



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Social Services

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations
for Human Services

Date: 12/22/2020

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: Kinship Training, Caring For Our Own

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive

North Carolina Division of Social Services has partnered with Children's Home Society of North Carolina to offer *Caring For Our Own*, a kinship training support opportunity for relatives and fictive kin caring for children in foster care.

Caring For Our Own is a kinship program tailored to the needs of relatives and fictive kin caring for children in foster care. The program uses a strengths-based approach in identifying resources available to kinship families. Kinship caregivers caring for a child in DSS custody are eligible to receive financial and other supports once they are a licensed foster parent. Through a series of ten online meetings, the 27-hour *Caring For Our Own* kinship program combined with 3 hours of NC DHHS approved content meets the 30-hour preservice training requirement for foster home licensure. Participation in this program provides kinship caregivers with assistance and ideas for working in partnership with the helping network, the children and the birth parents.

During the last fiscal year there were nearly 2600 children placed with kinship caregivers. However, less than 4% of these relative placements were licensed. North Carolina wants to increase the number of kinship caregivers who become licensed in order to achieve safe and timely exits to permanency.

To accomplish this, DHHS has partnered with **Children's Home Society of North Carolina to offer four upcoming Caring For Our Own groups online beginning January 2021:**

[Thursday nights, January 7 - March 11 / 6-9 pm](#)

[Monday nights, January 11 - March 15 / 6-9 pm](#)

[Tuesday nights, January 19 - March 23 / 6-9 pm](#)

[Tuesday nights, January 28 - April 1 / 6-9 pm](#)

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

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

MAILING ADDRESS: 2409 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2409

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6390 • FAX: 919-733-3052

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

These links will lead you to the flyer for the classes in January. Please distribute this flyer to all kinship families so that caregivers can register for the class that best fits their schedule.

Should you have additional questions, please contact Janet Drake at 919-527-6356 or janet.drake@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Carla McNeill

Carla McNeill, Section Chief of Permanency
Division of Social Services
Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations for Human Services
Lisa T. Cauley, Senior Director for Aging and Adult Services and Child Welfare
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention
Linda Waite, Interim Section Chief for Regulatory & Licensing

CWS-40-2020

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

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2409 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2409
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6390 • FAX: 919-733-3052

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER