

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO

Turning Numbers into Impact: How Kinship Data Unlocks Better Outcomes



July 2025, 50th Annual USAging Conference



Arcelia Armstrong, LSW, Director
Caregiver Support & Kinship Navigator Programs

Marsha Rose, LSW, Supervisor
Kinship Navigator Program

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, & Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services.





Kinship care is when grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children when the biological parents are unable or unwilling to do so.

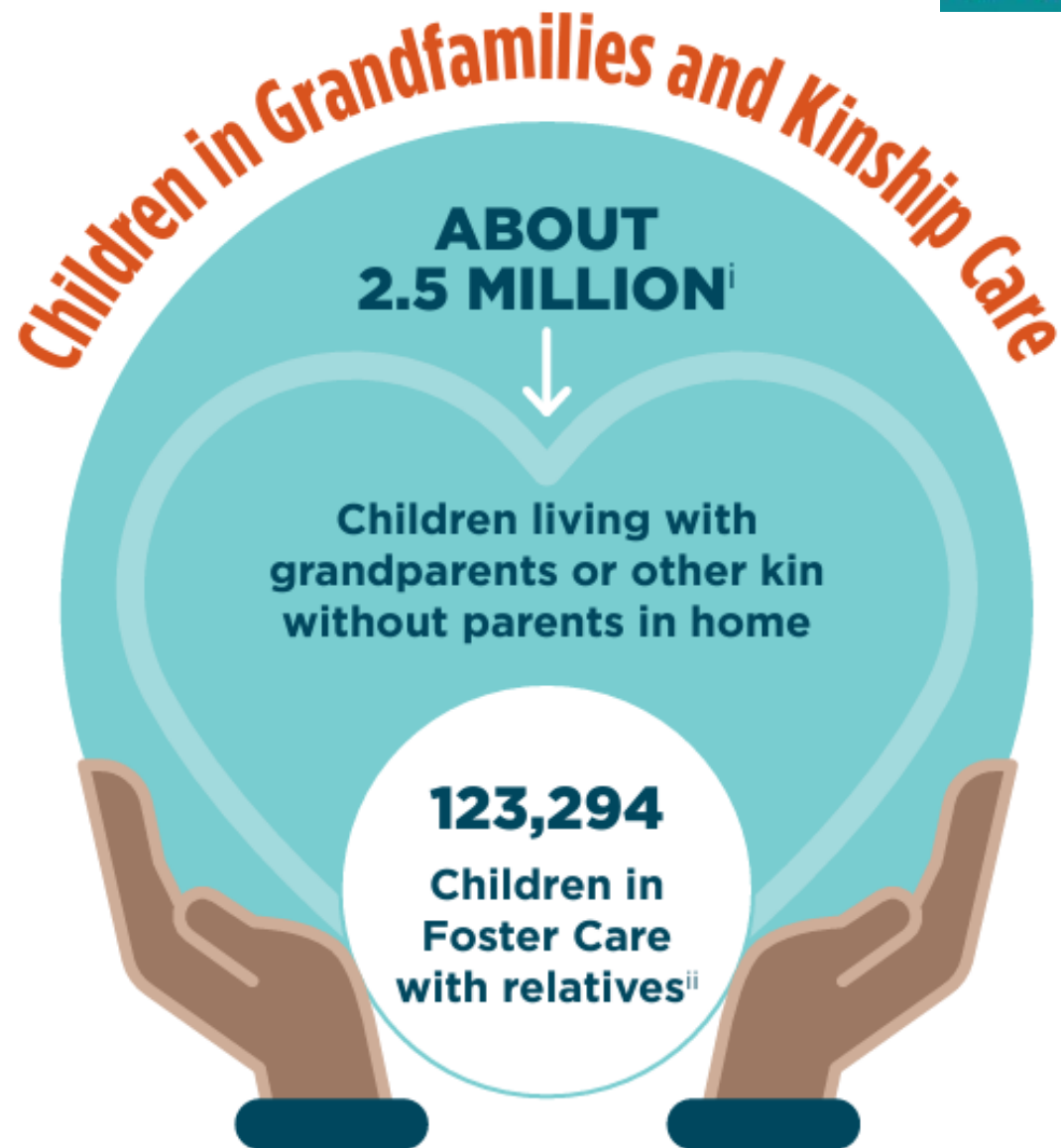
REASONS FOR CAREGIVING

REASONS FOR CAREGIVING

- Mental Health Issues
 - Substance Use Disorders
 - Economic Instability
 - Incarceration
 - Teen Pregnancy
 - Abuse
 - Neglect
 - Abandonment
 - Military Deployment
 - Parental Illness or Death

QUICK FACTS & STATISTICS

NATIONALLY



For every

1 CHILD

being raised by kin in foster care, there are

19 CHILDREN

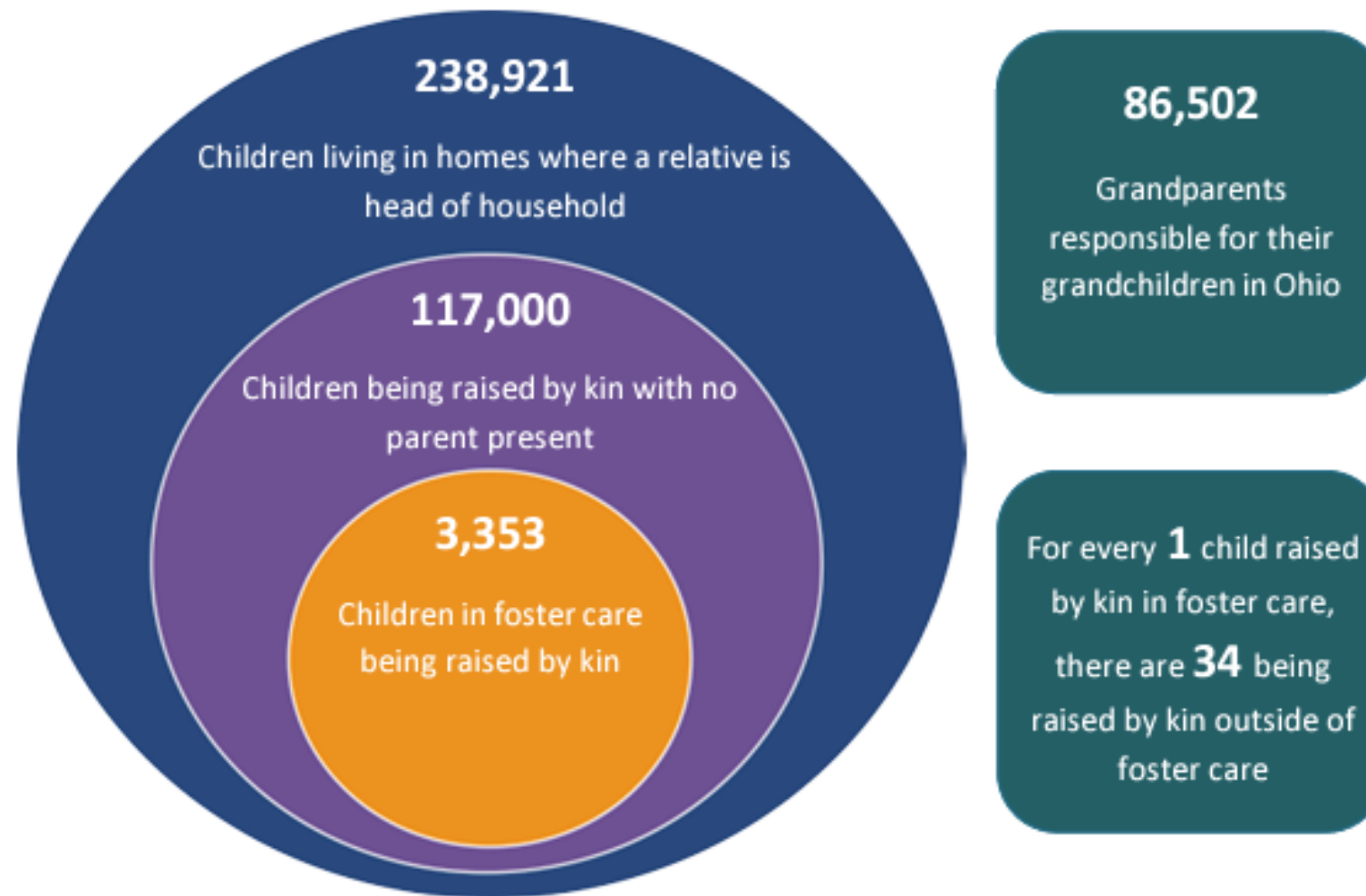
being raised by kin outside of foster care.ⁱⁱⁱ



QUICK FACTS & STATISTICS

Ohio

Grandfamilies Data



QUICK FACTS & STATISTICS



Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren^{xviii}

MORE THAN 2 MILLION

grandparents are responsible for caring for their grandchildren living with them



Source: 2024 State of Grandfamilies Report by Generations United

KINSHIP CARE LEADS TO BETTER OUTCOMES



Source: 2024 State of Grandfamilies Report by Generations United

AoA KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM



The Kinship Navigator Program is nationally & globally recognized & designated as “Exemplary” by the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (A National Technical Assistance Center). We offer a robust menu of services, have rich community partnerships, & are a model for best-practice excellence.



Serving grandparents and relative caregivers in Lucas County for over 24 years.



Helps kinship caregivers find and access services to meet their own needs, the needs of the children they are raising, and promotes effective partnerships across sectors, among public and private agencies.



Provides services to over 1,300 caregivers in Lucas County.



Funded through:

- ▶ Lucas County Senior Services Levy
- ▶ National Family Caregiver Support Program
- ▶ Lucas County Children Services Levy
- ▶ Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services

“Grandparents & Relatives Raising Children”

AOoA KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM GLOBALLY & NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED & “EXEMPLARY” DESIGNATED



Kinship Navigator Program



Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio (AOoA)

The Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. (AOoA) has a Kinship Navigator Program that helps grandparents and relatives care better and longer for the children they raise. This program has served as a primary support to kin caregivers in Lucas County, Ohio for more than 23 years. In 2000, the Kinship Navigator Program grew out of a statewide initiative by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services that sought to address the rising need for support for kinship families. Since, then, through strong local collaboration among the directors of the county's aging, child welfare, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) agencies, the Kinship Navigator Program at AOoA has been supporting kin caregivers and the children they raise.

The AOoA promotes the health, well-being, and safety of older adults, persons with disabilities, and family caregivers to foster independence. The Kinship Navigator Program contributes to this mission by helping kin caregivers of all ages access vital resources for themselves and the children in their care to promote stability and permanency. Their success is a result of diverse partnerships, effective cross-system collaboration, and compassionate rapport-building with families, among other strengths. As a result, the Kinship Navigator Program at AOoA has earned the Exemplary Kinship Program designation from the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network.

Eligibility for Services and Intake

To receive services from the Kinship Navigator Program, kin caregivers do not need to meet any requirements based on age, income, or legal or familial relationship to the child. The program serves both kin caregivers who are raising children in the custody of child welfare and those who are not under child welfare custody. Kin caregivers must be residents of Lucas County, they must be raising a child aged 18 or younger, and the birth parent of the child cannot be living with the child or kin caregiver.

Kin caregivers who contact the Kinship Navigator Program are offered a welcome packet, which includes a welcome letter, the Kinship Navigator Program's resource



PROGRAM EXAMPLE

Getting In-Kind Gifts and Pro-Bono Services for Kinship/Grandfamilies. Two Examples from: AgeSpan and Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. www.agespan.org and www.areaofficeonaging.com

Since 1997, AgeSpan, an Area Agency on Aging, has partnered with other organizations working with older adults to establish the Breakfast Exchange Club of Greater Haverhill under the arm of the National Exchange Club. Club members support the community by fundraising to support the needs of older adults. The Breakfast Exchange Club helps pay for "specific needs" that are outside the AAA's kinship/grandfamily budget such as holiday gifts for grandparents and their grandchildren, grocery store gift cards, summer camp fees, and other extracurricular activities for children. The Breakfast Exchange Club has also helped a grandchild with vision loss attend a summer camp on Martha's Vineyard and paid for another grandchild to participate in a cheerleading competition in Florida.

Over time, AAAs can turn one or two partnerships into many. That's what the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. did. The AAA has served kinship/grandfamilies for 20 years and supports more than 1,100 kinship/grandfamilies. In this time, the agency has cultivated cost-neutral partnerships with many organizations, including more than 60 nonprofits, managed care plans, government agencies, and universities. These partners offer a variety of free goods and/or pro-bono services to the kinship/grandfamilies the AAA serves. For example, one nonprofit partner provides free winter coats to children in kinship/grandfamilies. Managed care partners pay for



turkeys and hams during the holidays. Other partners help with gift cards, school supplies, space for AAA events, minor league baseball and hockey tickets, and pro bono legal assistance for the families.

When asked how other AAAs and Title VI programs can replicate its success, Collette Cordova, Vice President of Special Contracts and Analytics at the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. suggested they build and nurture relationships at the local level by engaging in meaningful outreach activities. She also encouraged AAAs and Title VI programs to find opportunities to teach other entities about kinship/grandfamilies. Requests to partners, she says, may start small and build over time.

Kinship/Grandfamilies: The Role of Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging Programs

13



Identifying Local Champions



Key takeaways from the third of five sessions for social service professionals who want to improve outreach to kin caregivers

Experts: **Teresa English** is the program administrator of the Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program, based in Memphis, Tennessee. **Marsha Rose** is the supervisor of the Kinship Navigator Program for the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio. Both of the programs were designated as Exemplary by the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network.

Why This Topic Is Important: Identifying and connecting with public and private community organizations can be challenging, but community partners can help promote, enhance, and support the work of social service professionals serving kinship families.

How to Identify Local Champions

- **Make a "wish list" of resources and services that your families need but your program does not provide.**
 - For example, you may frequently encounter clients who would benefit from mental health services, respite, recreational support, tutoring, or food.
 - Find local entities that can address these needs (or others). Seek partnerships that ensure that families have access to the services and supports most relevant to them.

"You have to look at agencies that may have a common interest and investment, whether it be from the caregiver aspect or from serving the kids."

— Marsha Rose

The AOoA Kinship Navigator Program has been featured nationally many times over & is 1 of 14 programs nationwide that earned the “Exemplary” designation by the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (A National Technical Assistance Center).

PROGRAM IMPACT – IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Amanda



PROGRAM IMPACT – IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Ladore



AOoA KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

CALL (419) 382-0624 x 2228 | FAX (419) 382-0624 | EMAIL KinshipMailGroup@areaofficeonaging.com | VISIT www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com



Kinship Team

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM TEAM



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CAREGIVER SUPPORT & KINSHIP PROGRAMS**

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“Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!”

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY & REFERRALS

OUR SERVICES ARE **FREE**
FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS WHO MEET
THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



Caregiver is a resident of Lucas County, Ohio.



Caregiver is the primary caregiver raising a
child or children from birth to 18 years of age
with no biological parent living in the home.



- There are:
- No caregiver age requirements; must be an adult caregiver age 18 or above.
 - No caregiver or household income requirements.
 - No legal custody or guardianship requirements.
 - No child welfare system involvement is required.

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM – Referral Form
Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.
Phone: 419-382-0624 ~ 800-472-7277
Fax: 419-382-4560
Email: KinshipMailGroup@areaofficeonaging.com

DATE: _____
REFERRAL SOURCE: _____
CONTACT NAME: _____
PHONE NUMBER: _____
FAX NUMBER: _____

KINSHIP CAREGIVER INFORMATION
Caregiving related to opioids: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Last 4 digits of SSN#: _____
Last 4 digits of SSN#: _____
LCCS SACWIS #: _____
Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____
Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____
Street Address: _____ Apt. #: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____
Home Phone#: _____ Work Phone #: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐
Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐
Race: _____
Race: _____
Marital Status (OPTIONAL): _____
Relationship To Child/ Children: _____
Living Arrangements: _____

KINSHIP CHILDREN CARING FOR:
Names of child/ children:
Last: _____ First: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Last: _____ First: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Last: _____ First: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Last: _____ First: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Last: _____ First: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Last: _____ First: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Current Services in Place: _____
Open case with LCCS: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Name of LCCS Caseworker and contact info: _____
Please call referrer? ☐ Yes ☐ No Follow-up requested? ☐ Yes ☐ No

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.,
Lucas County Children Services & Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services.

LUCAS COUNTY
Department of
Job & Family Services

Area Office on Aging
of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.

ACCREDITED
CHARITY

CHILDREN
SERVICES

Revised: 05/20/2025 (MR)



Send Referrals to KinshipMailGroup@AreaOfficeOnAging.com

KINSHIP FLYER & QUICK FACTS



Area Office on Aging
of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Grandparents & Relatives
Raising Children



Read about our
Exemplary Designation
at www.gksnetwork.org



GET OUR FREE SERVICES

- ✓ INFORMATION & REFERRAL
- ✓ ONGOING ASSISTANCE
- ✓ SUPPORT GROUPS
- ✓ CLUB MEETINGS
- ✓ EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS
- ✓ CAREGIVER EDUCATION
- ✓ SPECIAL EVENTS
- ✓ QUARTERLY RESILIENCY RAFFLE
- ✓ QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
- ✓ TWICE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER
- ✓ PARENTING SMARTS RESOURCE GUIDE
- ✓ ACCESS TO AOOA PROGRAMS & EVENTS

KINSHIP QUICK FACTS

2.5 million children in the US live with grandparents or other relatives without parents in the home.

238,921 children in Ohio live in homes where the head of household is a grandparent or other relative (9.3% of children in the state).

For every **1 child** being raised by kin in foster care, there are **19 children** being raised by kin outside of foster care.

\$4 Billion – The amount grandparents & other relatives save taxpayers each year by raising children & keeping them out of foster care.

Source: Generations United
2024 State of Grandfamilies Report



2155 Arlington Ave. Toledo, OH 43609



www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com



419-382-0624

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, & Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services



INFORMATION, REFERRAL, & ASSISTANCE

2024

Top 3 Requests

1

Food

2

Clothing

3

Financial

HOUSING



FOOD



CLOTHING



FURNITURE



LEGAL



FINANCIAL



EDUCATION
& CHILDCARE



TRANSPORT



MENTAL
HEALTH



1,956 kinship caregivers received Information & Referral services, with **17,534** resources being provided.

QUARTERLY “LET’S TALK” SUPPORT GROUPS

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM



“LET’S TALK” SUPPORT GROUP

FREE

- ✓ **Build connections**
- ✓ **Learn coping skills**
- ✓ **Improve self-esteem**
- ✓ **Feel less isolated**
- ✓ **Reduce anxiety**
- ✓ **Improve well-being**

FRIDAY, JUNE 6TH, 2025
11:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

Sylvania Senior Center
7140 W. Sylvania Ave.
Sylvania, OH 43560



MAP ON BACK

TRANSPORTATION | CHILDCARE | SNACKS | REFRESHMENTS

To Register Call a Kinship Navigator:
Rhea Dawson at (419) 490-2942
Jacia Gibson at (419) 725-6900
Questions? Email:

KinshipMailGroup@areaofficeonaging.com

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, and Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services.



Benefits for Caregivers:

- ✓ Increased connection, validation, & emotional support.
- ✓ Reduced isolation & increased sense of community.
- ✓ Reduced stress & improved coping strategies
- ✓ Increased confidence & sense of well-being.
- ✓ Increased knowledge of local community resources.
- ✓ Improved communication & strengthened relationships.
- ✓ Increased resilience & increased ability to thrive despite challenges.
- ✓ Increased stability of mental health through respite.

QUARTERLY KINSHIP CLUB MEETINGS



Benefits for Caregivers:

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THE AOOA KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM



June 2025 Kinship Club Meeting



Toledo-Lucas County Health Department
Melissa Lanier, BA, Childhood & Youth Wellness Manager

JUNE IS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH!

➤ INCREASE YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HOW TO KEEP CHILDREN & YOUTH IN YOUR CARE HEALTHY & SAFE AT HOME & IN THE COMMUNITY. THE TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION FOR YOU.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18TH, 2025

5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.



MARGARET HUNT SENIOR CENTER

1339b S. BYRNE RD. TOLEDO, OH 43614



**MAP ON
BACK**

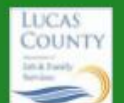
TO REGISTER



419-490-2942 OR 419-725-6900

FREE TRANSPORTATION, CHILDCARE, SNACKS, & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

THE KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY THE AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC., LUCAS COUNTY CHILDRENSERVICES, & LUCAS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES.



ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION




The AOoA KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM **FREE!**



Mental Health Education

Special Guest: Tankeeya Butts  

 Increase your knowledge of mental health
& become a QPR Gatekeeper.

Question - Persuade - Refer

Just as people trained in CPR & the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis & how to Question, Persuade, & Refer someone to help.

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025 | 12:30 PM-2:00 PM

 **MARGARET HUNT SENIOR CENTER**
1339b S. BYRNE RD. TOLEDO, OH 43614



TO REGISTER



419-490-2942 OR 419-725-6900

FREE TRANSPORTATION, CHILDCARE, SNACKS, & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children's Services, & Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services.



Benefits for Caregivers:

- ✓ Reduced stigma around the topic of mental health.
- ✓ Increased knowledge of local community resources.
- ✓ Improved emotional well-being.
- ✓ Reduced stress & anxiety.
- ✓ Enhanced self-care.
- ✓ Increased resilience.
- ✓ Improved communication & relationships.
- ✓ Reduced burnout.
- ✓ Increased sense of control.

ANNUAL SUMMER SERIES

GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP
SUPPORT NETWORK
A National Technical Assistance Center

EXEMPLARY

POLICY • PRACTICE • PROGRAM

CAREGIVER SESSIONS:



EDUCATION



MENTAL HEALTH



PERMANENCY
& SUPPORT



LEGAL



HEALTH
& WELLNESS



CAREGIVER
SELF-CARE

AOOA KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM SUPPORTING GRANDPARENTS AND RELATIVES RAISING CHILDREN IN LUCAS COUNTY

2024 SUMMER SERIES



10:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Monday, July 22nd

Tuesday, July 23rd

Wednesday, July 24th

Thursday, July 25th

Friday, July 26th

Monday, July 29th

FREE

Activities

- Free Transportation, On-Site Childcare, & Lunch Provided.
- 2 Daily Sessions of Caregiver Education.
- 1 Daily Session of Youth Programming for ages 6 - 17.

Location

Bowsher High School
2200 Arlington Ave.
Toledo, OH 43614

Registration QR Code



REGISTER NOW!

Contact Us

(419) 382-0624

Extension 1175 or 1285



The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, & Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services.

Area Office on Aging
of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.



CHILDREN & YOUTH SESSIONS:



SAFETY



BOOKS



ENVIRONMENT



ARTISTIC
EXPRESSION



CULTURE OF
COMPASSION



MAGIC SHOW
& BALLOON
ANIMALS



EVIDENCE-BASED WELLNESS INITIATIVE FOR SENIOR EDUCATION (WISE)



*An Evidence-Based, educational, & fun 6-session workshop
on a wide range of topics related to aging
for caregivers aged 55 or better.*

Benefits for Caregivers:

- ✓ Increased knowledge of the aging process & healthy lifestyle choices.
- ✓ Increased awareness of risk factors & behaviors to avoid to stay healthy.
- ✓ Increased knowledge of simple tools to feel more empowered about health.
- ✓ Increased knowledge of how alcohol, prescriptions, & over-the-counter medications affect older adults differently.
- ✓ Learn to celebrate this exciting stage of life & all that comes with it.
- ✓ Earn a **FREE \$50.00** Kroger gift card from Harbor upon successful completion of the program (first-time participants only).

