



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Social Services

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County
Operations for Human Services

May 17, 2022

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: *Kinship Fit and Feasibility Study Survey Request*

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) is partnering with the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) to conduct a feasibility study on the possible implementation of a Kinship Navigator program focused on providing supports to relatives and fictive kin caring for children. The model will align with North Carolina's strategic plan and impact permanency outcomes by potentially increasing workers knowledge of kinship, increasing placement stability, and increasing licensing of kinship families.

As part of the study, HSRI is administering a survey to each county department of social services agency in North Carolina to better understand existing kinship services and supports across the state. This survey should take participants approximately 10 to 20 minutes to complete. Participants' responses will be submitted directly to HSRI and combined with all other survey responses in the state. Individual responses will not be shared with anyone outside of the HSRI study team, and participants will not be asked to provide any personal identifying information other than the county in which they work and their primary position/role in the child welfare agency.

To receive a broad spectrum of responses to develop a strong Kinship Navigator Model in NC, it is our recommendation that participation from all levels across Child Welfare programs and leadership be included. HSRI will be doing a drawing for an opportunity for survey participants to receive one of five \$100 gift cards. Entry for the drawing will be optional upon completion of the survey.

Please follow the link to participate in the survey: https://www.research.net/r/NCDSS_Kinship

The survey will remain open until May 24, 2022.

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

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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

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 Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Lisa T. Cauley, Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention
Kimaree Sanders, Interim Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory

CWS-28-2022

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