

Joint Meeting of the RAISE Family Caregiving and Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Advisory Councils

September 21, 2022

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at the bottom of your screen.



Welcome and Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Agenda Overview

- Introduction of the Secretary of HHS- Alison Barkoff, ACL
- Opening Remarks- Honorable Secretary Becerra
- Presentation of the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers- Panel
- Break
- Council Member Reflection and Discussion
- Tools for Implementation and Technical Assistance- Panel
- Remarks from the White House Domestic Policy Council
- Acknowledgment of Outgoing Council Members
- Next Steps & Adjourn

Presentation of the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers

DR. CASEY SHILLAM

**The National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers:
Background and Overview**




The Bottom Line

Because family caregiving is, or will be, an issue that touches nearly every one of us in some way, support for the nation's family, grandparent and kinship caregivers, will require a coordinated, "all-hands-on-deck" approach.

The National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers
being released today is the first step in that endeavor.



A Snapshot of Family Caregivers


- Nearly 53 million adults
 - Approximately 2.7 million known grandparent caregivers
 - Unknown numbers of kin, youth, and other populations of family caregivers
 - Family caregivers are
 - Predominantly female (60%)
 - Spouses and partners
 - Parents and siblings
 - Grandparents and other relatives
 - Children and youth
- 

A Snapshot of Family Caregivers

Family Caregiving in Context


- High value and high cost
- Can include simple tasks to complex medical care
- Culturally and racially diverse
- Inequitably recognized and supported
- Incomplete data

Family Caregiver Experiences


- Numerous financial and legal barriers
 - Physical and emotional strain
 - Insufficient access to information and training
 - Interrupted child and young adulthoods
 - Risk of isolation
- 

How the Advisory Councils Defined “Family Caregivers”


“**Family caregivers**” include people of all ages, from youth to grandparents; people with and without disabilities; people providing care from a distance; and people meeting a wide variety of needs, such as supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) across the lifespan, caring for people with serious and/or progressive illnesses like dementia and cancer, and assisting with daily tasks that can be challenging for older people and people with disabilities. The term also recognizes that a single person may receive care from multiple family caregivers.




Five Truths

- Family Caregiving is a public health issue and caregivers deserve recognition
 - Family Caregiving is complex, and caregivers need assistance
 - Including family caregivers adds value to systems, processes, and teams of care
 - Supporting family caregivers is a crucial component of reducing care costs
 - Meaningful change requires intentionally engaging family caregivers in systems change
- 

Strategy Components

- National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers: Narrative (organized around goals, outcomes and indicators of success)
 - National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers: Federal Actions
 - National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers: Actions for States, Communities, and Others
 - First Principles: Cross-Cutting Considerations for Family Caregiver Support
- 

Councils' Vision for the Strategy and Family Caregivers


- The Strategy is a significant milestone in the national effort to improve the way we support family caregivers, but it also is only the beginning.
 - The strategy is a living and evolving document that will:
 - Help the nation better understand and recognize the important role ALL family caregivers play
 - Lay the groundwork to enable family caregivers to more easily access needed services and supports, without barriers or judgement
 - Create opportunities for family caregivers to maintain their health, wellness, and vitality; and
 - Ensure that the people receiving support maintain their autonomy, independence, and right to self-determination.
- 

JAIA LENT


The National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers:
A Vehicle for Action and Advocacy




Legislative Milestones in Family Caregiver Support

- Legislative actions
 - National Family Caregiver Support Program/Native American Caregiver Support Program (2000)
 - VA Caregiver Support Program
 - Lifespan Respite Program (2006)
 - RAISE Family Caregivers Act of 2017
 - 2018 Family First Prevention Services Act
 - Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act (2018)
 - National TA Center on Kinship and Grandfamilies (2021)
- 


Purpose of the Strategy

- Better align cross sector responses
 - Foster and facilitate collaboration
 - Optimize recognition and support of family caregivers
 - Advance equity
 - Ensure family-centered and trauma-informed approaches
- 


Many Audiences & Intended Users

- States, tribes, and communities
 - Community-based providers of long-term services and supports
 - Child welfare agencies
 - Health care systems
 - Business leaders and employers
 - Communities of faith/faith-based organizations
 - National, state, regional and local philanthropic organizations and funders
 - Academic institutions and researchers
 - Advocates, family caregivers, care recipients, advocates, and the public
- 

A Driver for Legislative and Policy Change

- Caregiver support and infrastructure development planning
 - Funding streams and funding levels
 - More universal adoption of caregiver assessments
 - Expansion of LTSS options to include family caregivers
 - Strengthen the direct care workforce
 - Address the issues impacting family caregivers, including:
 - Expand availability of services and supports in key benefit programs
 - Employment and employer concerns
 - Negative financial impacts
- 

What the Strategy is and is Not

- It is a vision and roadmap for meaningful change; not a timeline or “how to” document
 - It provides a baseline for action and progress; not requirements or “musts”
 - It offers strategies for many stakeholder groups; it is not exhaustive or final
 - It is the first National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers; not the last
- 

DR. ETHLYN McQUEEN-GIBSON


Kinship and Grandfamilies:
Addressing their Unique Needs and Circumstances




Kin and Grandparent Caregivers

- Approximately 2.7 million children in grandparent-headed households
 - Limited data on kin caregivers
 - “Inside” and “outside” the system
 - Often lack access to traditional services and supports
- Kin and grandparent caregivers are:
 - Shapers of development, identity, and values
 - Sources of security, belonging, and resilience
 - Providers of support, knowledge, and unconditional love


Unique Needs and Considerations

- Keeping children with their families when their parents are unable to care for them, should be the goal of any social service system
 - Kin and grandparent caregivers experience significant stigma
 - Child welfare systems do not recognize grandparent caregivers in the same way they recognize foster families
 - Kin and grandparent caregivers face barriers to inclusion in the child's education and health care (for multiple reasons)
 - Many kinship families and grandfamilies formed in the wake of trauma
 - Trauma informed is essential to the healthy development of the whole family
 - Support is limited.
 - Adverse Childhood Experiences
- 

Federal Actions within the Strategy

- New SGRG Advisory Council (ACL)
 - Inclusion in Electronic Health Records (IHS)
 - Expansion of elder justice resources to include kin and grandparent caregivers (ACL)
 - Identify prevalence (and understand the needs of) kin and grandparent caregivers in existing volunteer networks (AmeriCorps)
 - Expanded case management (SAMHSA)
 - Sharing data related to quality measures to benefit kin and grandparent caregivers in Indian Country (ACF)
- 

Suggested Actions for States, Communities and Others

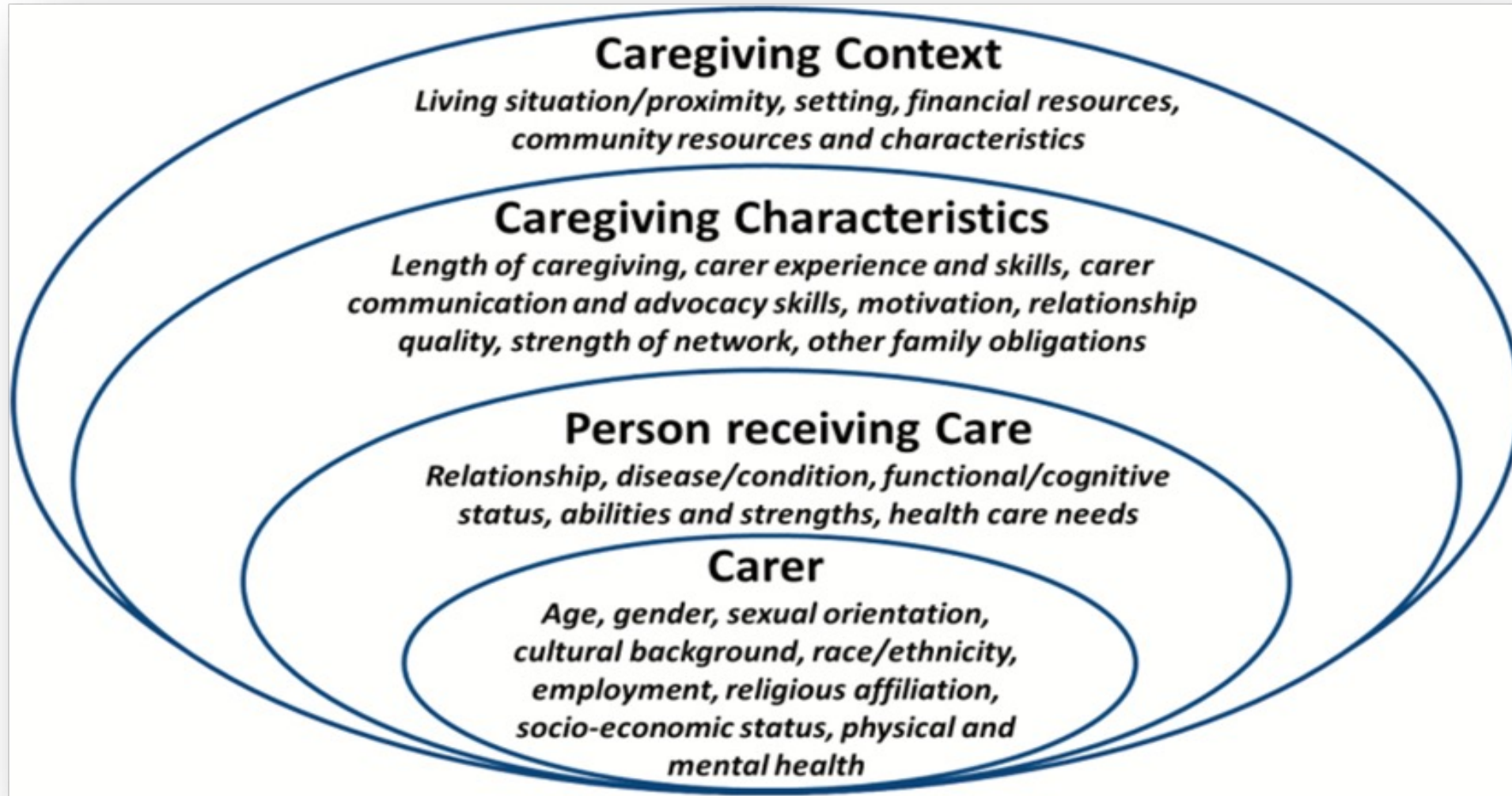
- Improved outreach and engagement
 - Use of inclusive languages that recognizes that kinship families and grandfamilies are, in fact, families
 - Adoption of widest possible definition of family when determining service eligibility
 - Increase in partnerships that can boost access to legal services
 - Training programs designed specifically for kin and grandparent caregivers
 - Increased training of professionals in topics such as mental health, trauma, and substance use disorders
- 