Twice Annually in April & October



**Are you 55 or older and
looking for an opportunity
to learn how to stay healthy
and meet new people?**

Join us, and bring a friend!

**Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program
at Margaret Hunt Senior Center
1339 Unit 28A South Byrne Rd., Toledo, OH**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 am – 11:30 am
April 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24**

Sign up by April 1 with Rhea Dawson: 419-490-2942 or Jacia Gibson: 419-725-6900

The educational program offers six lessons that cover a wide range of topics. Join us for this fun program, where you'll meet new people and:

- Learn about the aging process and how to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Celebrate this exciting stage of life and all the benefits that come with it
- Discuss risk factors and behaviors you should avoid to stay healthy
- Examine how alcohol, prescription medications and over-the-counter medications affect seniors differently and how you can avoid problems
- Learn how to use simple tools to help you feel more empowered about your health and the healthcare you receive



**Free \$50 Kroger gift card upon
successful program completion!**
(First-time participants only)





EVIDENCE-BASED CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS WORKSHOP



*An Evidence-Based, educational, 3-session workshop
for caregivers of any age to learn about
the impact of trauma on children &
how they can best support them effectively.*

Benefits for Caregivers:

- ✓ Increased ability to respond appropriately to behavioral & emotional challenges of children with a history of trauma.
- ✓ Increased knowledge of how to help children with a history of trauma develop healthy attachments, recognize & develop their strengths, & develop positive coping strategies.
- ✓ Increased knowledge of the importance of caregiver self-care.
- ✓ Increased confidence & ability to seek support from others.



Please Join Us

We invite you to attend the Child Traumatic Stress Workshop for foster, adoptive, and kinship caregivers sponsored in partnership with the Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program. Workshop led by Sophia Center's trauma expert Diane Sweinhagen, LPCC-S, and Cassandra Quinn, foster and adoptive parent.

Building Support for Kinship Caregivers
Through this series, caregivers will learn about the impact of trauma on the development and behavior of children in kinship, foster, or adoptive parent care and gain the following knowledge and skills:

- Respond appropriately to behavioral and emotional challenges of traumatized children
- Help traumatized children develop healthy attachments
- Help traumatized children recognize and develop their strengths
- Help traumatized children develop coping strategies
- Take care of themselves and seek support from others

AOoA Kinship Navigator Program:
Rhea Dawson or Jacia Gibson, Kinship Navigators
Phone: (419) 382-0624 Extension #1175 or #1285
Email: kinshipmailgroup@areaofficeonaging.com

Free

Three-Part
Series:

**Fridays
August 8th,
15th, 22nd,
2025**

9:30am - 2:30pm

Location:
Sanger Branch Library
3030 Central Ave.
Toledo, OH 43606

Sign Up Today!

To REGISTER
Scan the QR Code



Lunch provided.
Gift card is available for
completing all 3
sessions. Certificate for
12 contact hours.

2026 - 2 workshops will be offered!





EVIDENCE-BASED

NEW IN 2025 - GUIDING GOOD CHOICES®



An Evidence-Based 6-session workshop for parents & caregivers of youth ages 9 - 14 to learn specific actions that promote healthy development & reduce risky behavior in the teen years.



Benefits for Caregivers & Families:

- ✓ Strengthened family bonds.
- ✓ Improved caregiver-child communication.
- ✓ Increased ability to better manage family conflict.
- ✓ Increased the use of guidelines, monitoring, & consequences to help guide preteen & teen behavior & decision making.



Proven Outcomes for Youth:

- Reduced alcohol & marijuana use by 41%.
- Reduced progression to more serious substance abuse by 54%.
- Increased the likelihood that non-users will remain drug-free by 26%.
- Reduced depression symptoms by 28% through the end of 12th grade.

Made possible thanks to the support of our partner, Lucas County Children Services & a grant award from the OneOhio Recovery Foundation to enhance the well-being of individuals, children, families, & caregivers impacted by the opioid epidemic.



EVIDENCE-BASED

NEW IN 2025 - GUIDING GOOD CHOICES®



FREE

EXEMPLARY
POLICY • PRACTICE • PROGRAM

GUIDING GOOD CHOICES®

FAMILY SKILL BUILDING 6-SESSION WORKSHOP SERIES FOR CAREGIVERS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLERS AGE 9 - 14

 **PLAN TO ATTEND ALL 6-SESSIONS TO QUALIFY FOR RAFFLE OF \$100 GIFT CARDS AT WORKSHOP CONCLUSION**

Join us to fill your caregiver toolbox with skills to increase family bonds, promote healthy behaviors, & set clear boundaries.

Evidence-Based Proven Outcomes for Youth

- Reduced alcohol & marijuana use by 41%
- Reduced progression to more serious substance abuse by 54%
- Increased the likelihood that non-users will remain drug-free by 26%
- Reduced depression symptoms by 28% through the end of 12th grade

Wednesdays
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.
September 24th
October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th, 2025

REGISTER NOW →

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.
KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM
(419) 490-2942 OR (419) 725-6900

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services (LCCS), & Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services. Guiding Good Choices® was made possible thanks to the support of LCCS & the OneOhio Recovery Foundation.





SPECIAL EVENTS



TICKETS



TICKETS



MEMBERSHIPS



MEMBERSHIPS



SCHOLARSHIPS



SCHOOL SUPPLIES



WINTER COATS



PAJAMAS



HOLIDAY MEALS



**QUARTERLY
RESILIENCY RAFFLE:**

Made possible through generous donations from our community partners.



GRANDPARENT & CAREGIVER WORKSHOP

“SUPERHEROES NEED SUPPORT TOO!”



Annually in September – National Grandparent & Kinship Month



AOoA HONORING CAREGIVERS EVENT



Annually in November – National Family Caregiver Month



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER & TWICE-MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP
SUPPORT NETWORK
A National Technical Assistance Center

EXEMPLARY

POLICY • PRACTICE • PROGRAM

SAVE THE DATE



Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE)

Tuesdays & Thursdays
April 8th, 10th, 15th,
17th, 22nd, & 24th, 2025
9:30 - 11:30 A.M.

Margaret Hunt Senior Center
1339B S. Byrne Rd. Toledo, OH 43614
Caregivers age 55 & better have fun
learning about the aging process,
how to make healthy lifestyle choices,
& feel empowered about their healthcare.
First-time participants meeting attendance
requirements earn a **FREE** \$50.00
Kroger gift card provided by Harbor.
Transportation available. No child care.



Mental Health Education

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025
12:30 - 2:00 P.M.

Margaret Hunt Senior Center
1339B S. Byrne Rd. Toledo, OH 43614
Celebrate nationally recognized
Mental Health Awareness Month!
Caregivers of all ages will increase their
knowledge about mental health &
local resources for support.
Guest presenters to be announced.
Transportation & child care available.
Snacks & refreshments provided.

REGISTER NOW
(419) 382-0624

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Toledo, Ohio
Permit 1055



The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, and Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services.

AREA OFFICE ON AGING
KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM
2155 ARLINGTON AVENUE
TOLEDO, OH 43609

Return Service Requested

2025 Spring Newsletter

Kinship Navigator Program

Area Office on Aging of
Northwestern Ohio, Inc.



"Where flowers
bloom, so does
hope."

- Lady Bird Johnson

RESOURCE CORNER

Families in Recovery Sticking Together (FIRST)

Are you a grandparent or family relative
raising children due to substance abuse?

If so, you may be able to receive
additional food assistance. For more
information call us at (419) 382-0624.



Assistance for Winter Heating & Summer Cooling

The Ohio Department of Development and the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio (AOA) want to remind Ohioans assistance is available to help with their home energy bills. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines pay their heating bills.

Ohioans can visit energyhelp.ohio.gov to apply online, download a copy of the application, or find contact information for a local Energy Assistance Provider. Senior citizens may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application.



Applicants **must** have the following documents when applying:

- Most recent utility bills
- A list of all household members (including birth dates and Social Security numbers)
- Proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (12 months for certain income types)
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members
- Proof of disability (if applicable)

HEAP benefits are applied to an individual's energy bill after January 1st. If you need immediate assistance with your energy bills, please contact your local Energy Assistance Provider. A list of providers can be found at energyhelp.ohio.gov.



SPRING

BUCKET LIST IDEAS

Plant an herb garden.

Have a picnic.

Take a bike ride.

Read a book outside.

SAVE THE DATE



Let's Talk Support Group

Wednesday, June 11th, 2025
11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Sylvania Senior Center
7140 Sylvania Ave. Sylvania, OH 43560
Caregivers of any age connect with
other caregivers going through
a similar experience.
Transportation & child care available.
Snacks & refreshments provided.

Kinship Club Meeting

Thursday, June 19th, 2025
5:30 - 6:30 P.M.

Margaret Hunt Senior Center
1339B S. Byrne Rd. Toledo, OH 43614
Caregivers of any age build their
resiliency toolbox & learn
about helpful resources.
Guest presenter to be announced.
Transportation & child care available.
Snacks & refreshments provided.

REGISTER NOW
(419) 382-0624

Area Office on Aging
of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.
Kinship Navigator Program
2155 Arlington Ave.
Toledo, OH 43609
Web: AreaOfficeOnAging.com

FALL - WINTER - SPRING - SUMMER
Self-Subscribe to our Kinship Newsletter & Twice Monthly E-Newsletter
at www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com



FREE PARENTING SMARTS RESOURCE GUIDE



Nationally Recognized
Kinship Navigator Program

10TH EDITION
Parenting Smarts™
Resource Guide

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO
LIVING BETTER & LONGER

To find out how the AOoA can help, call
(419) 382-0624

www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com
Search for ToledoAging on

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Instagram



*The Parenting Smarts Resource Guide is a **100% FREE** 64-page resource publication we provide to caregivers & professionals.*

Content:

- The Value of Kinship Care
- Parenting & Child Development
- Help with Expenses - Resources & Public Assistance
- Early Childhood Education
- Education - Help Your Child Succeed at School
- Babysitting & Occasional Care
- Understanding Legal Issues & Help
- Medical Services & Wellness
- Family Activities & Recreation
- *And MUCH MORE*



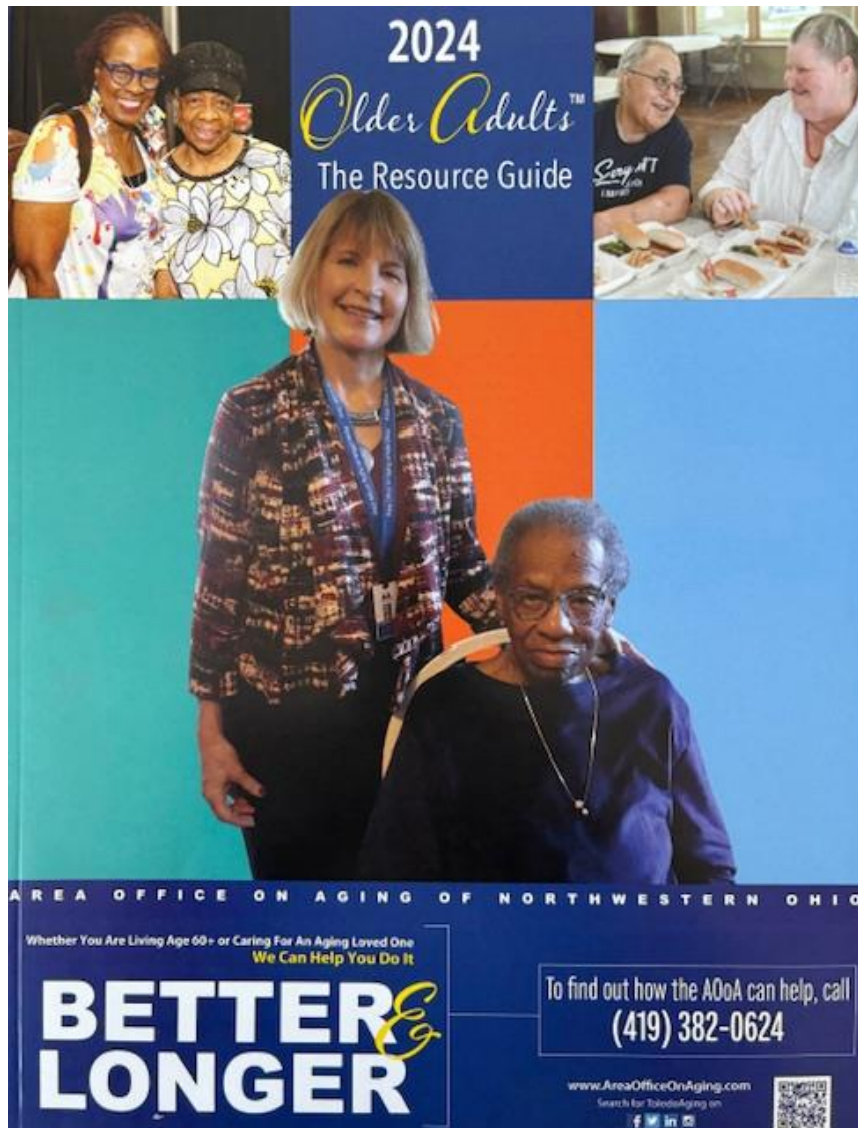
CALL (419) 382-0624 TO REQUEST YOUR FREE COPY OR ACCESS
THE ELECTRONIC VERSION AT WWW.AREAOFFICEONAGING.COM

AREA OFFICE ON AGING SERVICES

GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP
SUPPORT NETWORK
A National Technical Assistance Center

EXEMPLARY

POLICY • PRACTICE • PROGRAM



*Convenient & Seamless Access to **FREE** AOoA Services:*

- Older Adult Resource Guide
- Caregiving Smarts Resource Guide
- Aging & Disability Resource Network - Information & Referral
- Long Term Care Consultation
- Medicaid & Non-Medicaid In-Home Services
- Americorps Senior Volunteer Program
- Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program
- Nutrition & Wellness Programs
- AOoA Special Events
- And Much More!



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CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS



Contracts that support the Kinship Navigator Program



Contract:

Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services



Services:

Information, Referral, & Assistance

Evidence-Based Caregiver Education

Support Groups

Quarterly Newsletter

Twice Monthly E-Newsletter

Publication - Parenting Smarts Resource Guide



Contract:

Lucas County Children Services

via OneOhio Recovery Foundation Grant



Services:

Evidence-Based Guiding Good Choices Workshop

Expanded Support Groups

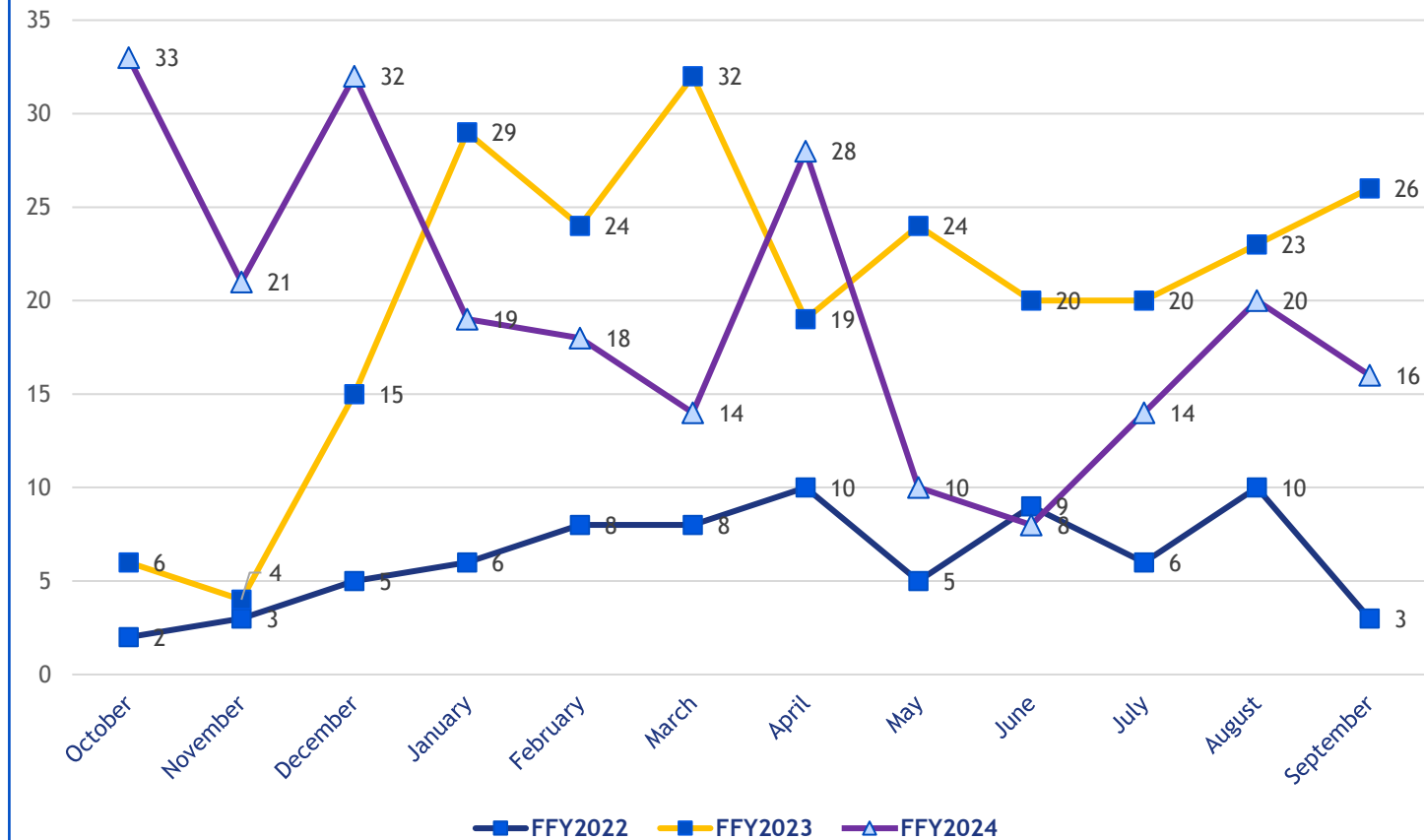
New Publication - Resources for Opioid Recovery & Prevention

Podcast - Resources for Opioid Recovery & Prevention

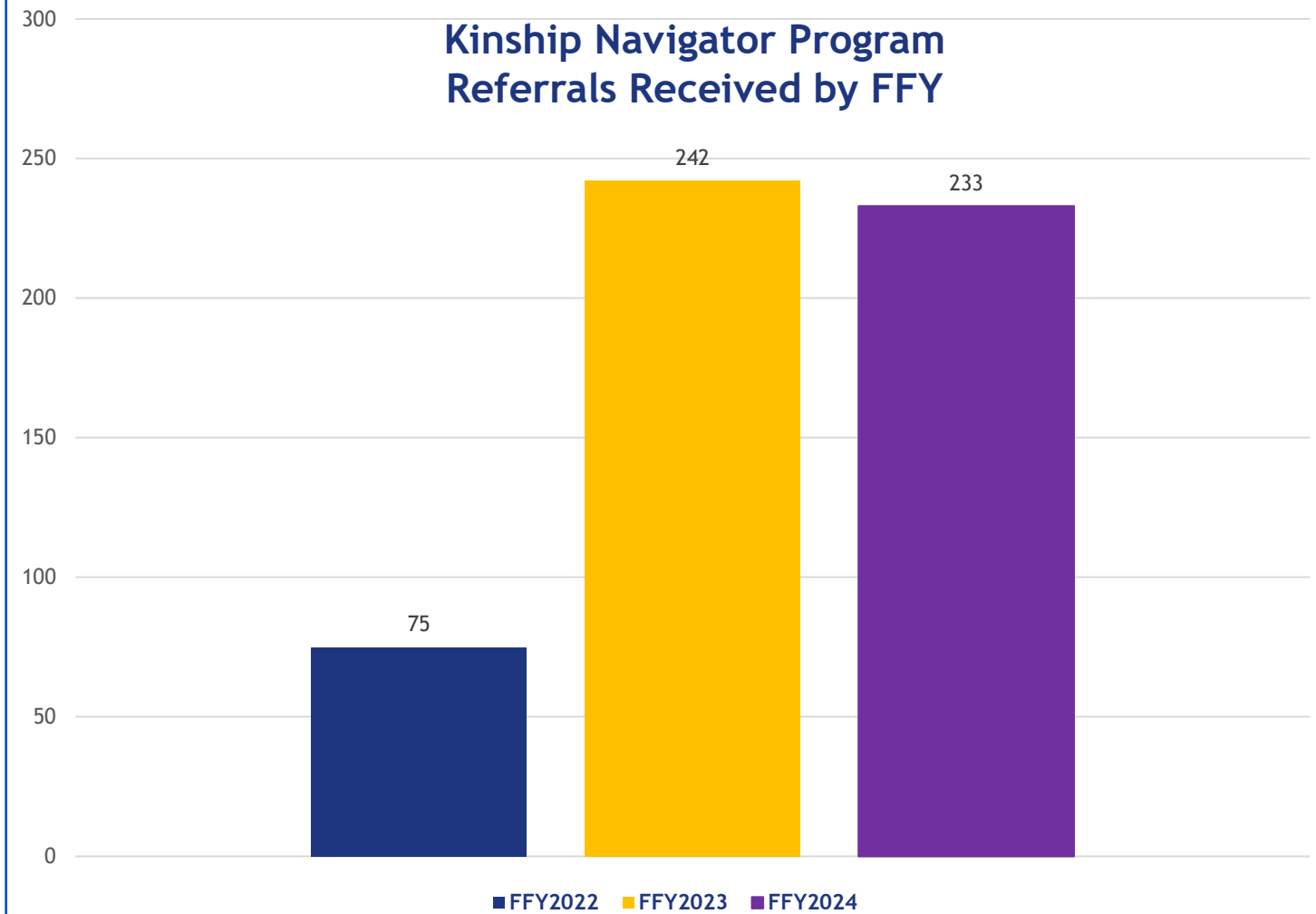
Seeking contracts from diverse sources is a strategic approach that fosters business growth, reduces risk, & expands market reach, ultimately leading to a more robust & successful enterprise.

