



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEVDDUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

September 3, 2026

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS,
MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS, CASE WORKERS AND PRIVATE LICENSING AGENCIES**

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER IS KINSHIP CARE MONTH

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

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Information Only ☐ Time Sensitive ☐ Immediate

As we recognize **Kinship Care Month**, we reaffirm North Carolina's commitment to ensuring that children remain connected to their families and communities whenever possible. Kinship caregivers—relatives and close family friends—play a vital role in providing stability and continuity for children when they cannot safely remain at home.

Attached is the Governor's Proclamation recognizing Kinship Care Month, reaffirming our statewide dedication to a *kin-first culture*—an approach in child welfare that prioritizes placement, support, legal permanency, and relational permanency with kin—both relative and nonrelative—whenever safely possible. Research consistently shows that children placed with kin experience greater stability, stronger identity development, fewer placement disruptions, and improved long-term outcomes.

KINSHIP CARE CONFERENCES:

In partnership with NCDHHS, the Foster Family Alliance of North Carolina will host two [kinship conferences](#) for kinship caregivers, child welfare professionals, and court partners. Conferences will be held on 9/26 in Wilmington and 10/17 in Asheville.

There are still openings for kinship caregivers. Please help promote these opportunities by:

- Calling caregivers to explain the benefits of attending and answering questions
- Assisting with registration, if needed
- Noting that breakfast, lunch, and on-site childcare (for up to 50 children ages 1–12) are provided
- Sharing that caregivers will receive a gas gift card upon arrival
- Informing families that those traveling long distances *may* be eligible for a hotel room (Questions: erica.burgess@ffa-nc.org)

More information is available at: [Kinship Conference — Join Us](#) on the Foster Family Alliance of NC website.

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

LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh NC 27607

MAILING ADDRESS: 2408 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-2410

www.ncdhhs.gov • Main Tel. 919-527-6340

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

RESOURCES:

- [**Kinship Care 101 Flyer**](#) is a brief flyer that offers information on kinship foster care, kinship licensure, KinGAP eligibility criteria, and post-permanency support.
- [**Kinship Caregivers and Child Welfare: Understanding Your Role and Options**](#) is a document that offers a comprehensive overview of information and resources for kin who are a Temporary Safety Provider (TSP) or caring for a child who is in foster care.
- [**Unlicensed Kinship Payment Program**](#) is a flyer that shares program eligibility criteria.
- [**Kinship Family Search and Engagement Desk Guide**](#) provides guidance, tips, and strategies to search for and engage kin throughout the life of a child welfare case, from Intake to Permanency - including Licensing.
- [**NCDHHS DSS Kinship/Relative Care**](#) is a website that highlights resources and supports available for kinship families.
- [**Foster Family Alliance of NC**](#) offers ongoing training for resource parents, including kinship families, as well as facilitation of support groups in each region.
- [**Fostering NC**](#) is a learning site for kinship, foster, and adoptive families.
- [**NCSW Learn**](#) has the following online, self-paced courses available:
 - "Kinship Care and Child Welfare"
 - "Building and Maintaining a Kinship Culture in Your Agency"

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 Permanency Coordinator, Jessica Frisina at Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Adrian W. Daye, MSW
Section Chief, Permanency
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Lisa T. Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult Regional Support
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations
William "Ben" Rose, Lead Regional Director
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief, Regulatory and Licensing
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Well-Being
Meredith Houchins, Interim Section Chief, Operations

CWS-65-2026

Attachment: Kinship Care Month Proclamation

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

LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh NC 27607

MAILING ADDRESS: 2408 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-2410

www.ncdhhs.gov • Main Tel. 919-527-6340

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER