

The Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Meeting

November 16, 2021



Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Alison Barkoff
Principal Deputy Administrator
Administration for Community Living



Roll Call

Agenda Overview and ACL Updates

Lori Stalbaum

Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services
Administration for Community Living



Agenda

1:20 – 2:00 Presentation of Council's Initial Report to Congress

2:00 – 2:25 Overview of the New National Technical
Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families

2:25 – 2:50 National Strategy Development – Facilitated Discussion

2:50 – 3:00 Wrap Up & Adjourn



Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (SGRG) Act

Initial Report to Congress

*Prepared by Advisory Council to Support
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren with assistance
from the Administration for Community Living*

<https://acl.gov/SGRG/report>

Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (SGRG) Act **Initial Report to Congress**

Prepared by: Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
With assistance from: Administration for Community Living,
an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



SUPPORT



EDUCATE



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EMPOWER

November 16, 2021

The Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Initial Report to Congress


Jaia Peterson Lent, M.S.W
Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson, D.N.P, M.S.N, R.N.-B.C.
Advisory Council Co-chairs

November 16, 2021



Kinship and Grandfamilies Need Improved Supports and Recognition


From the literature, we know that...

- There are 2.7 million American children being raised within the loving homes of kin and grandparent caregivers;
 - Kin and grandparent caregivers' lives are enhanced by raising grandchildren, godchildren, nieces, nephews, siblings, and dear family friends.
 - Children may come into the full-time care of relatives unexpectedly with little time to plan, which has an impact on their finances;
 - Providing full-time care to children may decrease the ability of kin and grandparent caregivers to address their own physical and mental health needs and personal well-being; and
 - Kin and grandparent caregivers benefit from better coordination and dissemination of information and resources available to support them in their caregiving responsibilities.
- 


Family is the single most important influence in a child's life

- The children in kinship families and grandfamilies have usually experienced trauma, abuse, and/or neglect prior to coming into the relative's care.
- The love and care that kin and grandparent caregivers provide mitigates the stress of these childhood experiences. It helps children learn to cope with stress, develop a healthy stress response, and build resiliency.
- The unconditional love of a “parental figure” in the face of negative childhood experiences has been shown to have a protective effect on these children, building resiliency and helping them heal from the trauma that they may have experienced (Carroll, et al., 2013).

The SGRG Act (P.L.115-196)

- The Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (SGRG) Act was signed into law in July 2018;
 - Established a [council of federal and non-federal members](#) to identify, coordinate and disseminate information and best practices to better support kinship families and grandfamilies;
 - Develop and deliver to Congress a report that:
 - Shares best practices, resources, and other useful information for grandparents and other older relatives raising children;
 - Identifies gaps in services and supports;
 - Identifies the need for additional federal legislation;
 - Includes a focus on the needs of tribal members and those individuals impacted by the opioid crisis
- 

The Council's Guiding Principles

1. We recognize and define Kinship Families and Grandfamilies as families in which children reside with, and are being raised by, grandparents or other extended family members, or adults with whom they have a close family-like relationship.
 2. Activities will promote greater adoption of person- and family-centered supports that place Kinship Families and Grandfamilies at the center of every support system, while also acknowledging the challenge of possible conflicting goals.
 3. Efforts will aim to empower Kinship Families and Grandfamilies to advocate for themselves to meet the needs of the child and family members. With improved access to resources, they may engage and contribute meaningfully in their communities.
 4. Recommendations should recognize and support Kinship Families and Grandfamilies in a fair and impartial manner considering the physical, cultural, emotional, and financial impacts.
 5. The National Family Caregiving Strategy will include and amplify the voices of Kinship Families and Grandfamilies.
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The Council's Report to Congress

Kin and Grandparent Caregiver Voices

35 Direct quotations from the RFI

4 Council member statements

3 Statements from caregivers in tribal communities

Analysis and Discussion

Unmet needs of kinship families and grandfamilies

Supporting family caregivers in tribal communities

Impact of substance use disorders on kinship families and grandfamilies

Overviews of

RFI results


Federal Inventory

Kin and grandparent caregivers focus group

Recommendations for Systemic Change

22 Recommendations – all of which will inform and support the National Family Caregiving Strategy

5 Priority Areas

1. Awareness of/outreach to kin and grandparent caregivers;
 2. Grandfamily and kinship caregiver engagement;
 3. Services and supports for kinship families and grandfamilies;
 4. Financial and workplace security for kin and grandparent caregivers; and
 5. Research, data, and evidence-supported practices.
- 

