

# **An Overview of Child Welfare Programs for Temporary Assistance, Child Support and Other Eligibility Staff**

*Tuesday, July 28, 2009*

## **Handout Materials**



**New York State  
Office of  
Children & Family  
Services**

New York State  
Office of Children and Family Services,  
New York State  
Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance,  
and  
PDP Distance Learning Project

**AN OVERVIEW OF CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS  
FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE, CHILD SUPPORT  
AND OTHER ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**July 28, 2009**

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## New York State KINSHIP CAREGIVER PROGRAM

In New York State, it is estimated that more than 140,000 grandparents are raising their grandchildren and over 400,000 children are living in households headed by a grandparent or other relative. This growing trend is reflected nationally as an estimated 6.5 million children live with grandparents or other relatives apart from their birth parents. While these “kinship” caregivers exhibit a wide variety of strengths, they often face a number of challenges in accessing health, education, financial, and legal services for the children in their care.

As a result, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) created the *New York State Kinship Caregiver Program* to assist persons caring for related children. A statewide network of supportive programs is used to promote household stability, well-being, and permanency through services for kinship caregivers and their kin.

Utilizing approximately \$2 million in TANF funds, the *New York State Kinship Caregiver Program* allows programs to deliver a wide range of services that address the multiple needs of caregivers and the children in their care including:

- |              |                     |                      |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Φ Counseling | Φ Legal Information | Φ Support Groups     |
| Φ Respite    | Φ Parenting Skills  | Φ Education Advocacy |
| Φ Housing    | Φ Case Management   | Φ Referrals          |

Thirteen community-based organizations deliver these services to caregivers in 20 counties. Families in “informal” kinship care as well as those that are in a “formal” kinship care placement requiring local district and/or Family Court involvement are eligible for services. It is estimated that 1,000 caregivers as well as 3,850 children have been served throughout 2008.

The New York State Kinship Navigator Program is among the 14 programs funded through OCFS. Developed jointly by OCFS and lead agency Rochester Catholic Family Center, the program is designed to creatively assist kinship caregivers and the children in their care in all counties in gaining access to information and community support services. A caregiver residing in any part of the State is able to utilize a toll-free phone line or website to identify kinship care-related services in their home locale. In 2008, the *NYS Kinship Navigator Program* served 35,445 individuals on their website along with 672 caregivers on their phone line where more detailed kinship services were provided.

Training and technical assistance is provided by OCFS to promote quality programs. In addition, steps are taken to collaborate with state agencies, kinship care coalitions, the legal community, and other stakeholders such as AARP to help develop coherent policies and coordinated services for kinship caregivers throughout New York.

For additional information, please contact the agencies directly through the attached resource list or:

Bob Resnick, OCFS, Project Coordinator	518-402-6775	<a href="mailto:Robert.Resnick@ocfs.state.ny.us">Robert.Resnick@ocfs.state.ny.us</a>
Steve DeJesus, OCFS, Program Manager	518-474-9850	<a href="mailto:Esteban.Dejesus@ocfs.state.ny.us">Esteban.Dejesus@ocfs.state.ny.us</a>



# NYS Kinship Navigator

**Statewide Information and Resources**  
877-4KinInfo (877-454-6463) [www.nysnavigator.org](http://www.nysnavigator.org)

**Grandparents and Relatives Caring for Children:**

- Do you want financial assistance?
- Do you know your rights?
- Are you worried about how to care for a child?
- Are you looking for respite?

**We can tell you about:**

- Kinship Law
- Your Rights
- Financial Assistance
- Special Resources

**Our Kinship Specialists want to help!**

The New York State Kinship Navigator is funded by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to provide a statewide information and referral service for kinship caregivers.

