

- Understand the common definitions and types of kinship care (grandparents and other kin raising children)
- Understand the current supports available to grandparents and other kin raising children, based on recent policy changes, court decisions, and practice changes.
- Identify sources of supports and referrals for kinship caregivers
- Learn about how to get involved in the Kinship Families Coalition of Kentucky.



Kentucky
youth
Advocates

Kentucky Youth Advocates believes all children deserve to be safe, healthy, and secure. As THE independent voice for Kentucky's children, we work to ensure policymakers create investments and policies that are good for children.

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Work with legislators, the Governor, and other elected officials to change and enact policies to benefit kids and families



Help families through our case advocacy program. We serve as their guide when they don't know where to turn



Conduct research and education that informs and recommends solutions to help kids succeed



Mobilize advocates to take action on behalf of kids and families through rallies, advocacy training, partnerships, and action alerts



Present the "state of kids" to communities to help people know how children are faring and how to address problems



Engage youth by training the next generation of leaders to advocate for themselves and their communities



Kinship Families

COALITION OF KENTUCKY

Our Mission

To promote policies and facilitate connections to increase supports for and with kinship families in Kentucky.

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Kinship Care

Kentucky has different types of kinship care – both formal and informal



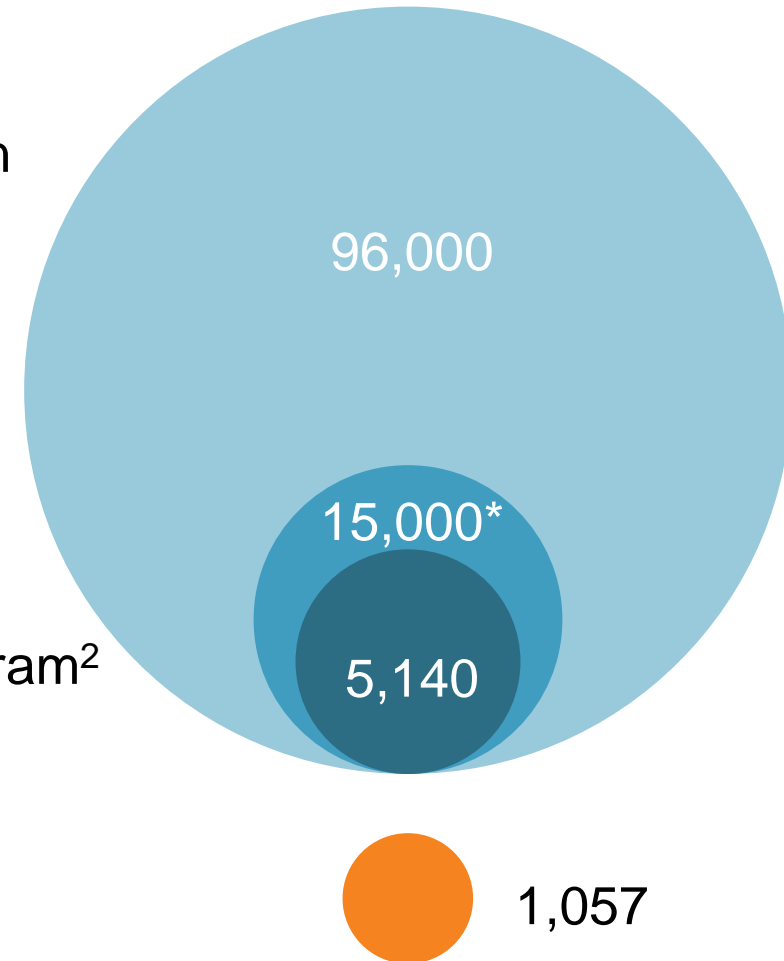
- **Informal kinship care.** Children who live with relatives or close family friends who have varying types of custody depending on arrangements made within those families
- **Kinship care/Fictive Kin.** Children who are placed with **relatives** or **close family friends (fictive kin)** as a result of an investigation and removal by the Department or Community Based Services (DCBS)—custody of the child is maintained by the relative or DCBS
- **Relative foster care.** Children placed with relatives or close family friends who have become certified as foster parents—custody of the child is maintained by DCBS



Kinship Care

Kentucky Kids in the Care of Relatives

- Children Being Cared for by Kin Both Formally and Informally¹
- In Kinship Care Due to Removal from Home
- In Kentucky Kinship Care Program²



Kentucky Kids in Relative Foster Care³

Kinship Care

Updates that may
effect you....



The Previous Kentucky Kinship Care Program

- The Kentucky Kinship Care Program provides \$300 a month per child for kinship caregivers who take in children who have experienced abuse and neglect and placed by the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS).
- **No new kinship families have been able to enroll in this program** since April 2013.



Kinship Families
COALITION OF KENTUCKY

What's New?

DCBS Service Array

- **The “Service Array” for relatives and fictive kin coming Spring 2019**
- **Videos on Kentucky FACES website**
 - <https://prdweb.chfs.ky.gov/kyfaces/Home/Videos?tab=kinship>

What's New?