22 Recommendations

- Increase public awareness, improve outreach, and increase access
- Ensure recognition of kin and grandparents as part of the child's "team"
- Improve the range of services and supports available for kinship and grandfamilies
- Promote and adopt policies that safeguard the financial, legal and workplace considerations of kin and grandparent caregivers
- Improve data collection, research and the development and dissemination of evidence-based/informed practices

TOWARD A NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVING STRATEGY

- The recommendations of the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren will join those of the Family Caregiving Advisory Council to form the foundation of the **National Family Caregiving Strategy**.
- The Strategy will:
 - Be a living document that is updated regularly;
 - Outline critical actions that can be taken by public and private sectors to better support kinship and family caregivers in ways that reflect their diverse needs;
 - Serve as a roadmap for federal, state, and community action to better support kinship and family caregivers; and
 - Be released in 2022.



DISCUSSION

Presentation: Overview of the New National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families

Donna Butts
Executive Director
Generations United



Ana Beltran
Director, National Technical Assistance Center on
Grandfamilies and Kinship Families
Generations United

National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families

November 16, 2021

Donna Butts
Ana Beltran
Generations United



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National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC) on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families

- \$10 million appropriated for five years - as part of the **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021** to create the first ever National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC) on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families
- The Administrative for Community Living (ACL) oversees the NTAC
- Through competitive process, Generations United was awarded the cooperative agreement
- NTAC will provide holistic technical assistance, training, and tools to the array of state and tribal agencies and organizations that serve kinship families
- Not designed to help the families directly – it will improve systems and create tools for the families

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Legislative language is clear, and Generations United's planned work aligns:

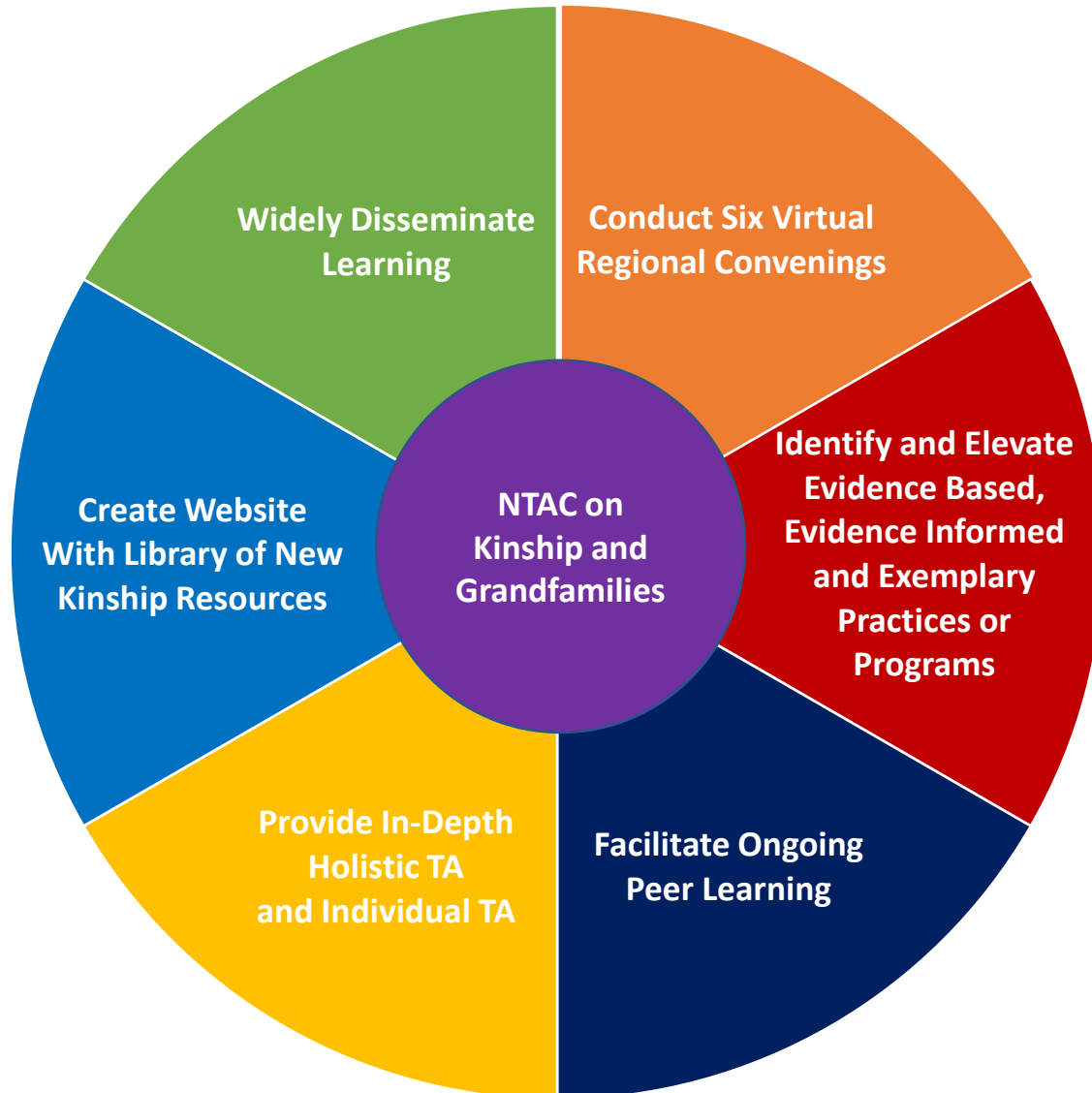
- Training, technical assistance, and resources for government programs, nonprofit organizations, and Tribes and Tribal and Indian organizations serving grandfamilies to support each family member's health and well-being