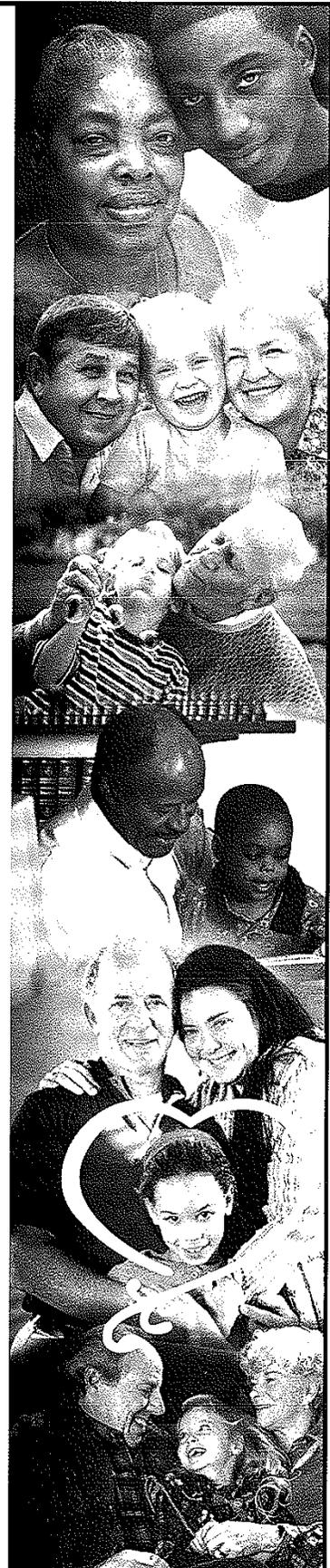
Clip here to keep our contact information handy.



**A Program of Catholic Family Center**



30 N. Clinton Ave ~ Rochester, NY 14604  
Phone: 877-4KinInfo (877-454-6463)  
Fax: 585-454-6286  
[www.nysnavigator.org](http://www.nysnavigator.org)



## KINSHIP CAREGIVER PROGRAM RESOURCE LIST

Organization/Agency	Program Name Location/Counties Served	Contact Name/Address	Service Overview (A sample of services offered)
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Catholic Charities of Buffalo</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Catholic Charities of Buffalo Kinship Caregiver Program</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Located in Erie County Also serves Niagara, Allegany, Chautauqua, and Cattaraugus County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Kate Hacker 716-856-4494 <a href="mailto:kate.hacker@ccwny.org">kate.hacker@ccwny.org</a> 525 Washington St. Buffalo, NY 14203-1796</p>	<p>Utilizes a family intervention model along with services such as outreach, case management, advocacy, and education workshops.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Catholic Charities of Diocese of Rochester, Inc (Catholic Family Center)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kinship Caregiver Resource Network</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Located in Monroe County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jennifer Taylor 585-232-1840 ext. 354 <a href="mailto:jtaylor@cfcrochester.org">jtaylor@cfcrochester.org</a> 30N Clinton Ave Rochester, NY 14604</p>	<p>Utilizes the local Kinship Care Resource Network as a single point of entry to provide case management, legal assistance, counseling, support activities, enriched housing, mentoring, education, and emergency assistance.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Catholic Charities Support Services</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kinship Care</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Located in Albany County Also serves Rensselaer and Schenectady County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jodi Rosa, Program Director <a href="mailto:JodiR@ccalbany.org">JodiR@ccalbany.org</a> or Rene Benson, Exec. Director 518-449-2001 <a href="mailto:ReneeB@ccalbany.org">ReneeB@ccalbany.org</a> 100 Slingerlands St Albany, NY 12202</p>	<p>Provides group and home-based services focusing on case management, counseling, skill development, support groups, therapeutic recreation, and legal counsel on retainer.</p>