DCBS Service Array

- **Two Options;**
 - **“Child Specific Foster Care” with CHFS maintaining custody**
 - **Relative Caregiver Program**

Child Specific Foster Care

DCBS Service Array

“Child Specific Foster Care” with CHFS maintaining custody

- Reduced requirements for relative and fictive kin caregivers
- \$6.00 per diem until foster home approved
- Training requirements met
- Other foster care requirements met

Relative Caregiver Program

Potential Financial Resources—Relative Caregiver Program

Relative Placement Support Benefit – Relatives may be eligible to receive a monetary benefit based on each child’s immediate needs. The social worker who placed the child(ren) in the home should discuss this benefit with you. (\$350—1 time)

Child Care Assistance (CCAP) – Please contact your social worker to learn more about qualifying for the Child Care Assistance Program.

To learn more about these benefits contact the Kinship Support Hotline at 877-565-5608, or by email at DCBSChildProtection@ky.gov



Relative Caregiver Program

Potential Resources

Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP)

--“Child-only” KTAP.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps)

Kinship Care

Potential Resources

Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP, part of the Kentucky Medicaid Program)

- Call the number on the back of your child's insurance card for additional help finding physical and mental health services

For more information on these programs, contact the Division of Family Support at 855-306-8959.

Kinship Care

Legal supports

Legal Supports: House Bill 1 established the possibility of de facto custodians (kinship caregivers) to get legal representation.

A person who has been shown to have been the primary caregiver for, and financial supporter of, a child who has resided with the person for a period of six (6) months or more if the child is under three (3) years of age and for a period of one (1) year or more if the child is three (3) years of age or older or has been placed by the Department for Community Based Services.

Kinship Care

Potential Resources

- Community Action Centers
- Family Resource Youth Service Centers
- Local Support Groups

Kinship Care

Potential Resources

Kentucky Kinship Resource Center at University of Kentucky

The Kentucky Kinship Resource Center (KKRC) provides:

- Continuum of services to meet the unique needs of kinship providers across the Commonwealth.
- training and education programs,
- innovative peer support and mentoring initiatives

Kinship Care

Other Resources & Information

Ombudsman's Office—for complaints

- CHFS.Listens@ky.gov
- (502) 564-5497

Kinship Families Coalition of Kentucky

- Website: kinshipky.org
- [Facebook.com/kinshipfamiliescoalitionofky](https://www.facebook.com/kinshipfamiliescoalitionofky)

Kinship Care

Updates that may
effect you....



6th Circuit Court Ruling—D.O v Glisson.

- An October 2017 federal court ruling by the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals required that KY must pay relatives who serve as foster parents in the same manner it pays adults who are licensed as foster parents if the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS):
 - Places the child with the relative
 - Conducted a home study and background checks,
 - AND if CHFS either retains custody of the child or has transferred the child from CHFS' custody to the temporary custody of the relative or fictive kin.

Payment amounts vary depending on a child's needs but average about \$750 a month per child.



Kinship Care

Updates that may
effect you....



6th Circuit Court Ruling (continued)

- Individuals are encouraged to email CHFS at: **DCBSCChildProtection@ky.gov** if they think they might qualify. Please include your name, phone number, child(ren) name(s) and date of birth for each child. Email correspondence is the most efficient way to start the process of determining eligibility.
- If email is not an option, families and caregivers who think they may be eligible for the relative or fictive kin payment can contact the CHFS Kinship Support Hotline at **877-565-5608**.



Kinship Families
COALITION OF KENTUCKY

What's New?

Numbers to Know

Kinship Support Hotline at 877-565-5608, or by email at relative.supports@ky.gov

Division of Family Support at 855-306-8959.

Ombudsman's Office—for complaints

- CHFS.Listens@ky.gov
- (502) 564-5497



Ways to Take Action on Behalf of Kids & Families

Be a
megaphone
for kids!

Kentucky kids are counting on you to speak up on their behalf!

'Grandma Underground' still fighting for Kentucky kinship care payments

[Deborah Yetter](#), @d_yetter Published 7:04 a.m. ET April 28, 2017 | Updated 6:13 p.m. ET May 5, 2017



ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky. — Sent from the "Grandma Underground," the personal stories included pleas for help from grandparents and other relatives struggling to raise children removed from homes because of abuse and neglect, often from parents caught up in the state's drug epidemic.

"She was born a drug baby and has a lot of medical problems and suffers many withdrawal attacks," wrote Teresa Grider, a grandmother from Elizabethtown, describing the youngest of five grandchildren she's raising. "If you was ever to see one, it would make tears come to your eyes as it does me."

A grandmother from Murray wrote: "We are at the point of losing our home now and struggle from week to week. I still don't understand why relatives, whether they have temporary or permanent custody, don't get the same benefits as foster parents."

Legislator Lookup

Learn who your legislators are so you know who to **call, write, follow on social media, and meet with!**

Use our legislator lookup tool at kyyouth.org/advocacy.

Tips for Meeting with Your Legislator

Meet with your legislators to discuss issues in more detail.



Before –

Make an appointment and do your homework



During –

Be friendly and professional



After –

Thank you note and follow up