Activities of the NTAC on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families, as laid out in the Act:

- 1) engage experts to identify evidence-based, evidence-informed and exemplary practices and programs re: health, education, nutrition, housing, financial needs, legal issues, disabilities, caregiver support
- 2) encourage the implementation of these practices and programs, and promote coordination of services across systems
- 3) facilitate learning across systems
- 4) help systems plan and coordinate responses during emergencies and disasters
- 5) assist systems in promoting equity and culturally and linguistically appropriate approaches

National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families

Generations United, Partners and Subject Matter Experts



ALL NTAC WORK:

- ✓ Engage and collaborate with subject matter experts, including those with lived experience, to provide technical assistance and resources
- ✓ Promote equity, including racial equity, and culturally and linguistically appropriate approaches and 508 compliance
- ✓ Help facilitate the coordination of services to kinship families during emergencies and disasters
- ✓ Measure impact of all services and evaluate
- ✓ Collaborate with ACL

Primary Partners/Management Committee

- **Child Trends** – expertise in evaluation, kinship-related data, and kinship navigator programs
- **National Caucus and Center on Black Aging** - expertise in serving African American older adults, senior housing, financial literacy, and emergency preparedness/disaster planning, and primary liaison to groups serving diverse populations including Diverse Elders Coalition
- **National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)** – expertise on issues of cultural competence, Tribes, tribal organizations and urban Indian organizations and primary liaison to those groups
- **USAging** – expertise and primary liaison to Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), the aging services network and Title VI Native American Aging Programs
- **Zero to Three** – expertise on children’s mental health, trauma, child care, early childhood ed

Subject Matter Experts/Steering Committee

Alexandra Ashbrook, JD

Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)

Terry Cross, DHL

National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)

Joseph Crumbly, PhD

Angelique Day, PhD, MSW

University of WA

Curt Decker, JD

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

GRAND Voice Gail Engel

Jatrice Martel Gaiter, JD

Volunteers of America (VOA)

Marina Nitze

New America Foundation Fellow

Melinda Perez- Porter, JD

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)

Heidi Redlich Epstein, JD, MSW

American Bar Association (ABA)

GRAND Voice Sarah Smalls

Stefanie Sprow

Children's Defense Fund (CDF)

Tyreasa Washington, PhD, LCSW

Child Trends

Nancy Young, PhD

Children and Family Futures

Lisa Zetley, MD

American Academy of Pediatrics

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First Six Months

- Conduct outreach – www.gu.org/projects/ntac-on-grandfamilies-and-kinship-families/
- Hire new staff
- Develop and launch NTAC on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families website
- Invite and create cross-system teams, interview teams, and plan for six virtual regional convenings in May and June 2022
- Through team interviews, start process of identifying new, evidence-based, evidence-informed, and exemplary practices or programs
- Establish a learning listserv
- Respond to individual time-limited TA requests

National Family Strategy Development – Discussion and Brainstorming

Greg Link, Director
Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services
Administration for Community Living



Virginia Bell
Senior Research Analyst
Civility Management Solutions



Goals

1. Awareness of/outreach to kin and grandparent caregivers;
2. Grandfamily and kinship caregiver engagement;
3. Services and supports for kinship families and grandfamilies;
4. Financial and workplace security for kin and grandparent caregivers; and
5. Research, data, and evidence-supported practices.

Wrap Up & Adjourn

THANK YOU