

## What is Kinship Navigation?

Kinship Navigation is a supportive service to assist relatives or kin who step in to care for children to provide a safe and stable home outside the formal foster care system. It connects caregivers such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, or trusted family friends with guidance, resources, and practical assistance so they can better navigate the challenges of raising a child without being formally involved in child welfare.

## Components of Kinship Navigation

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- Information and referral services
- Case management and assessment
- Advocacy
- Training and education
- Support groups and community connections

## Goals/Outcomes

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- Promote a safe and stable home for children
- Empower caregivers
- Increase caregivers' access to resources to alleviate financial and logistical burden
- Connect families to services
- Promote partnership among public and private agencies
- Prevent entry into child welfare and/or foster care

## Service Delivery

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- One-on-One support provided by a highly trained Kinship Navigator who works directly with the caregiver to assess their needs and develop action plans. Families may participate in one or all three services offered by the program which includes:
  - Information Referral and Connection (IRC) to provide resource assistance
  - Kinship Navigation services include assessments, case management, and goal setting
  - Family Support Services for access to classes and support groups
- Education and support group sessions to provide education and skill-building opportunities to enhance caregivers' abilities to support the children
- Community partnership collaboration with local organizations and service providers to ensure comprehensive support and access to resources
- Direct support to assist with applications or referrals

## Target Population

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- Children who are being raised by relative and kinship caregivers outside of child welfare
- Relative and kinship caregivers who have taken on the role of primary caregiver

## Kinship Navigation Providers

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Lutheran Family Services  
(833) 572-2053  
<https://www.onelfs.org/childrens-services/kinship/>

Nebraska Children's Home Society  
(402) 451-0787  
<https://kinship.nchs.org/about/>