DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: Kinship Fit and Feasibility Study Survey Request

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Information Only ☒ Time Sensitive ☒ Immediate

North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) is partnering with the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) to conduct a feasibility study on the possible implementation of a Kinship Navigator program focused on providing supports to relatives and fictive kin caring for children. The model will align with North Carolina’s strategic plan and impact permanency outcomes by potentially increasing workers knowledge of kinship, increasing placement stability, and increasing licensing of kinship families.

As part of the study, HSRI is administering a survey to each county department of social services agency in North Carolina to better understand existing kinship services and supports across the state. This survey should take participants approximately 10 to 20 minutes to complete. Participants’ responses will be submitted directly to HSRI and combined with all other survey responses in the state. Individual responses will not be shared with anyone outside of the HSRI study team, and participants will not be asked to provide any personal identifying information other than the county in which they work and their primary position/role in the child welfare agency.

To receive a broad spectrum of responses to develop a strong Kinship Navigator Model in NC, it is our recommendation that participation from all levels across Child Welfare programs and leadership be included. HSRI will be doing a drawing for an opportunity for survey participants to receive one of five $100 gift cards. Entry for the drawing will be optional upon completion of the survey.

Please follow the link to participate in the survey: https://www.research.net/r/NCDSS_Kinship

The survey will remain open until May 24, 2022.

Thank you for your continued support of kinship families and should you have any questions, please contact the State Permanency Coordinator, Mary Mackins at Mary.Mackins@dhhs.nc.gov.
Sincerely,

Carla McNeill

Carla McNeill, MSW
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Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Lisa T. Cauley, Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention
Kimaree Sanders, Interim Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory

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