Family values in Kentucky are more than just talk.

All children deserve a safe and nurturing place to call home.

Sometimes children are unable to stay in their home with their parents for a variety of reasons:

- Parental death
- Parental substance abuse
- Military deployment
- Abuse and neglect
- Parental physical or mental health issues
- Parental disability

During these difficult times grandparents and other relatives often step up to provide care for these children, known as kinship care.

Kinship care is good for children.

Research shows that children raised in kinship care:

- Keep ties to family
- Experience less trauma at parental separation
- Have fewer educational disruptions
- Have fewer behavioral problems

How many Kentucky children are being raised by kin?

6% of Kentucky children are raised in kinship care; no state has a higher rate.

59,000 children raised by kinship caregivers.

The majority of children in kinship care are being raised by their grandparents.

What do we know about Kentucky children who are being raised by their grandparents?

More than 1 in 3 (37%) is under age 6 and potentially needs child care.

Lower median family income $40,600 compared to $52,000.

The racial and ethnic composition of children being raised by grandparents is similar to that of the overall child population.

- White, non-Hispanic: 80%
- Hispanic/Latino: 5.5%
- African American: 9%
- Two or more races: 4.4%

More likely to receive public assistance 54% compared to 33%.
WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT KENTUCKY GRANDPARENTS WHO ARE RAISING GRANDCHILDREN?

MORE THAN FIVE YEARS
• $186/Month, For One Child***

16% INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENTS
KINSHIP CARE
FOSTER CARE (ALL TYPES)
HAVE PROVIDED
75% FOSTER CARE WITH UNRELATED CAREGIVERS

WHAT SUPPORTS ARE CHILDREN AND THEIR CAREGIVERS AUTOMATICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR REGARDLESS OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME?

DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH THEY EARN, KINSHIP FAMILIES MIGHT RECEIVE:
• Medicaid/KCHIP
• child care assistance
• SNAP, WIC (food assistance)
• free/reduced school lunch
• help with start-up costs

Prior to 2013 budget cuts, children who were removed from their homes and placed with relatives as an alternative to foster care through the Kinship Care Program received $300 per month, per child.

HOW CAN WE BETTER SUPPORT KINSHIP FAMILIES?

COMMUNITY EFFORTS
• Develop PEER SUPPORT GROUPS
• Encourage local businesses and organizations to POOL RESOURCES TO HELP KINSHIP FAMILIES
• Offer to PROVIDE OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS when they need a break
• Advocate for INCREASED SUPPORTS FOR KINSHIP FAMILIES

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
• LIFT THE MORATORIUM on the Kentucky Kinship Care Program so that more kinship caregivers can get the financial support they need to raise children
• Increase supports for children being raised in kinship care to MATCH THE LEVEL OF SUPPORTS PROVIDED TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
• ENSURE KINSHIP FAMILIES receive full, written disclosure of the available services and supports, legal options, and how to access the courts to ensure safety, permanency and well-being for the child

SOURCES
2 Annie E. Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT Data Center, Children in Kinship Care, 2011-2012.
3 Ibid.
4 Annie E. Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT Data Center, Grandchildren in the Care of Grandparents, 2013.
5 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates. Rates calculated by dividing grandchilders under 18 years living with a grandparent householder who has responsibility for the grandchild (Table B09005) by children under 18 years in households (Table B09005). Only Kentucky counties are included in the KIPDA percentage.
6 2013 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates.
7 Ibid.
8 Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky Kinship Care: Recipients and Payments, CY 2013.
9 Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Children in Out-of-Home Care, CY 2013.
10 Kentucky Administrative Regulations, Title 92, Chapter 1, Numbers 130, 140, and 350; Title 921, Chapter 2, Number 016.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT:
• www.kinshipky.org
• @kinshipky
• 888-825-5592

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