Organization/Agency	Program Name Location/Counties Served	Contact Name/Address	Service Overview (A sample of services offered)
<p><b>Child Care Coordinating Council</b></p>	<p><b>Kinship Care Program</b></p> <p>Located in Clinton County Also serves Franklin County</p>	<p>Jamie L. Basiliere, Exec. Director 518-561-4999 <a href="mailto:Jamie@Primelink1.net">Jamie@Primelink1.net</a> 194 US Oval, PO Box 2640 Plattsburgh, NY 12901</p> <p>Nancy Buckpitt, Prog. Director Clinton Co. <a href="mailto:Kepa@primelink1.net">Kepa@primelink1.net</a></p> <p>Denise Skilff, Prog. Director Franklin Co. <a href="mailto:kiskff@adelphia.net">kiskff@adelphia.net</a></p>	<p>Supports coordination with local family resource centers through provisions for respite, support groups, educational programs, and counseling for caregivers and children.</p>
<p><b>Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange Co. Comm Campus</b></p>	<p><b>Hudson Valley Regional RAPP Program</b></p> <p>Located in Orange County Also serves Ulster and Dutchess County</p>	<p>Denyse A. Variano 845-344-1234 <a href="mailto:dav4@cornell.edu">dav4@cornell.edu</a></p> <p>Brenda Reynolds <a href="mailto:Br23@cornell.edu">Br23@cornell.edu</a> Community Campus 18 Seward Ave. Suite 300 Middletown, NY 10940</p>	<p>Expands kinship services through a regional approach that seeks to address Dutchess and Ulster counties as well as Orange. A range of services including case management, referral, legal information, support groups, and counseling is provided.</p>
<p><b>The Family Center</b></p>	<p><b>Family Ties</b></p> <p>Located in New York City Serves all five boroughs</p>	<p>Marya Gilborn 212-766-4522 ext. 114 <a href="mailto:Mgilborn@thefamilycenter.org">Mgilborn@thefamilycenter.org</a> 315 West 36<sup>th</sup> St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10018</p>	<p>Addresses the caregiver needs of children whose parents have died of AIDS or other illnesses. Bilingual and in-home services are provided and may include case management, legal services, support groups, counseling, mediation, and benefit rights.</p>

Organization/Agency	Program Name Location/Counties Served	Contact Name/Address	Service Overview (A sample of services offered)
<p><b>Family Enrichment Network</b></p>	<p><b>Kinship Caregiver Program</b>  Located in Broome County</p>	<p>Deborah Faulks Special Projects Coordinator 607-723-8313 ext. 821 <a href="mailto:dfaulks@familyenrichment.cc">dfaulks@familyenrichment.cc</a> P.O. Box 997 24 Cherry St. Johnson City, NY 13790</p>	<p>Works in tandem with the local Grandparents/Relative Caregiver's Coalition and provides outreach, referral hotline, support groups, counseling, respite, legal rights, and education workshops.</p>
<p><b>Liberty Resources, Inc.</b></p>	<p><b>Kinship Caregiver Program</b>  Located in Oswego County</p>	<p>Marylou Murphy Project Director 315-425-1004 ext. 305 <a href="mailto:Maryloumurphycarini@liberty-resources.org">Maryloumurphycarini@liberty-resources.org</a></p> <p>Donna Carini, Director <a href="mailto:Dcarini@liberty-resources.org">Dcarini@liberty-resources.org</a> 315-425-1004 ext. 221 1065 James Street Syracuse, NY 13203</p> <p>Priscilla Heilveil Program Supervisor <a href="mailto:Pheilveil@liberty-resources.org">Pheilveil@liberty-resources.org</a> 1850 Co RT 57 Fulton, NY 13069</p>	<p>Provides training, therapeutic interventions, case management, non-residential respite, outreach, and a limited wrap-around fund for asset building. The types of service, intensity, and duration are determined through planning meetings between the case manager, child and family, and significant others.</p>

