SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP

(grandfamiliesutah.org) provides free programs and resources to those caring for grandchildren or other relatives. Programs include classes for caregivers, monthly support groups, and therapeutic counseling services.

(utahfostercare.org, 1-877-505-KIDS) provides initial training for licensed Resource Families, specific training on child development, grief and loss, and strategies for meeting children's special needs, and continued training and support as part of the Resource

(careaboutchildcare.utah.gov)information about daycare providers in

(helpmegrowutah.org, 801-691-5322) provides parents and caregivers a personal care coordinator who connects families to resources for children ages 0-8.

(uw.org/211, or dial 211) is a statewide information and referral line that connects individuals and families to services and resources such as housing, food, childcare, transportation, financial assistance, and more.

Annie E. Casey Foundation - Kinship
The National Resource Center for
Permanency and Family Connections:

Utah Values Kinship Care

"What we have found is that when birth parents cannot care for a child, relatives can offer an existing relationship and connection to his identity and culture, making an eventual return home easier. As a result, we see rates of positive experiences are highest for children who live with kin..."

ROBERT GEEN, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

FACTS ABOUT Kinship Care IN UTAH

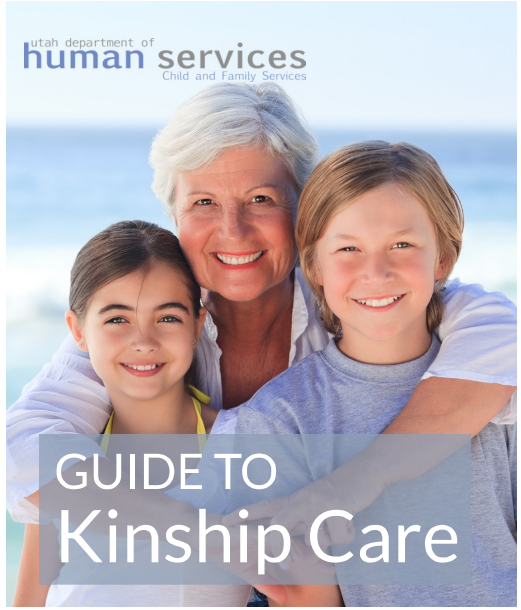
1 in 10

Utah children (82,820*) live in households headed by grandparents or other relatives.

*2010 US Census Data

40%

In 2015, 40% of Utah children resided with grandparents, other relatives or friends/ extended relatives while in foster care.



The first priority of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is to maintain children at home with their family when safely possible. If a child cannot safely remain at home, the best option is placement in the home of someone familiar to the child– a **Kinship Caregiver**.

A Kinship Caregiver is a relative or friend who is willing to meet all of the child's needs, including working with the child's parents or guardian so they can return home, or providing a permanent home for the child in the event that they cannot return home.

When a child can stay within their community and culture, the trauma of removal is lessened, and outcomes for the child and family improve. This is why Kinship and Kinship Caregivers are so important to Utah children and families.

ABOUT KINSHIP CARE

Who can provide kinship care for a child

the child's grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, great-aunts, uncle, great-uncle, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepparent, first cousin, stepsibling, sibling, parent's first cousins, and adults who are the adoptive parents of the child's sibling. For an Indian child,relative also includes an "extended family member" as defined by the Indian Child Welfare Act

If relatives are not available, an adult identified by the parent whom the child knows and is comfortable with will

Once DCFS becomes involved, the juvenile court determines whether a child will return to his or her parent/guardians, be placed in temporary custody with relatives, or remain in state custody to be placed with

Steps to Becoming a Licensed Resource Family

To become a Licensed Resource Family (foster family home) for a specific relative/friend child, you must complete the following:

- Participate in the child's family team where ongoing decisions regarding the child's placement will be made.
- Complete licensing requirements to become a Kinship Caregiver including a background check and home study.
- If approved by the Office of Licensing, you will receive a five month **provisional** license. A provisional license may allow the child to stay in your home while you complete additional requirements for full licensure.
- After you receive your provisional license, you must complete Kinship Foster Parent Training.
- If all the requirements for licensure are completed within 5 months of the time you receive your provisional license, you will be officially licensed as a Resource Family (foster home) specifically for this child.