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM REFERRAL DATA FFY 2022 - FFY 2024

Kinship Navigator Program
Referrals Received by Month



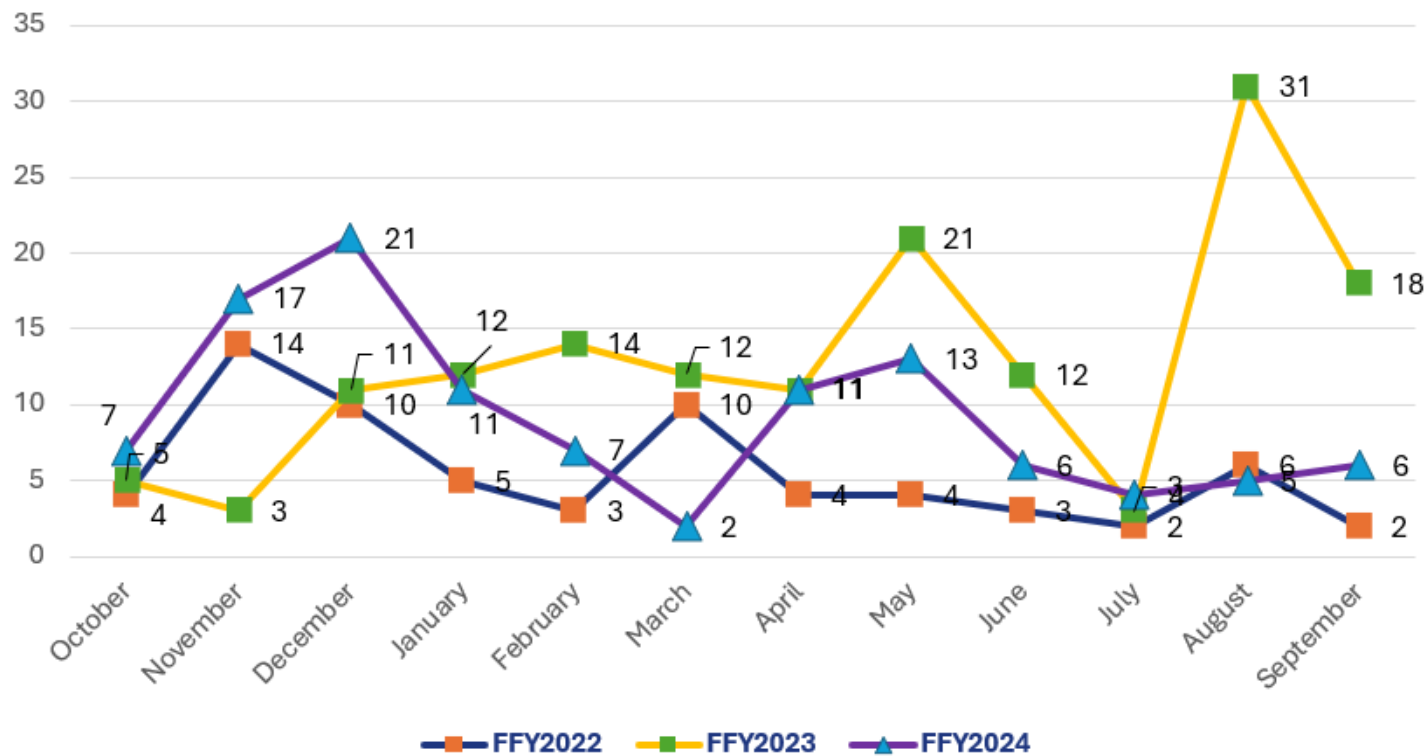
Kinship Navigator Program
Referrals Received by FFY



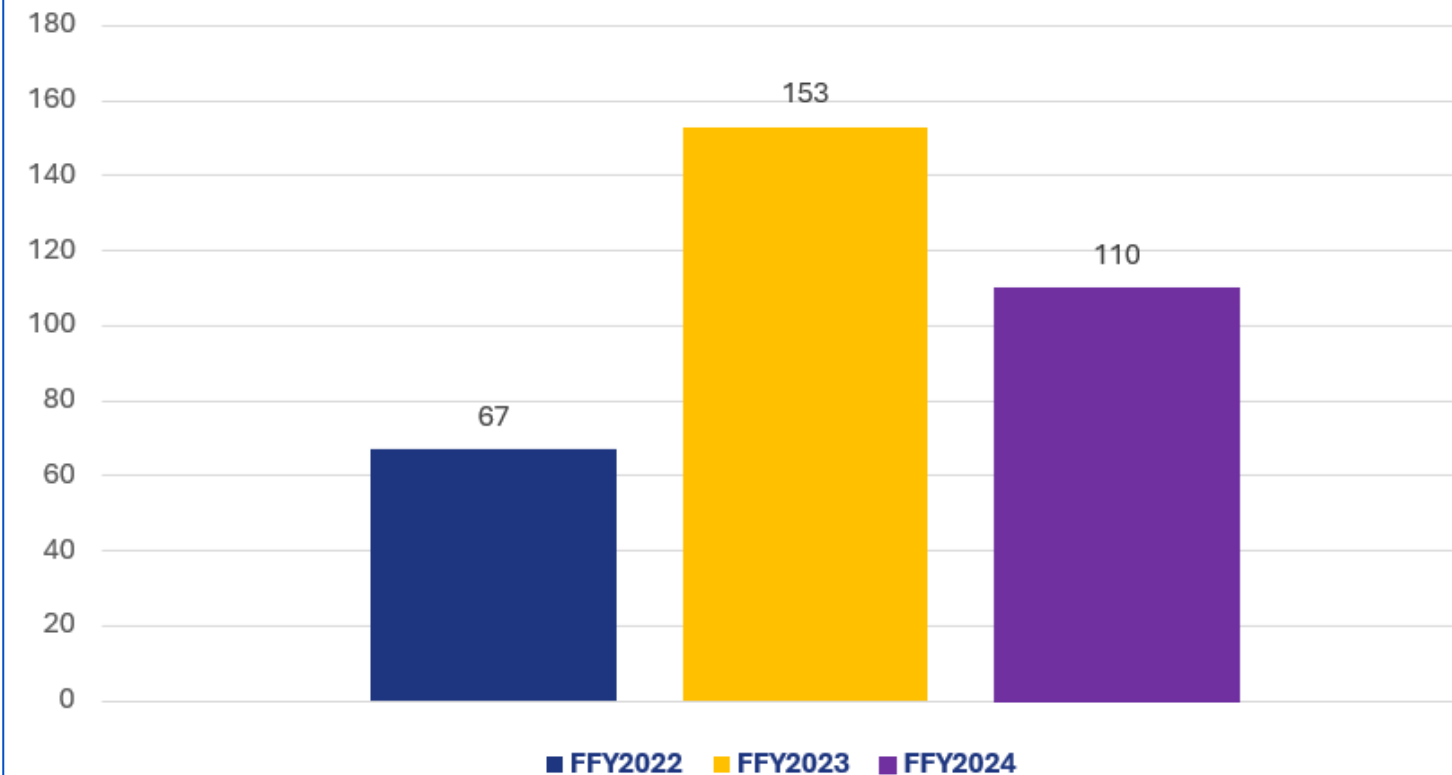
223% Increase in Referrals from FFY 2022 to FFY 2023

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM INTAKE DATA FFY 2022 – FFY 2024

Kinship Navigator Program
Intakes Completed by Month



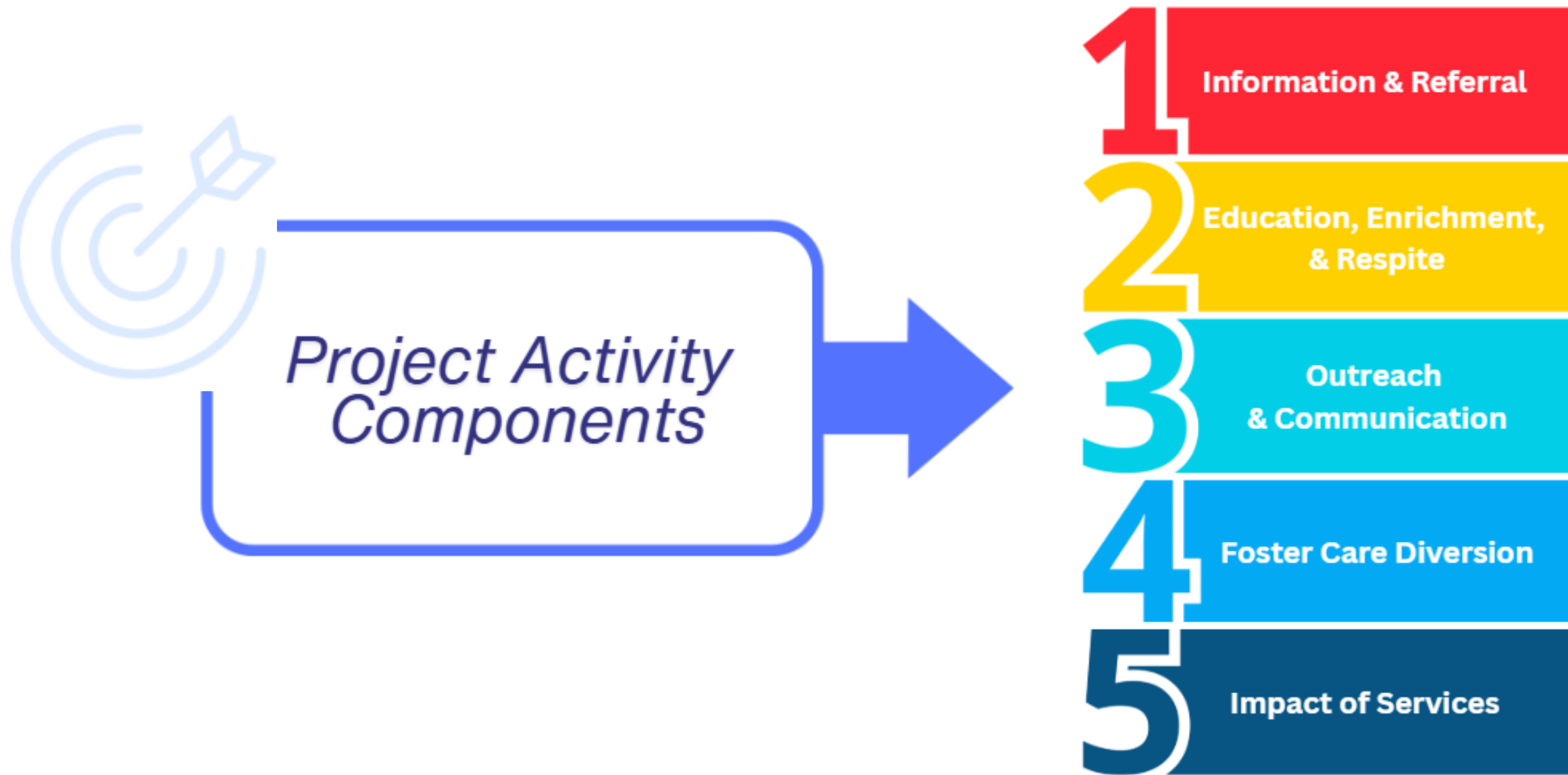
Kinship Navigator Program
Intakes Completed by FFY



128% Increase in Intakes from FFY 2022 to FFY 2023



QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MEASURES



Performance measures are vital for organizations as they provide a structured approach to evaluating efficiency, effectiveness, & progress toward goals. These measures serve as a compass, guiding strategic decision-making & resource allocation.



PERFORMANCE MEASURE #1

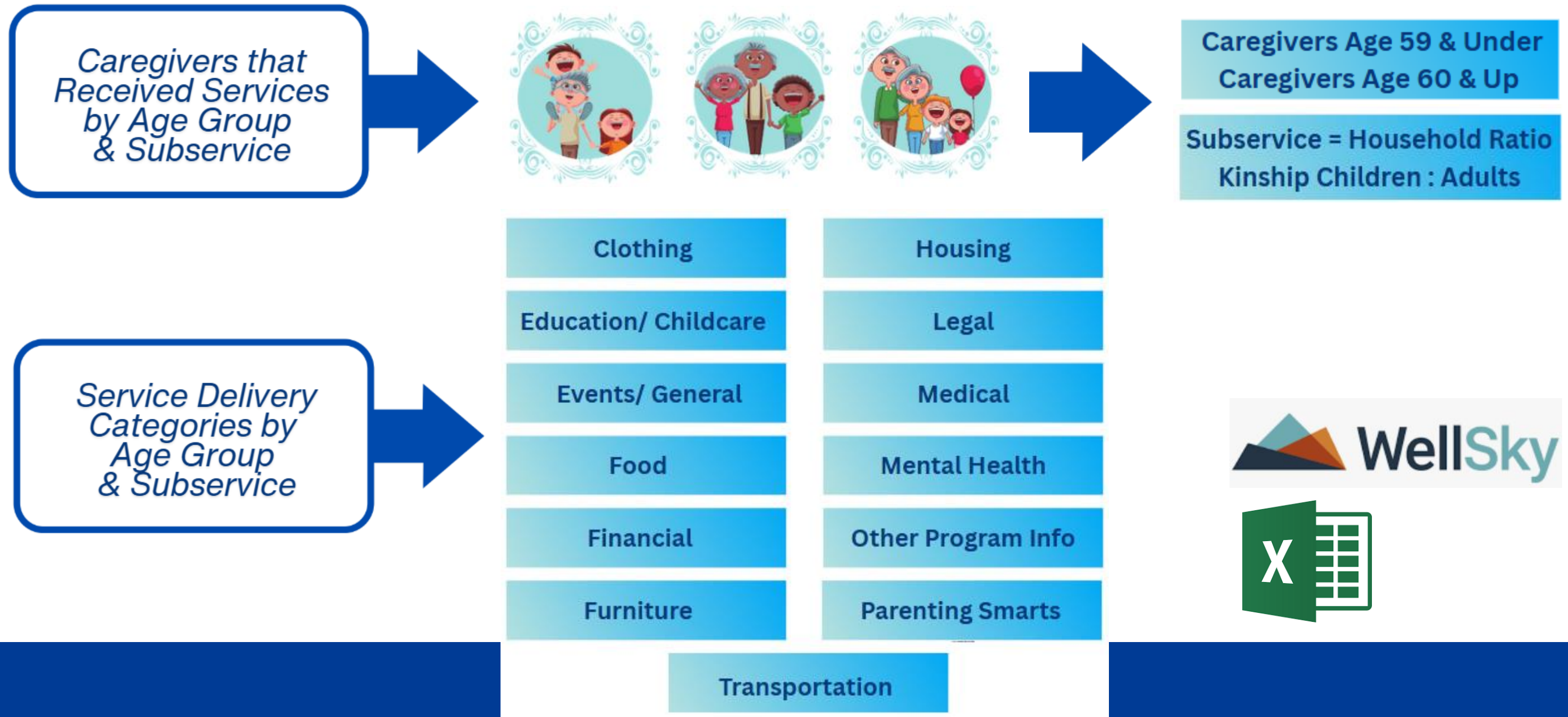
INFORMATION & REFERRAL



Goal	In assessment & follow-up, new caregivers will be made aware of community resources.
Method Used to Measure	Record of information distributed to caregivers & reports from new contacts on usage of resources.
Projected # to be Served	1,445 unduplicated caregivers.
Data Sources	WellSky Database Monthly Summary Report by Subservice, Excel Service Delivery Tracking Logs by Age & Subservice, & Monthly Invoices.



TOOLS





PERFORMANCE MEASURE #2

EDUCATION, ENRICHMENT, & RESPITE



Goal	Caregivers & children will attend groups which provide respite for the adults & provide programming which caregivers will evaluate as informative & useful.
Method Used to Measure	Number of attendees & program evaluation surveys.
Projected # to be Served	126
Data Sources	Sign-In Sheets, Attendance Logs & Program Evaluation Survey Responses in SurveyMonkey.



TOOLS



The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, and Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services.

Kinship "Let's Talk" Support Group", March 12th, 2025, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

• Please give your survey to kinship staff upon completion.

1. Please rate your responses:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Personal knowledge of topic before the presentation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal knowledge of topic after the presentation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Speaker's knowledge of the material	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Speaker's overall presentation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. Please rate your responses:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Topic was informative and useful.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Material was relevant to my situation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Did the presenter encourage caregivers to participate?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Since you first called the Kinship Navigator Program, overall, how would you rate the services that have been provided to you by the Kinship Staff?

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

Excerpt from
Program Evaluation Survey
“Let’s Talk” Support Group

ACCESS LINKS FOR ALL ASSESSEMENT
& SURVEY DOCUMENTS WITHIN THE
ARTICLE ABOUT OUR
EXEMPLARY DESIGNATION BY THE
GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT
NETWORK (A NATIONAL TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE CENTER).



<https://www.gksnetwork.org/resources/kinship-navigator-program-area-office-on-aging-of-northwestern-ohio-aoa/>



PERFORMANCE MEASURE #3

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION



Goal	To raise awareness in the community about kinship families & the services & resources available to kinship caregivers.
Method Used to Measure	Record of information distributed to caregivers & schedules of community presentations.
Projected # to be Served	730 unduplicated.
Data Sources	Excel PR Distribution Outreach Tracking Log.



TOOLS

Excerpt - Excel PR Distribution Outreach Tracking Log



<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Person</u>	<u>Parenting Smarts</u>	<u>Flyers</u>	<u>Brochures</u>	<u>Newsletters</u>	<u>Event Calendar</u>	<u>OARG</u>	<u>CG Smarts</u>	<u>Constant Contacts</u>	<u>Customer Satisfaction Survey</u>	<u># Present</u>	<u>Method</u>
4/24/2025	TRUE VINE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH- Community Partner Thank You Luncheon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	
4/26/2025	Braden United Methodist Church Health & Wellness Fair	12	10	3	0	0	25	12	0	0	3	In person
4/29/2025	AOoA Legislative Breakfast	3	3	0	0	0	6	2	0	0	50	In person
5/3/2025	KidsLinked 1st Annual Toledo Rossford Children's Festival	5	5	5	0	0	5	5	0	0	300	In person
5/3/2025	2025 Family Conference - Warren AME Church	120	50	30	0	0	30	30	0	0	200	In person
5/6/2025	Oregon City Schools Wellness Day	12	20	0	15	10	5	5	0	0	6	In person
5/7/2025	First Wednesday Re-Entry - Going Home to Stay	50	30	30	0	0	10	10	0	0	75	In person
5/7/2025	Kinnect	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	Virtual - Zoom
5/8/2025	Bi-Monthly E-Blast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,313	0	0	Constant Contact
5/8/2025	Oregon City Schools Project Wellness - Clay HS	15	12	8	0	0	18	5	0	0	80	In Person
5/9/2025	Thomas Wernert Center - Annual Health & Resource Fair	60	30	30	0	0	20	10	0	0	50	In person
5/19/2025	LCCS Community Forum - Wayman Palmer YMCA	25	25	0	5	15	15	4	0	0	30	In person
5/20/2025	AOoA Spring Fling	120	50	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	500	In person

EXAMPLES OF **TARGETED OUTREACH** TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM & BUILD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Targeted Outreach Across Sectors

➤ **GOVERNMENT AGENCIES** - County Children Services, County Department of Job & Family Services, Child Support Enforcement Office, County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Juvenile Court, Family Court, County Health Department, Court Appointed Special Advocates, County Mental Health Boards, City Parks & Recreation, Metroparks, Social Security Administration, Family & Children First Councils, & Libraries.

➤ **NON-PROFITS** – Area Agencies on Aging, Places of Worship, Behavioral & Mental Health Entities, United Way 2-1-1, YWCA, YMCA, Art Museums, Symphony, Senior Centers, Community Centers, Food Banks, Local Coalitions, & Credit Unions.

➤ **FOR PROFITS** – Hospital Systems, Childcare Centers, Physician & Dental Offices, Managed Care Organizations, Area Businesses, Banks, & Transportation Companies.

➤ **SCHOOLS** – Head Start, Early Childhood, Elementary & High Schools (Private, Public, Parochial, Charter), Colleges, & Universities.

Think outside the box!



EXAMPLES OF **OUTREACH TOOLS & METHODS** TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM & BUILD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

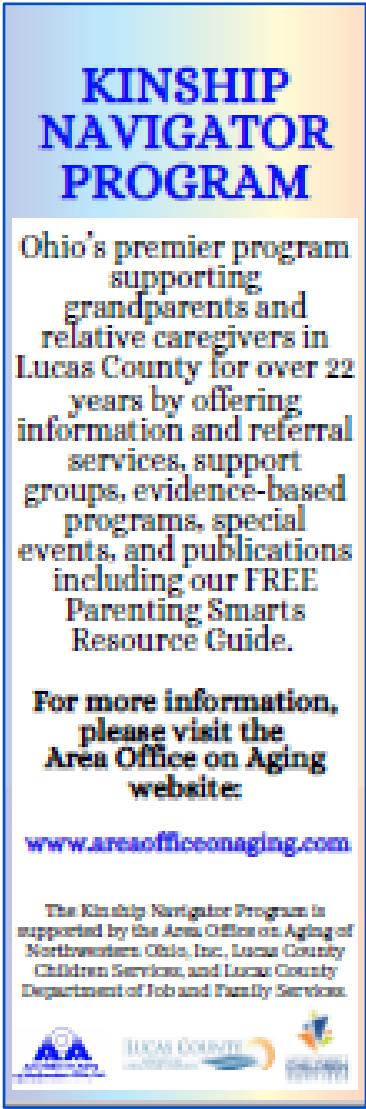
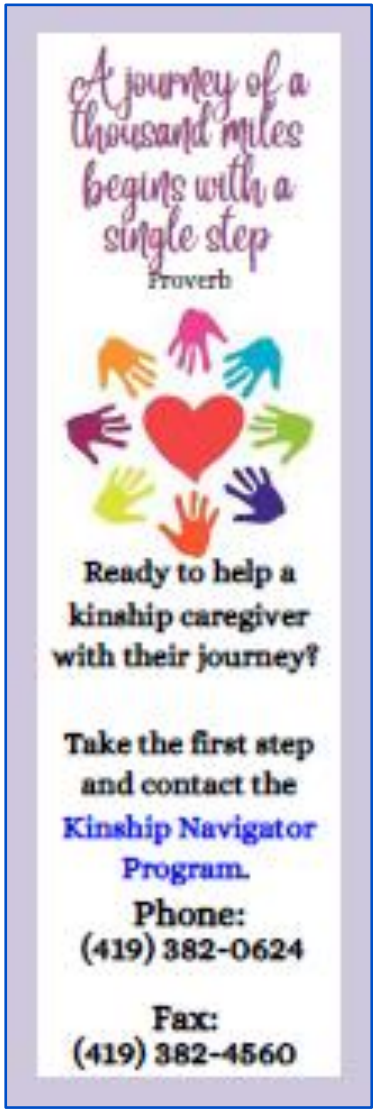


➤ Outreach Tools

- Annual Event Calendar
- Bi-Monthly E-Newsletter
- Bookmarks
- Brochures
- Business Cards
- Flyers
- Parenting Smarts
- Referral Form
- Swag

➤ Outreach Methods

- Attend Community Events, Health, & Resource Fairs.
- Celebrate Your Accomplishments with an Open House for Community Partners.
- Distribute Materials to Community Partners & Libraries.
- Include Program Information on Your Agency & Partner Organization Websites.
- Issue Press Releases to get Media Coverage of Events.
- Place Advertisements.
- Post on Social Media of Your Agency & Partner Organizations (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, X, & Tik Tok).
- Schedule & Give Media Interviews with Television, Radio, Podcasts, Newspapers, & Magazines.
- Schedule & Give In-Person & Virtual Program Overviews.
- Send Targeted Mailings.
- Sponsor an Event of a Community Partner.



