



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

9/19/2024

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER IS KINSHIP CARE MONTH

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

**PURPOSE/BACKGROUND: TO SHARE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES RELATED TO NATIONAL
KINSHIP CARE MONTH**

Governor Roy Cooper has proclaimed September as Kinship Care Month. North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for Governor Cooper's time and commitment to the children, youth, and families of North Carolina.

Kinship Care Month is celebrated in September to recognize the importance of kinship caregivers who provide a home for children when their parents are unable to. Kinship caregivers may include relatives such as grandparents, adult siblings, aunts/uncles, etc. who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption. Kinship caregivers can also include nonrelative kin who have a substantial relationship with a child, or a member of a state or federally recognized tribe, regardless of whether or not there is a substantial relationship with the child.

NCDSS is excited to celebrate all kinship families that have opened their homes and hearts to children, youth, and families. NCDSS is committed to providing resources that can be accessed by county DSS and private agency staff to provide ongoing support for the work you do each day to support kinship families and the children and youth who are placed with them.

National Kinship Care Month Website: The Children's Bureau (CB) recognizes and acknowledges the positive influence kinship care has on families and communities. The CB, in collaboration with its information services, Child Welfare Information Gateway, provides resources and information to support a kin-first culture.

Website: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USACFCWIG/bulletins/3b305ca>

NC DHHS Kinship/Relative Care is a website that highlights resources and supports available to kinship families.

Website: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/kinshipcare>

Foster Family Alliance of NC is a family-led, nonprofit organization supporting children and youth in foster care and the dedicated families and professionals that care for them. Foster Family Alliance offers ongoing training for resource parents, including kinship families, as well as facilitation of support groups in each region.

Website: <https://www.ffa-nc.org/>

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

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

MAILING ADDRESS: 2401 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2401

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6404 • FAX: 919-733-3052

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Fostering NC is a learning site for North Carolina's foster and adoptive families and kinship caregivers. This site features on-demand courses, webinars, videos, resources, and answers to foster, adoptive, and kinship caregivers' frequently asked questions. Fostering NC has a dedicated portion of the website specific to kinship families.

Website: <https://fosteringnc.org/kinship-care/>

NCSW Learn has an online, self-paced course for child welfare workers titled, "Kinship Care and Child Welfare." Participants will learn about the benefits of kinship care, child welfare policy related to kinship care, and kinship care best practice.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting the safety, well-being, and permanency of children, youth, and families involved with North Carolina's child welfare system. Should you have questions, please contact the State Foster Care Coordinator, Jessica Frisina at Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Adrian W. Daye, MSW

Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc:

Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult, Regional Support
Donna Fayko, Interim Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services

ATTACHMENT:

Proclamation from Governor Roy Cooper declaring September to be Kinship Care Month

CWS-70-2024

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