

## Menu of Technical Assistance

### Improving Kinship Practices by Implementing Federal Kinship Laws including the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program

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Federal law that provides support for relatives caring for children, also known as grandfamilies, includes the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014, and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.

**Fostering Connections** provisions with a kinship emphasis include:

1. State and tribal option for federal reimbursement under Title IV-E for guardianship assistance payments
2. Requirements for states to identify relatives and provide them with notice of the placement of a related child in foster care
3. Codification of existing federal guidance permitting flexibility in foster care licensing for relatives

**Preventing Sex Trafficking** provisions with a kinship emphasis include:

1. Guardianship assistance for successor guardians
2. Exclusion of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) as a permanency option for a child under age 16
3. Reasonable and prudent parent standard
4. Notification and placement with siblings
5. Incentivized permanent guardianship
6. Data on adoption and guardianship disruption and dissolution

**Family First Act** provisions with a kinship emphasis include:

1. Federal reimbursement for up to 12 months of services and programs to parents, children, and kinship caregivers to prevent children from needing to enter foster care
2. Federal reimbursement for kinship navigator programs
3. Licensing standards for relative foster homes

Generations United, experts and our partners are available to provide technical assistance (TA) to states, counties and tribes. ***The TA is customized and tailored to each jurisdiction*** and ranges from planning and policy development to implementation.

**Possible areas for TA include:**

<b>Prevention Services and Kinship Navigator Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Assist states, tribes, and territories interested in establishing or evaluating kinship navigator programs so they are eligible for federal reimbursement</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Connect states, tribes and territories with models of prevention services and programs for their jurisdictions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide trainings, either in-person or through webinar technology, on these kinship provisions of the Family First Act</li> </ul>
<b>Relative Identification and Notification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop a general understanding of the relative identification and notice requirements for eligible children; develop policy goals and objectives</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Update notification materials to include sibling notice requirement</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop formal notice policy and actual notice product (e.g., letters)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop and implement process for giving notice and process for documentation; conduct work-flow analysis and develop agency worker practice manual materials/protocols</li> </ul>

<p><b>Licensing of Relative Foster Parents</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop understanding of regulatory environment related to foster parent licensing; develop understanding of unlicensed relative care and licensed relative care; determine how jurisdictions may use unlicensed care; develop policy goals and objectives</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Compare Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards with current state licensing standards using crosswalk tool, and identify barriers to licensing relatives in state standards</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop formal foster parent licensing policy for relatives (e.g., waiver policy, customized pre-service and in-service training, safety inspection requirements for unlicensed relative care, pre-service and in-service training for unlicensed relative caregivers)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Connect GAP states that have increased their licensing of relatives with those that have not taken the GAP option because of the licensing requirement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review reasonable and prudent parent standard (RPPS) policies and laws to ensure compliance with federal law</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If necessary, develop RPPS policies for agencies and courts including the establishment of regular normalcy inquiries at permanency hearings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop checklists, guidelines and tools for implementing RPPS policies for caseworkers, attorneys and courts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Help engage all stakeholders including caregivers and birth parents in development of policies and tools</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop trainings for caseworkers, foster parents, kin caregivers, attorneys and judges on how to implement the RPPS</li> </ul>
<p><b>Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop a general understanding of the scope and limitations of the GAP option and how it relates to other permanency options; determine interest in providing federal assistance to relative guardians; help assess the cost and impact of the GAP option; determine interest in offering benefits past age 18; develop policy goals and objectives</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop a GAP benefit package (e.g., make relevant policy decisions, determine subsidy levels, create GAP agreement language, develop in-service training curriculum, help determine costs and financing options, if possible based on information provided)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop and prepare for submission to Health and Human Services the state plan amendment for GAP and relevant policies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop operational procedures and practices required (e.g., workflow analysis and design, agency worker manuals/protocols, training infrastructure, and information systems)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Assist states in structuring successor guardian requirements in policy and practice</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop a plan for familiarizing relative caregivers, youth, judges, attorneys and others about the importance of GAP to children</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Help states understand the value of tracking the impact of GAP on child outcomes and on finances</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Help states understand the value of tracking guardianship and relative adoption disruptions</li> </ul>

<p><b>Changes to APPLA and Adoption and Guardianship Incentives</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop a general understanding of the changes made by the Preventing Sex Trafficking Act of 2014 that were made to Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) and how these changes create more opportunities for finding permanency options with relatives</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review state policies and statutes to ensure APPLA and “long term” foster care are no longer permanency options for youth under age 16 and that the correct review processes are in place for youth 16 and older with APPLA</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide recommendations on procedures and policies to ensure caseworkers are making intensive and ongoing efforts to find family for a child, including best interest determinations for judicial personnel</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop procedures or practices for engaging children about their desired permanency outcomes, including explaining their options for adoption or guardianship</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Help states understand the changes made in 2014 to the Adoption and Guardianship Incentive program and recommendations for how they can maximize the incentive rewards</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review the incentive data to identify strengths and weaknesses in exits from foster care</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kinship Laws in the Courts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide recommendations for effective implementation of the kinship and guardianship provisions of federal law</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Help create court forms for requesting and granting guardianship orders and designating successor guardians</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Train judges, court personnel, attorneys, as well as child welfare agency staff on legal aspects of kinship care</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Create and disseminate checklists and tips for judges and courtroom personnel</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop kinship policies/procedures that assist courtrooms in establishing a kin first atmosphere</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review and help develop, if necessary, a procedure for granting guardianship to successor guardians and for modifying guardianship orders</li> </ul>
<p><b>State Legislatures</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide an overview of kinship and guardianship provisions in federal laws and states’ activity around these laws</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Share promising state practices in implementation of kinship and guardianship provisions in federal laws</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Outreach to and assist state legislators with understanding of kinship and guardianship provisions in federal laws</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide testimony to state legislatures regarding the national context of states’ implementation of kinship and guardianship provisions in federal laws</li> </ul>

***Depending on the request, TA is provided by the following partners: American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, Children’s Home Society of Florida and Generations United.***

***Contact Generations United to discuss details and pricing.***