BOOKMARK



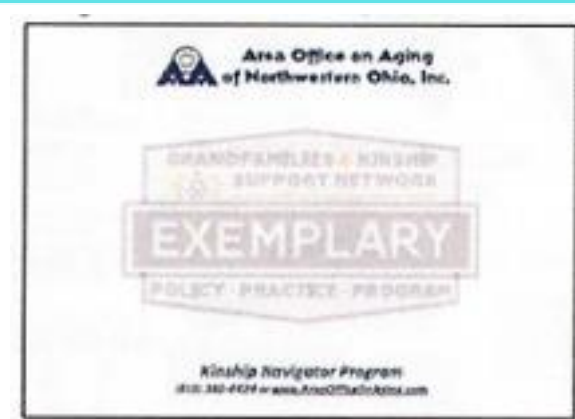
EXEMPLARY SWAG AS AN OUTREACH TOOL



PENS



POST-IT NOTES



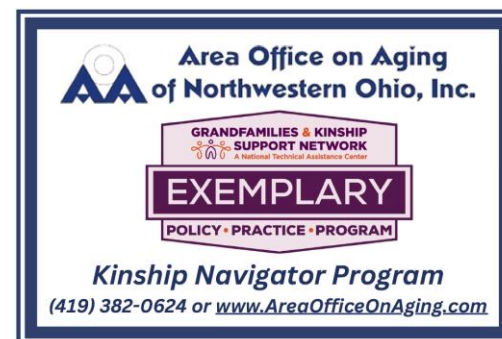
LAPEL PINS



TOTE BAGS



STICKERS



STAINLESS STEEL TUMBLER





EXEMPLARY SWAG AS AN OUTREACH TOOL

GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP
SUPPORT NETWORK
A National Technical Assistance Center

EXEMPLARY

POLICY • PRACTICE • PROGRAM



JUSTIN



LISA



PAM



TRACY



SAM



JENETTE



IREATHA



JULIE



RANDY



ANGELA



REBECCA



JOHN



LYNDA



MARRIAH



CHANDA

*Celebrate
YOUR
Wins*



PERFORMANCE MEASURE #4

DIVERSION OF FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT



Goal	To raise awareness in the community about how kinship caregivers reduce the likelihood of children being placed in the foster care system.
Method Used to Measure	Record the percentage of caregivers who report that kinship services reduced the likelihood of children entering the foster care system.
Projected # to be Served	215
Data Sources	Follow-up Assessments & Bi-Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey Responses in SurveyMonkey.



TOOLS



Kinship Caregiver Follow-Up Assessment - June 2025

Questions:

1. Name:

2. Follow Up Completed:

Date

Date

3. Was the Kinship Navigator staff able to contact the caregiver?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No, the phone was disconnected ☐ No, after leaving two or more messages the caregiver never called back

4. Is the caregiver still caring for a relative's child or children?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No; no longer caring

5. The help I received from the Kinship Navigator Program reduced the likelihood of my relative children entering the foster care system.

- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Disagree
☐ Neutral



Kinship Navigator Program - Customer Satisfaction Survey - March 2025

Please complete this survey no later than Monday, March 31, 2025.

1. I am a ___ currently caring for a relative child.

- ☐ Grandparent
☐ Great Grandparent
☐ Other Relative
☐ I am no longer caring for a relative child.

2. I am over age 60.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

3. I find the Kinship Navigator Program staff to be helpful.

- ☐ Strongly agree
☐ Agree
☐ Neutral
☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree

4. When leaving messages I receive prompt:

- ☐ Strongly agree
☐ Agree
☐ Neutral
☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree

12. The help I received from the Kinship Navigator Program reduced the likelihood of my relative children entering the foster care system.

- ☐ Strongly Agree
☐ Agree
☐ Neutral
☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree



Excerpts from Follow-Up Assessment & Customer Satisfaction Survey



PERFORMANCE MEASURE #5

IMPACT OF KINSHIP SERVICES



Goal	To raise awareness about the percentage of caregivers who report that Kinship services made a positive impact in their lives & the lives of the children they care for.
Method Used to Measure	Record the percentage of caregivers who report that Kinship services made a positive impact in their lives & the lives of the children they care for.
Projected # to be Served	140
Data Sources	Follow-up Assessments & Bi-Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey Responses in SurveyMonkey.



TOOLS

Excerpts from Follow-Up Assessment & Customer Satisfaction Survey



LUCAS COUNTY
Job & Family Services



Kinship Caregiver Follow-Up Assessment - June 2025

Questions:

1. Name:

2. Follow Up Completed:

Date

Date

MM/DD/YYYY

3. Was the Kinship Navigator staff able to contact the caregiver?

☐ Yes

☐ No, the phone was disconnected

☐ No, after leaving two or more messages the caregiver never called back

4. Is the caregiver still caring for a relative's child or children?

☐ Yes

☐ No; no longer caring

5. The help I receive relative children en

☐ Strongly Agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neutral

11. Overall, how would you rate the help you received from the Kinship Navigator staff?

☐ Poor

☐ Fair

☐ Good

☐ Excellent

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

Please complete and return in the postage-paid envelope no later than Monday, March 31, 2025.

Circle the answer that best applies to you:

1. I am a _____ currently caring for a relative child.

- a. Grandparent
- b. Great Grandparent
- c. Other relative
- d. I am no longer caring for a relative's child.

*If you are no longer caring for a relative's child please discontinue this survey, add your contact information in the space provided on the back, and return this survey by mail.

2. I am over age 60.

- a. Yes
- b. No

3. I find the Kinship Navigator Program staff to be helpful.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly Disagree

4. When leaving messages I receive prompt responses.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly Disagree

5. When interacting with the Kinship Navigator Program staff I am treated with respect and dignity.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly Disagree

13. The Kinship Navigator Program has made a positive impact in the lives of you and the children that you care for.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly Disagree

Survey continues on reverse side



The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., Lucas County Children Services, and Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services.



Performance Outcome Measures Attainment Benchmarks



Information & Referral = 75%

Education, Enrichment,
& Respite = 80%

Outreach & Communication = 80%

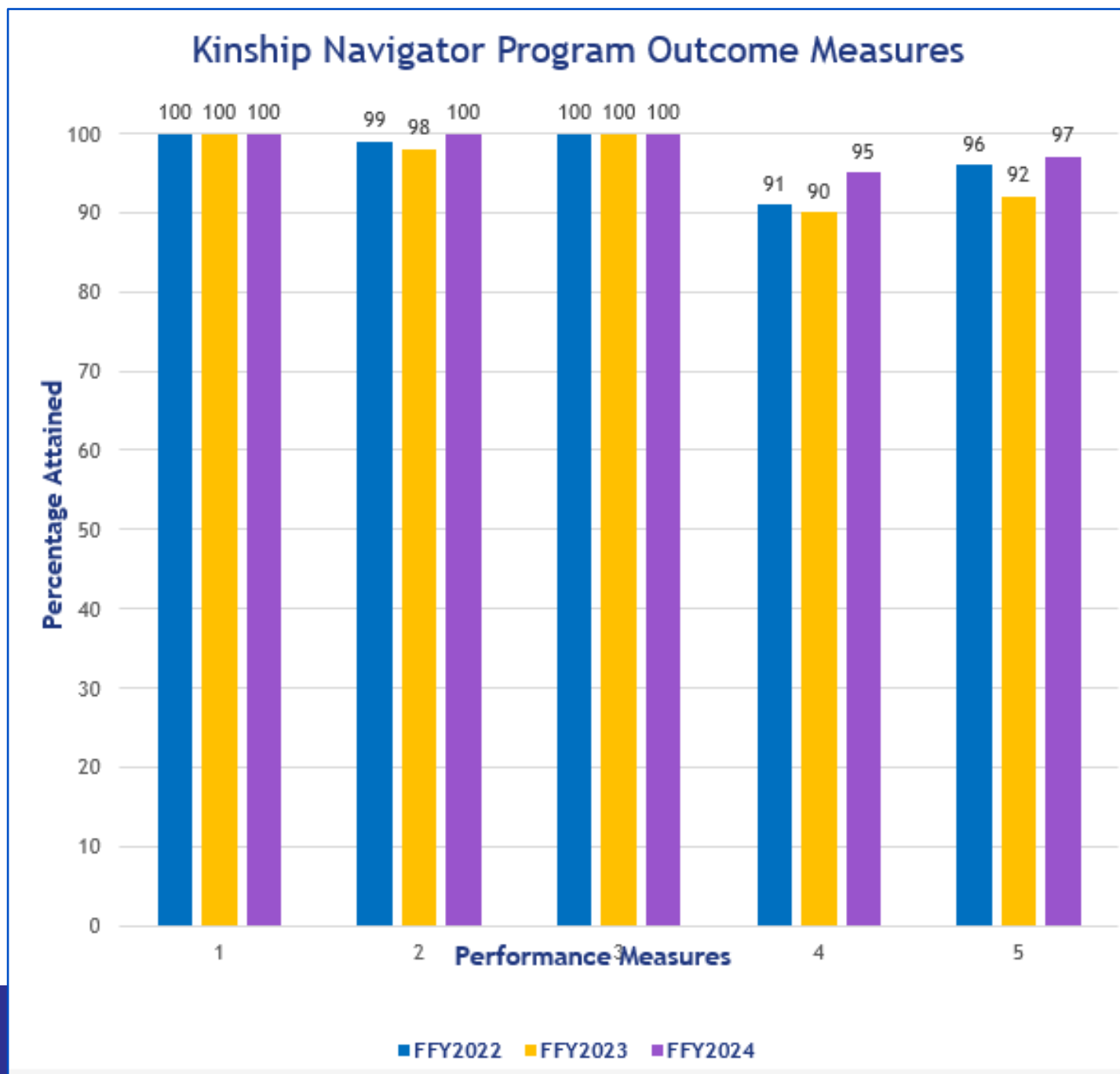
Foster Care Diversion = 80%

Impact of KNP Services = 80%

**Attainment of
performance measures
is crucial because they
provide a quantitative
way to assess progress,
identify areas for
improvement, ensure
accountability, &
emphasize your impact.**



