



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

September 4, 2025

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER IS KINSHIP CARE MONTH

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

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Information Only ☐ Time Sensitive ☐ Immediate

Governor Josh Stein has proclaimed September as Kinship Care Month. North Carolina Division of Health and Human Services Department of Social Services (NCDHHS DSS) would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for Governor Stein'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 do so. 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.

NCDHHS DSS is excited to celebrate all kinship families that have opened their homes and hearts to children, youth, and families. NCDHHS DSS 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.

Resources and Trainings:

Permanency Matters Webinars will occur this month to discuss resources related to supporting kinship connections. *Each webinar will have different content*, and recordings will become available on the [NCDHHS DSS Publications website](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/publications) under "Permanency Matters Webinar Series."

- 9.23.25 at 1:30 PM – Register here:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1316290686648698464>
- 9.25.25 at 10:00 AM – Register here:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6819304602225783387>

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

LOCATION: 820 Boylan Drive, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2406
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6404 • FAX: 919-733-3052

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NCDHHS DSS 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/>

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 the following online, self-paced courses:

- *"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.
- *"Building and Maintaining a Kinship Culture in Your Agency"* – Participants will learn about the benefits of kinship care to families and agencies, and the value of creating and sustaining a kin-first culture.

Website: <http://www.ncswlearn.org>

The Annie E. Casey Foundation developed a five-part video training series "Engaging Kinship Caregivers: Managing Risk Factors in Kinship Care." Led by Joseph Crumbley, the training sessions strengthen the skills of child welfare professionals in supporting families to improve outcomes for children. The series includes a [discussion guide](#) to help program directors, supervisors and trainers lead group sessions to deepen the learning experience.

Website: <https://www.aecf.org/blog/engaging-kinship-caregivers-with-joseph-crumbley>

For questions, please contact the NCDHHS DSS 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

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Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult Regional Support
William "Ben" Rose, Lead Regional Director
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
Peter West, Section Chief/PATH NC Implementation Lead
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services
Meredith Houchins, RCWS Manager
Holly McNeill, State CQI Leader

ATTACHMENT: Proclamation from Governor Josh Stein declaring September to be Kinship Care Month

CWS-60-2025

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