



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

July 26, 2021

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,
SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

SUBJECT: Kinship Navigator

REQUIRED ACTION: Immediate

PURPOSE: Announcement of Availability of Kinship Navigator Funding

Kinship families are vital to increasing placement stability and decreasing the effects of trauma on children. In North Carolina, efforts continue to assist in removing barriers to kinship placements and supports as well as addressing the complex family dynamics that affect kin and their ability to care for children. North Carolina Division of Social Services strives to ensure kinship families are able to safely care for children in their care and maintain important family connections.

NC DSS has available funding to reimburse counties for funds expended to develop, enhance, or evaluate kinship services for children in care. The reimbursement period includes October 1, 2020 to August 10, 2021. The reimbursement will encompass any **county dollars** that were spent or any funds that exceeded the allotted amount of **IV-B Subpart 2** dollars that were spent. The listed items below are the only services that can be covered under this reimbursement:

1. Outreach to kinship care families, including by establishing, distributing, and updating a kinship care website, or other relevant guides or outreach materials
2. Creating, establishing, and supporting a kinship care ombudsman with authority to intervene and help kinship caregivers access services
3. Evaluations and independent systematic review for kinship services
4. Technology for remote learning and other virtual activities that assist kinship families in caring for youth/children in their care
5. Activities designed to assist kinship caregivers in obtaining benefits and services to improve caregiving
6. Purchases and services to overcome barriers for kinship families to acquire licensure
7. Concrete supports, such as purchase of bus tokens or passes, gas vouchers, grocery cards, when necessary to fulfill the purpose of the program to help caregivers access existing benefits and services to meet the needs of the children they are raising and their own individual needs
8. Assist kinship caregivers in assessing services, information, and resources for testing and treatment for COVID-19, health care, and arranging alternative care plans for children in their care
9. Provide brief legal services to assist kinship caregivers in learning, finding, or using programs and services to meet their needs as kinship care providers and the children in their care

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603

MAILING ADDRESS: 2409 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2409

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6390 • FAX: 919-733-3052

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

NC DSS is requesting counties complete a survey to identify services that have been provided to support kinship families that have not been previously reimbursed through another funding stream. Follow the link below to complete the survey to request reimbursement. The survey must be completed by August 6, 2021 to be considered. All requests will be considered, however the full amount requested cannot be guaranteed.

<https://surveymax.dhhs.state.nc.us/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=llMInp45>

Thank you for your continued support of kinship families. Should you have any questions, please contact the state Permanency Coordinator Mary Mackins at Mary.Mackins@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Carla McNeill

Carla McNeill, MSW
Section Chief for Permanency Planning
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human
Services

Cc: Susan G. Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Lisa T. Cauley, Senior Director for Child, Family and Adult Services
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention
Linda Waite, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing

CWS-27-2021