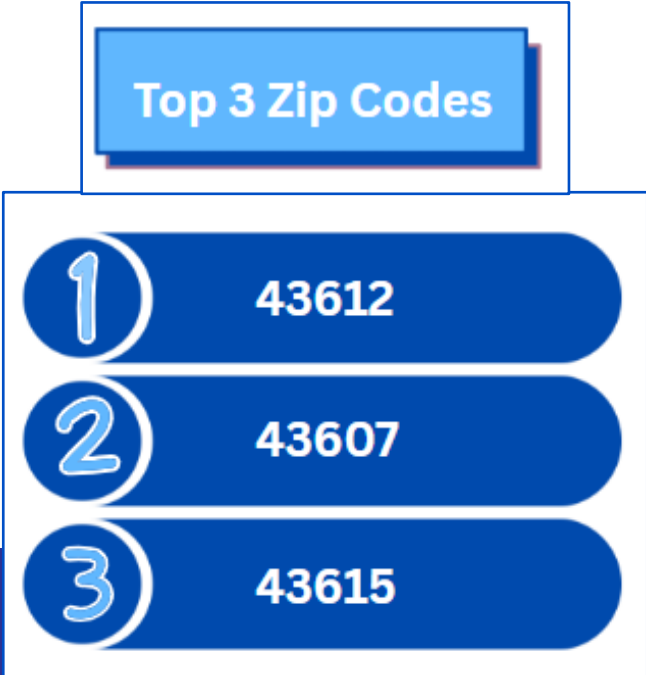
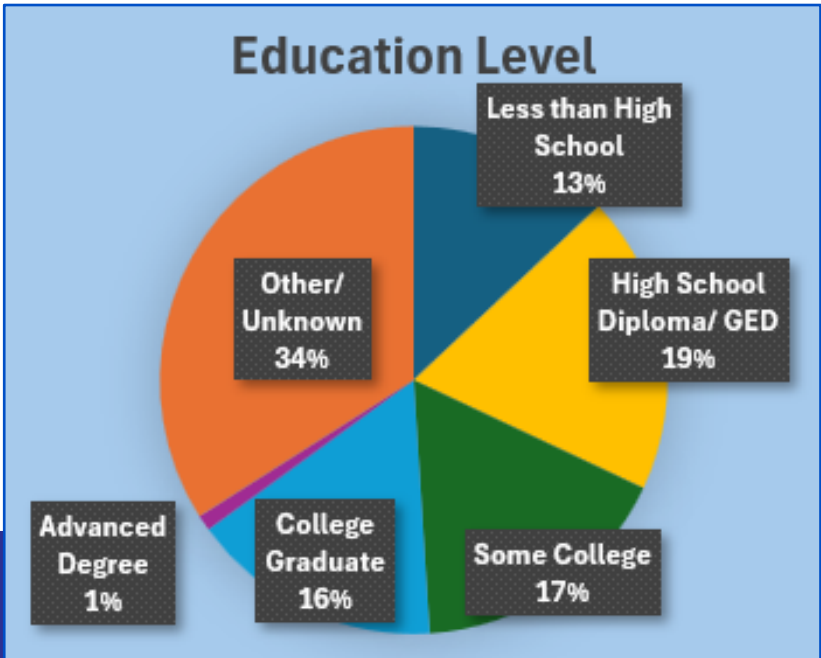
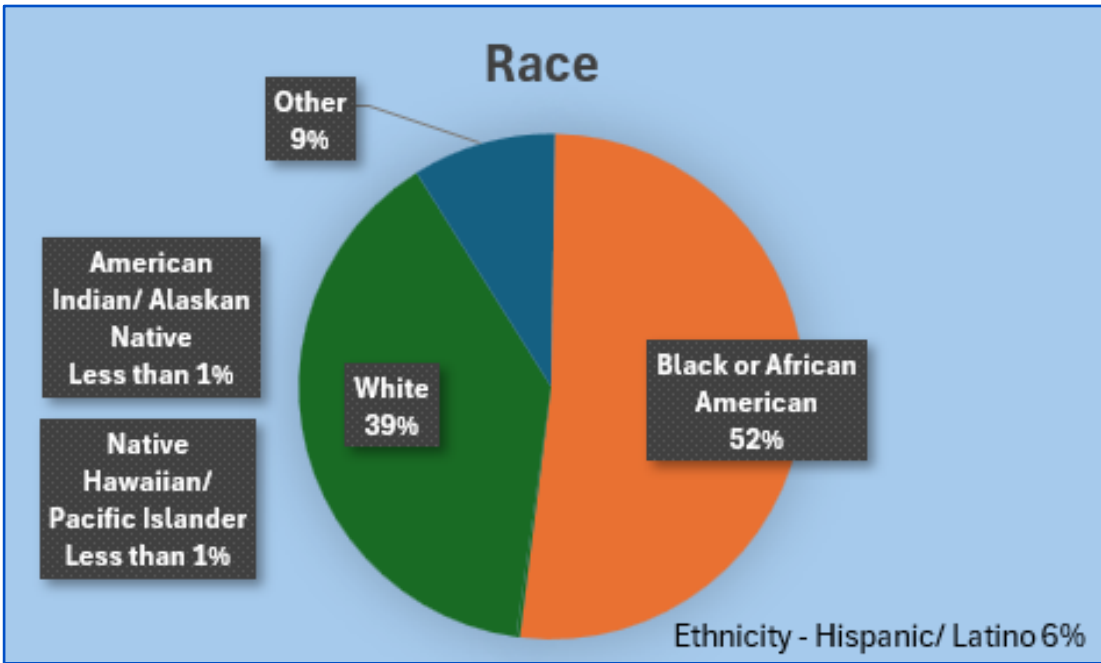
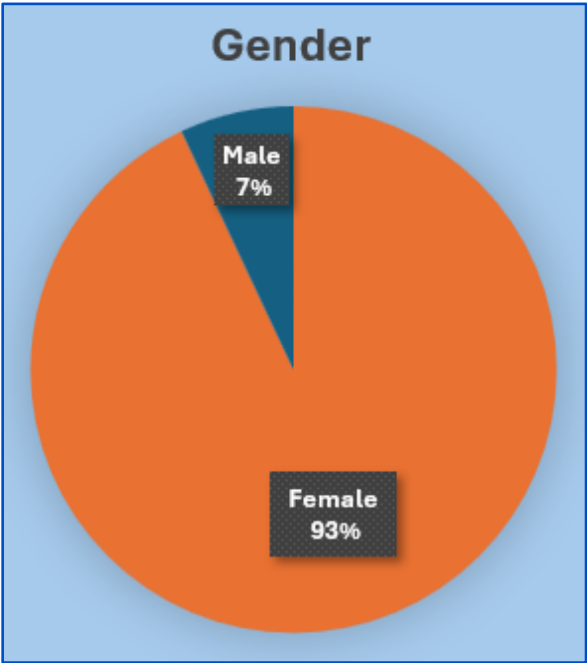
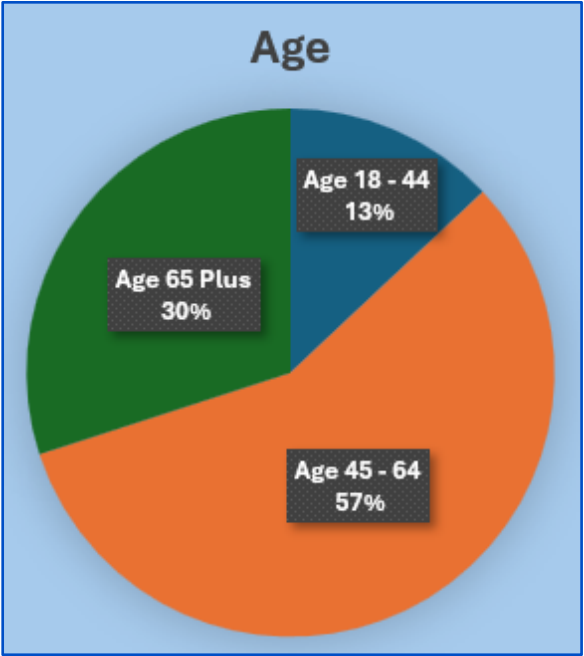
Performance Outcome Measure Attainment FFY 2022 – FFY 2024





ANNUAL HEALTHY LUCAS COUNTY DATA

FFY 2024 CAREGIVER DEMOGRAPHICS





DATA UNLOCKS BETTER OUTCOMES



IMPACT of Data Points:

- Instills Community Confidence
- Satisfies Customers
- Satisfies Community Partners
- Fulfills Contractual Obligations
- Demonstrates Community Needs
- Drives Continuous Program Improvement
- Supports Staffing to Match Capacity Levels
- Breaks Down Service Barriers & Gaps
- Justifies Program Sustainability
- Guides Targeted Outreach Efforts
- Provides Key Points for Future Outreach
- Elevates Your Organization
- Inspires New Partnerships
- Leads to New Opportunities







WHAT COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE SAYING



- ❖ Lucas County Children Services believes kinship caregivers are vital to help keep children safe and maintain family connections. Kinship caregivers are often given short notice when asked to take in children, and the Kinship Navigator program ensures the caregivers know what community resources are available and how to navigate effectively.
Robin Reese, Former Executive Director, Lucas County Children Services
- ❖ The Kinship Navigator staff possesses an excellent and in-depth knowledge of how to navigate the complex child welfare, special education and disability education, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and financial assistance systems in our community.
Judith Leb J.D., Former Director, Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division
- ❖ School counselors and nurses routinely call these advocates so students and their caregivers can get the information, support, education, and connections they need to continue flourishing in a stable home environment instead of the student unnecessarily ending up in the foster care system.
Dr. Romules Durant, Superintendent, Toledo Public Schools
- ❖ I can speak directly to the gap in services that both our aging and our youth populations experience. Even more so, minority populations are vastly underserved. The Kinship Navigator Program is one of the few services that address these important gaps by providing excellent support, education, and resources to families in need here in our community.
Danielle Cisterino-Hajdu, Teen PEP Coordinator, ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital
- ❖ In this day and age there are more grandparents and other relatives who are rearing children in their extended families. These families are in desperate need of support and services that the Kinship Navigator Program has been able to provide to them. This program has helped kinship care families become better informed about services and support in our community.
Linda Decker, Supervisor, Community Relations, United Healthcare Community Plan of Ohio

PROGRAM IMPACT – IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Kemelie





How will you use data to maximize your program's impact?



Arcelia Armstrong, LSW
Director

Caregiver Support and Kinship Navigator Programs
Area Office on Aging of NWO, Inc.
2155 Arlington Avenue
Toledo, OH 43609-1997
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1.800.472.7277
419.382.4560 Fax
aarmstrong@areaofficeonaging.com

Grandparents and Relatives Raising Children



419.382.0624



Marsha Rose, LSW
Supervisor

Kinship Navigator Program
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Grandparents and Relatives Raising Children



419.382.0624



AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC. – KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM



RECENT PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS FEATURING THE AOoA KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM



PUBLICATIONS

- **May 2025** - *Kinship Matters to Aging- Resource*
Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (A National Technical Assistance Center) and USAgeing
[Kinship Matters to Aging.pdf](#)
- **January 2025** - *Network Impact- Newsletter*
Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (A National Technical Assistance Center)
<https://www.gksnetwork.org/>
- **December 2024** - *Identifying Local Champions Tip Sheet (Outreach Learning Community Toolkit (3rd session in a series of 5 sessions)*
Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (A National Technical Assistance Center), ZERO TO THREE, and National Caucus and Center on Black Aging
<https://www.gksnetwork.org/resources/identifying-local-champions/>
- **February 2024** - *Kinship Navigator Program- Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio (AOoA) Exemplary Designation Article*
Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (A National Technical Assistance Center)
<https://www.gksnetwork.org/resources/kinship-navigator-program-area-office-on-aging-of-northwestern-ohio-aooa/>

The February 2024 Exemplary Designation Article, and a PDF of our publication, *Parenting Smarts Resource Guide, 10th Edition*, can be viewed at <https://areaofficeonaging.com/programs>
You can also **Sign Up** to receive our **quarterly newsletter** and **bi-weekly e-newsletter**.

- **March 2023** - *Extending Program Reach: The Northwest Ohio Area Office on Aging - Monthly Resource: Making a Difference*
Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (A National Technical Assistance Center)
[Making a Difference \(gksnetwork.org\)](#)
- **January 2023** - *Kinship/Grandfamilies: The Role of Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging Programs- White Paper*
Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (A National Technical Assistance Center) and USAgeing
<https://www.gksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/AAA-and-Title-VI-Programs-Report-eng-508.pdf>

PRESENTATIONS

- **Upcoming June 2025** - Generations United 23rd Global Intergenerational Conference
Presentation Title: *"Insides Secrets Revealed – The Exemplary Model of NW Ohio's Kinship Navigator Program"*
- **Upcoming July 2025** - USAgeing 50th Annual Conference & Trade Show
Presentation Title: *"Turning Numbers into Impact: How Kinship Data Unlocks Better Outcomes"*
- **November 2023** - Kinship Care: Supporting Families Through Collaboration Webinar hosted by AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois, an Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for 8 counties outside Chicago.
Keynote Speakers
Presentation Title: *"Capitalizing on Partnerships to Extend Reach of Kinship Navigator Programs"*
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=%E2%80%A2%09Kinship+Care%3A+Supporting+Families+Through+Collaboration+Seminars
- **July 2023** - USAgeing 48th Annual Conference & Trade Show Pre-Conference Intensive
Co-Presenters with Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (A National Technical Assistance Center and USAgeing)
Presentation Title: *"Reaching Kinship/Grandfamilies: Planning Your Outreach Strategy"*
- **July 2023** - USAgeing 48th Annual Conference & Trade Show
Presentation Title: *"Capitalizing on Partnerships to Extend Reach of Kinship Navigator Programs"*
- **February 2023** - Buckeye Health Plan, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion-Ability Network
Presentation Title: *"Caregiving and Evidence-based Health and Wellness Workshops"*
- **January 2023** - Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (A National Technical Assistance Center) and USAgeing Webinar
Co-Presenters with Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (A National Technical Assistance Center and USAgeing)
Presentation Title: *"Capitalizing on Partnerships to Extend Reach of Kinship Navigator Programs"*
[Click Link to Watch Webinar – The Important Role of AAA and Title VI Programs in Helping Kinship/Grandfamilies Capitalizing on Partnerships to Extend Reach of Kinship Navigator Programs](#)
Presentation at 38:10.



https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zr5N0AX9HCZ_EswwP8-RBdj04UgX6twglL1y1qk04hA/edit?usp=drive_link



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