

Bridging Systems for Kinship Families San Diego

Promotion Campaign Toolkit

**GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP
SUPPORT NETWORK**
A National Technical Assistance Center



Introduction

This promotion toolkit is designed for community organizations and service providers within San Diego County. Through this toolkit, we collectively seek to:

- raise awareness about kinship families,
- reach new kinship caregivers, and
- educate the community about the resources, services, and support available to the families.

This toolkit was created by a group working to “Bridge Systems for Kinship Families” in San Diego County. The group includes kinship caregivers, representatives of multiple County agencies and community-based organizations, and staff and partners of the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network, the only federally supported national technical assistance center on the families.

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Script for Talking with Kinship Caregivers



Are you a kinship caregiver?

If you're raising a grandchild, niece/nephew, sibling, cousin, godchild, neighbor, friend's child, friend of your child, or child you taught or coached, you're a kinship caregiver.

Your kinship family is not alone. There are thousands of kinship families in San Diego County and many agencies and organizations that want to help support you and the children you are raising.

Visit: LiveWellSD.org/Kinship

Call: 877-YMCA-4-KIN (877-9622-4-546)

Email: kinshipyfs@ymcasd.org

Script for Talking with Professionals and the Broader Community

Thousands of kinship caregivers raise grandchildren, other relatives, and close family friends throughout San Diego County.

They've stepped into this role because the parents are no longer able to raise the children. The parents may have died, or they may be unable to parent because they have substance use disorder, are in prison, have been deployed in the military, or were deported or detained. The circumstances that lead to the formation of kinship families can happen to any family, regardless of age, race, wealth, or education.

Unlike parents - who have automatic legal rights and responsibilities for their children - kinship caregivers do not. They have stepped up to raise the children, often at a moment's notice and during a crisis. As of that moment, they need authority to make decisions for the child, like enrolling them in school, and often need a court to grant a legal relationship - all of which takes time and money. Even with a legal relationship, the practical issues can be overwhelming. Like - where will the child sleep?

Despite these challenges, decades of research prove that children thrive with loving kin. Kinship caregivers keep children connected to their culture, identity, and family.

Help us spread the word about kinship families and services available in San Diego County to help them thrive.

Visit: [LiveWellSD.org/Kinship](https://www.livewellsd.org/Kinship)

Call: 877-YMCA-4-KIN (877-9622-4-546)

Email: kinshipyfs@ymcasd.org

Key Kinship Resources

We have prepared several key kinship resources for the San Diego community. Learn more about these resources on the following pages.

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Key Kinship Resources

Central Kinship Website



We're proud to announce our new single-point entry hub for kinship families, which connects to many community resources, including 2-1-1 and the YMCA Kinship Navigator Program. Created by an array of County partners, with support from the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center, the new hub will be useful to both kinship families and those who serve them.

Use the URL LiveWellSD.org/Kinship to access this site.

Key Kinship Resources

Road Map

KINSHIP ROAD MAP

Are you raising your grandchild, another family member's child, or a close family friend's child? This roadmap will guide you step by step through this new journey. Check the back for resources to help you along the way.

Step 01

Establish Care

If possible, work with the child's parents to get important information and documents. You will need the child's Social Security number. Get a "power of attorney" signed by the parents that spells out your role. If the parents are absent, complete a "caregiver's authorization affidavit."

* If the child was placed with you by the County's Child and Family Well Being Department (CFWB), work with your case worker. They can help you get Resource Family Approval to care for your kinship child.

Step 02

Address Basic Needs

Schedule health checkups, enroll the child in school, and connect with community resources. Consider applying for benefits such as Medi-Cal, CalFresh, WIC, CalWORKS child-only or family grants, and childcare subsidies.

* If the child was placed with you by CFWB, work with your caseworker on the child's health and education needs. Your caseworker can help you get resources such as foster care payments, child care, and more.

Step 03

Secure Other Support

Consider joining a caregiver support group for advice and emotional help. If needed for the child, get counseling and/or help for developmental needs.

* If the child was placed with you by CFWB, your case worker can help connect you to services for you and the child.

Step 04

Consider Permanent Legal Options

Consider options, like adoption or guardianship, for creating a legally permanent family.

* If the child was placed with you by CFWB and can't go back to their parents, think about adoption or guardianship. These are your legal options for leaving foster care with the child. Adoption assistance and KinGAP are possible financial supports for those leaving foster care.

Resources

ROAD MAP RESOURCES

County of San Diego GRG (211) – Connect with local resources and support for kinship caregivers in San Diego – https://211.my.site.com/s/?targetpop=YK-6500_3600

YMCA Kinship Support – Connect with a kinship navigator who can help you find tailored resources. They can help you join a kinship support group near you – <http://shorturl.at/ttZLa>, call 877-YMCA-4-KIN (877-9622-4-546) or email kinshipyfs@ymcasd.org

