

What Our Caregivers Are Saying

"This Kinship Navigator Program is my foundation; without this team, I would be lost in how to navigate raising my grandsons in a new state and city.

When you find people who are supportive, nice, and willing to step in whenever you need it, it helps, it really does."

*~ Rachel Torres, Grandmother
(pictured below with grandsons Royce and Alonzo)*



Kinship Quick Facts

- In the U.S. at least 2.5 million children are being raised by a relative or close family friend and do not have a parent living in the household.
- Across the nation, for every 1 child raised by kin in foster care, there are 19 being raised by kin outside of foster care.
- \$4 Billion Dollars – The amount that grandparents and other relatives save taxpayers each year by raising children and keeping them out of foster care.
- 50% of grandparents raising grandchildren have been caring for a grandchild for 5 years or more.
- Children placed in kinship families maintain cultural identity, have a sense of belonging, preserve sibling ties, and have better outcomes related to mental health, safety, stability, and permanency.

Sources: Generations United (www.gu.org)
"State of Grandfamilies Report - 2024".

The Kinship Navigator Program is supported by:



To learn more about our Kinship Navigator Program
Call **419-382-0624** or **1-800-472-7277**
Visit us online at www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com

AreaOfficeOnAging.com

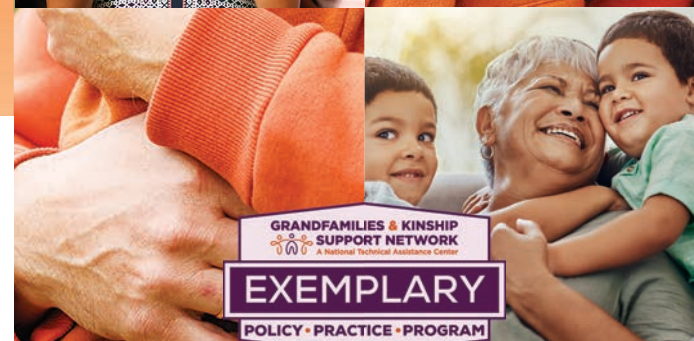
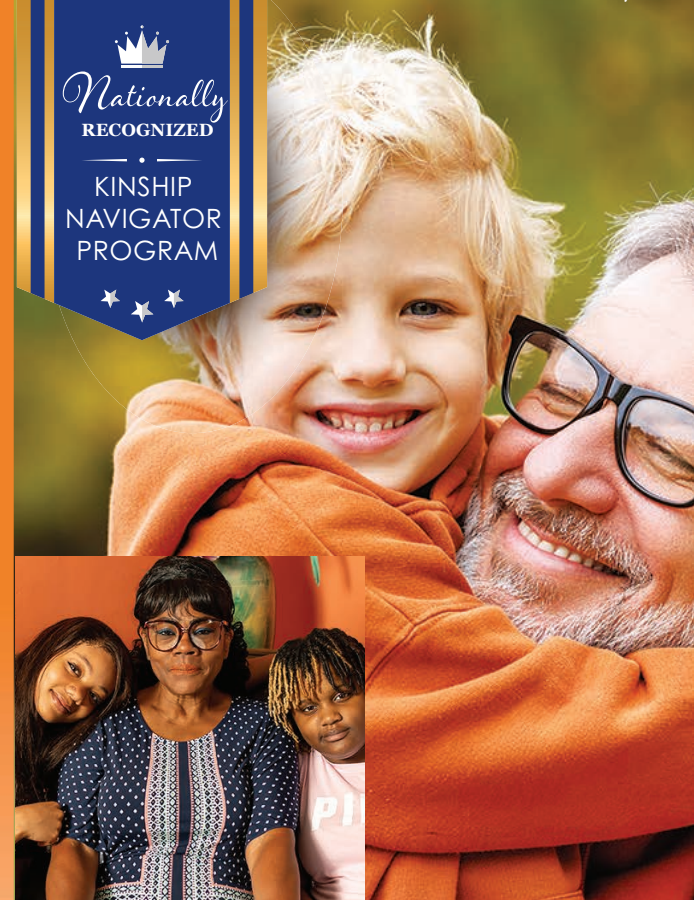
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KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM
Grandparents and Relatives Raising Children

Living at Age 60+ or Caring for an Aging Loved One?
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**BETTER
LONGER**

For more information, call AOA at
(419) 382-0624

About Us

The Kinship Navigator Program supports Lucas County kinship and grandfamilies who raise children when the biological parents are unable or unwilling to do so and is nationally recognized and "Exemplary" designated by the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (A National Technical Assistance Center). We offer a robust menu of services, have rich community partnerships, and are a model for best-practice excellence nationwide.



Challenges of Kinship Caregivers

Although the routine challenges of kinship families are like parent-headed families there are some fundamental differences. Kinship caregivers do not have automatic legal rights for the children they are raising. Kinship caregivers did not plan or expect to be parenting a second time around and often stepped up to raise children at a moment's notice (sometimes in the middle of the night) due to a family crisis.

Contact Us

AOoA Kinship Navigator Program

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Eligibility

- Adult caregivers 18 or older.
- Primary caregiver raising a child or children from birth to age 18.
- Resident of Lucas County, Ohio.
- No caregiver or household income requirements.
- No legal custody or guardianship requirements.
- No past or current involvement with the child welfare system is required.

Our Services are FREE

- Information/ Referral & Assistance
- Support Groups
- Club Meetings
- Evidence-Based Workshops
- Summer Series
- Bi-Monthly E-Newsletter
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Parenting Smarts Resource Guide
- Access to Special Events
- Access to AOoA Services

What is Kinship Care?

Kinship Care is a temporary or permanent arrangement in which a grandparent, relative, or close family friend raises children when parents are unable or unwilling to do so. Reasons for Kinship Care may include poverty, substance use, mental health issues, incarceration, teenage pregnancy, abuse, neglect, or parental death. These issues touch every socioeconomic level, race, ethnicity, and geographic area. Kinship Care may be an informal arrangement, legal custody, guardianship order, relative foster care placement, or kinship adoption. No matter what the relationship, kinship caregivers voluntarily devote their lives to providing a safe and loving home for the children they are raising.



Resiliency Corner

**"Resilience is an important key.
Protect the key to your peaceful heart."**

~ Angelica Hopes

**"You are never too old to set another
goal or dream a new dream."**

~ C.S. Lewis

**"It's your reaction to adversity, not adversity itself,
that determines how your life story will develop."**

~ Dieter F. Uchtorf