Organization/Agency	Program Name Location/Counties Served	Contact Name/Address	Service Overview (A sample of services offered)
<p><b>Mid-Erie Counseling &amp; Treatment Services</b></p>	<p><b>NYS Kinship Caregiver Program</b></p> <p>Located in Erie County</p>	<p>Diana Kachurka 716-895-7167 ext. 106 <a href="mailto:Kachurka@Mid-Erie.org">Kachurka@Mid-Erie.org</a> 1526 Walden Avenue, Suite 400 Cheektowaga, NY 14225</p>	<p>Located at the Erie County Family Court, the program facilitates referrals directly from the Family Court judges, Erie County Department of Social Services, and the larger community. The team navigates a family through the legal process until their custodial decisions and arrangements have been made.</p>
<p><b>National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights</b></p>	<p><b>Long Island Kincare Connection</b></p> <p>Located in Suffolk County Also serves Nassau County</p>	<p>Brigette Castellano Exec. Director 631-444-3160 (Suffolk) 516-481-1006 (Nassau) <a href="mailto:abcast@optonline.net">abcast@optonline.net</a></p> <p>School of Social Welfare, HSC, L2, Room 093 Stony Brook University Stony Brook, NY 11794-8231</p>	<p>Provides a toll-free phone line along with volunteer caregivers to serve Long Island kinship care families through case management, referral, legal information, support groups, counseling, and family group conferencing.</p>
<p><b>NY Council on Adoptable Children, Inc. (COAC)</b></p>	<p><b>Kinship Connections</b></p> <p>Located in New York City Serves all five boroughs</p>	<p>Joann Buttaro Program Director <a href="mailto:jbuttaro@coac.org">jbuttaro@coac.org</a> 212-475-0222</p> <p>Beatrice Sanchez Program Coordinator <a href="mailto:Bsanchez@Coac.org">Bsanchez@Coac.org</a> 589 Eighth Avenue 15<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10018</p>	<p>Provides in-home family counseling along with case management and a range of support services for kinship caregivers and their families.</p>

Organization/Agency	Program Name Location/Counties Served	Contact Name/Address	Service Overview (A sample of services offered)
<p><b>Presbyterian Senior Services</b></p>	<p><b>PSS Kinship Caregivers Program</b></p> <p>Located in New York City Serves the Bronx and Manhattan</p>	<p>Katherine Martinez 718-620-1262 ext. 1211 <a href="mailto:Kmartinez@pssusa.org">Kmartinez@pssusa.org</a></p> <p>Michelle Chapple <a href="mailto:Mchapple@pssusa.org">Mchapple@pssusa.org</a> 2095 Broadway, New York, NY 10023 (Billing)</p>	<p>Located in a recently created Grandparent Family Apartment building specifically designed to meet the needs of kinship families, this program provides a range of on-site services including case management, legal assistance, support groups, counseling, and after-school enrichment.</p>
<p><b>Volunteer Counseling Services of Rockland (VCS)</b></p>	<p><b>Enhanced Relatives as Parents Program</b></p> <p>Located in Rockland County</p>	<p>Deborah Murnion, <a href="mailto:Dmurnion@VCS-inc.org">Dmurnion@VCS-inc.org</a></p> <p>Rosa Serrano-delgado rserranodelgado@vcs-inc.org 845-634-5729 77 South Main Street New City, NY 10956</p>	<p>The program provides information, referrals, and support groups for the kinship caregivers. Strong emphasis on respite services. Advocacy and supportive services are provided to successfully retain their kin until they can safely return to their parents.</p>
<p><b>Kinship Navigator Program Catholic Family Center</b></p>	<p><b>Kinship Navigator Program</b></p> <p>Located in Monroe County Serves all New York State caregivers</p>	<p>Gerry Wallace <a href="mailto:gwallace@cfcrochester.org">gwallace@cfcrochester.org</a> 30N Clinton Ave Rochester, NY 14604</p>	<p>Assists kinship caregivers and children in their care in gaining access to information and community support services. Any caregiver residing in the State is able to utilize a toll-free phone line or website to identify kinship care-related services in their home locale. In addition, kinship specialists are available to assess caregiver needs and develop a plan of action.</p> <p><a href="tel:1-877-454-6463">1-877-454-6463 (toll free)</a>    <a href="http://www.nysnavigator.org">www.nysnavigator.org</a></p>

## HAVING A VOICE AND A CHOICE: A Handbook for Relatives Raising Children

This handbook can be downloaded at the following web addresses:

OCFS website:

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/Pub5080.pdf>

OTDA website:

<http://www.otda.state.ny.us/main/publications/4957.pdf>