<div>Establish Care</div> <p>Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit to obtain the authority to enroll the child in school and get medical care – www4.courts.ca.gov/documents/caregiver.pdf</p> <p>Power of Attorney form – https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/guardianship/other-options</p>	<div>Address Basic Needs</div> <p>BenefitsCal – Information on applying for CalFresh, CalWORKS child-only or family grants, Medi-CAL, WIC, and other programs – https://benefitscal.com/</p> <p>Childcare eligibility information – https://childcaresandiego.com/</p> <p>Feeding San Diego – Locate food banks – https://feedingsandiego.org/</p>
<div>Secure Other Support</div> <p>San Diego Access & Crisis Line - Immediate help from experienced and multi-lingual counselors – (888) 724-7240</p> <p>Project KEEP – Support groups and training – https://shorturl.at/QvqH0</p> <p>FAKCE/Grossmont College – Training for kinship caregivers – https://fakce.org</p> <p>San Diego Regional Center – Support for children with developmental disabilities – http://www.sdrcc.org/</p> <p>To learn more, scan the QR code with your phone</p>	<div>Consider Permanent Legal Options</div> <p>Information on obtaining guardianship through probate court – https://sdcourts.ca.gov/sdcourt/probate2/guardianship AND https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/guardianship</p> <p>San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program – (619) 235-5656 – https://sdvlp.org/</p> <p>Information on adoption – https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/independent-adoption</p> <p>Chart for kinship resource families that compares guardianship and adoption. It also shows differences in financial support for each – https://shorturl.at/CbaP3</p>

Produced in partnership with the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center; for more information, visit www.GKSNetwork.org

GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK
A National Technical Assistance Center

The Road Map is a new flier designed for kinship families.

It is available in both English and Spanish.

The Road Map has 4 practical steps with website links and contact information for local organizations that can help grandparents and other kin on their caregiving journey. It was created by an array of County partners and community organizations.

Please share it widely.

Key Kinship Resources

2-1-1 Tailored Resources for Kinship Families



We're pleased to roll out an updated 2-1-1 resource directory for kinship families. This directory, linked from our new County website hub at LiveWellSD.org/Kinship, contains information on organizations and agencies that are ready to serve kinship families.

The direct link is <https://211.my.site.com/s/?targetpop=YK-6500.3600>.

Key Kinship Resources

YMCA Kinship Support



The YMCA of San Diego County has a long-standing Kinship Support Program that can help connect families with resources tailored to their needs. They offer navigation and case management, support groups, respite care, emergency funds, and family events. Their goal is to make sure caregivers have the resources and support needed for the kinship children in their care.

Visit: <http://shorturl.at/tlZLa>

Call: 877-YMCA-4-KIN (877-9622-4-546)

Email: kinshipyfs@ymcasd.org

Key Kinship Resources

Video



This two-minute video provides an overview of kinship families and the challenges they face. It features our new website hub at LiveWellSD.org/Kinship, which includes information to help you support the families. Please widely share this video to raise awareness of kinship families and what we're doing in San Diego County to help them.

Access the video under the "September is National Kinship Care Month" heading on the kinship families website hub linked above.

Presentations for Community Gatherings



Want to learn more about kinship families and the programs and resources available to support them? [Request a presentation today!](#)

The Kinship Speaker's Bureau offers informative presentations designed to raise awareness about kinship caregiving, the unique needs of relative caregivers, and the services available throughout San Diego County. A kinship caregiver is an individual—such as a grandparent, aunt, uncle, older sibling, or family friend—who is raising a relative or non-relative child, either formally within the foster care system or informally outside of it and may access support through various programs across San Diego.

Whether you're part of a community group, school, faith-based organization, or service provider, we invite you to complete this form to request a presentation tailored to your audience.

Presentations are typically one hour and include:

- An overview of what a kinship family is
- Data on grandparents and other relatives raising children
- Information on local programs supporting kinship caregivers (e.g., parenting classes, support groups, kinship navigation, and more)

Celebrating National Kinship Care Month

The following pages contain newsletter language and virtual backgrounds to help San Diegans celebrate National Kinship Care Month this September. For additional language and resources, see the national toolkit at www.gksnetwork.org/kinship-month-2025/.

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Celebrating National Kinship Care Month

Newsletter Language

Do you have a newsletter being distributed before September 30? Share this!

About 2.5 million children in the U.S. are growing up in kinship families—being raised by grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends when their parents cannot care for them. These kinship families provide stability, love, and cultural connection, but too often, they do so without the recognition or support they deserve.

This National Kinship Care Month, we're raising awareness, listening to kinship caregivers, and committing to work alongside them to build stronger systems of support—this month and beyond. Right here in San Diego County, agencies, organizations, and kinship caregivers have been working together to “Bridge Systems for Kinship Families.” If you're a kinship caregiver or are looking for information and resources to help support them, visit LiveWellSD.org/Kinship.

📣 Join the movement. Use #KinshipMonth2025 to help elevate the voices and experiences of kinship families.

Celebrating National Kinship Care Month

Virtual Backgrounds



[Download Virtual Background 1](#)



[Download Virtual Background 2](#)

Thank you for helping us spread the word about kinship families and supports for them in San Diego!

The Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center (Network) helps government agencies and nonprofits in states, tribes, and territories work across jurisdictional and systemic boundaries to improve supports and services for families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children whose parents are unable to do so. For more information, please visit www.GKSNetwork.org.

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San Diego County applied for and was selected to participate in Bridging Systems for Kinship Families, a two-year initiative of the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center that brings together professionals from multiple County agencies and organizations to improve collaboration, coordination, and supports for kinship families.