Things to Know About Kinship Care

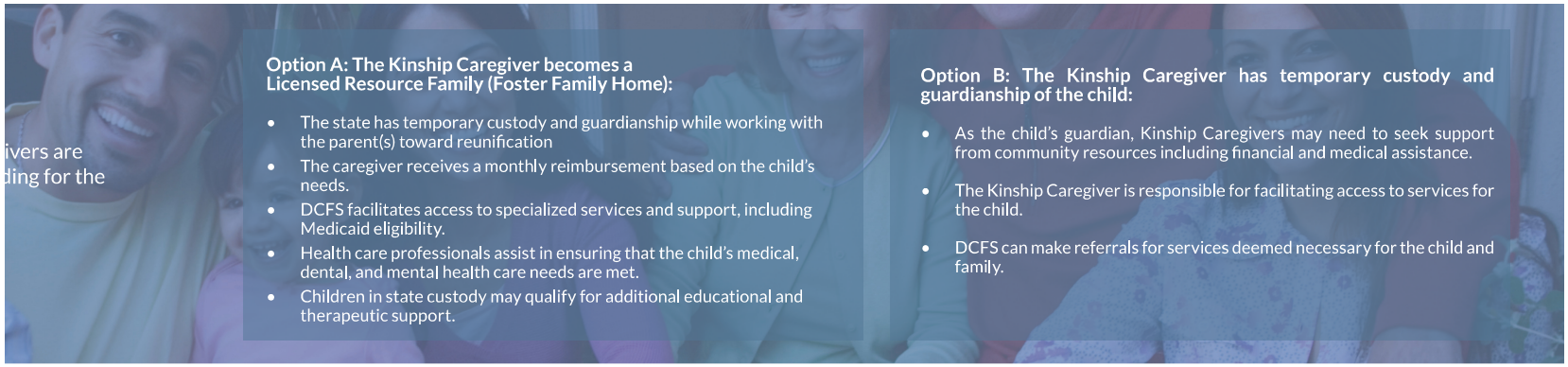
- Placement of a child during a protective services investigation does not guarantee the child will remain with that caregiver if another living arrangement is in the child's best interest.
- Relatives who establish themselves as a resource to the child within 120 days of the removal will be considered preferred potential caregivers.
- A background check is required for any person in the household 18 years or older.
- The home will need to pass a safety inspection.
- Kinship is involved with the family team in making decisions about the needs of the child, including placement.
- Most children return to their parents' or guardian's care within 12 months, however, a Kinship Caregiver may be asked to consider adoption or permanent custody and guardianship of the child if the child cannot safely return home.

Are You Ready to Become a Kinship Caregiver?

To assess your readiness and determine how you will be involved with the child and their family, it is critical to first understand the needs of the child and family to assess your capacity to fulfill those needs.

Questions to consider:

- What is my relationship with the child's parent/guardians?
- Will I have family support?
- How will this impact my own children and spouse?
- Do I understand the circumstances surrounding this child's removal?
- How will this affect my relationship with the child's parents/guardian and extended families?
- Will I be able to set limits with the parent/guardian?
- Will I be able to let this child go back home when the time comes?
- Will I be able to offer this child a permanent home if necessary?
- Can I commit the time and energy toward the goal for this child to have a permanent home?
- Will I need financial assistance?
- Will I need assistance to meet the medical, dental, or emotional health needs of this child?



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Option A: The Kinship Caregiver becomes a Licensed Resource Family (Foster Family Home):

- The state has temporary custody and guardianship while working with the parent(s) toward reunification
- The caregiver receives a monthly reimbursement based on the child's needs.
- DCFS facilitates access to specialized services and support, including Medicaid eligibility.
- Health care professionals assist in ensuring that the child's medical, dental, and mental health care needs are met.
- Children in state custody may qualify for additional educational and therapeutic support.

Option B: The Kinship Caregiver has temporary custody and guardianship of the child:

- As the child's guardian, Kinship Caregivers may need to seek support from community resources including financial and medical assistance.
- The Kinship Caregiver is responsible for facilitating access to services for the child.
- DCFS can make referrals for services deemed necessary for the child and family.