NANCY MURRAY


First Principles: Cross Cutting Considerations




Family Caregiving is Multilayered




Cross-Cutting Considerations in Family Caregiver Supports

- Placing the family and person at the center of all interactions
 - Addressing trauma and its impact on families
 - Advancing equity for families in underserved communities
 - Elevating direct care workers as partners in family caregiving
- 

Person- and Family-Centered Care


- Family- and person-centered approaches:
 - Treat people as individuals
 - Allow for the investment of time in finding out what is important to them
 - Caregivers are often overlooked in clinical and social service settings.
 - A person-centered approach that supports families and family caregivers creates a pathway to plans of care that built to balance the needs and preferences of both caregiver and care recipient.
 - Person- and family-centered support programs should:
 - Strengths-based, culturally informed,
 - Cultivate connections to both professional and unpaid (informal) supports
 - Prioritize rights, choice, and control for both care receiver and caregiver
 - Drive partnership, teamwork, communication, and facilitation
 - Include documentation, implementation, and monitoring
- 

Trauma: An Invisible Influence on Caregiving

- SAMHSA describes individual trauma as an event or circumstance resulting in physical, emotional, and/or life-threatening harm
 - The event or circumstance has lasting adverse effects on the individual's:
 - mental health
 - physical health
 - emotional health
 - social well-being
 - and/or spiritual well-being
 - Estimated 90% of Americans have been exposed to a traumatic event
 - Trauma changes how people respond to situations and circumstances
 - Children in kinship families and grandfamilies
 - Dementia care
 - Support for family caregivers must include strategies that create safe environments where the effects of trauma are recognized and understood.
- 

Need for Greater Equity and Support for Family Caregivers in Underserved Communities


Caregiving affects all families—but it does not affect every family equally; significant disparities and inequities exist in family caregiving.

- **American Indian/Alaska Native/Native caregivers** may not self-identify and may not seek assistance when they need it.
 - **Asian American and Pacific Islander caregivers:** 50 unique ethnicities, 100 different languages, many of which have differing perspectives on caregiving.
 - **Black and African American caregivers** provide more intensive care than White caregivers contributing to greater financial consequences.
 - **Caregiving youth** miss school and social/developmental opportunities, but there are few resources that acknowledge them.
 - **Hispanic/Latino caregivers** are more likely to be the sole caregivers for their loved ones.
 - **Kin and grandparent caregivers** open their homes to children who cannot stay with parents, yet few receive financial assistance.
 - **LGBTQIA+ caregivers** are more likely to become caregivers at a younger age and across multiple situations increasing risk of long-term financial challenges and burnout.
- 

Strengthening the Direct Care Workforce

“Family caregivers are the backbone of the caregiving workforce; hired caregivers are the connective tissues that keep the family together.”

-James Murtha, RAISE council member

- Family caregivers need access to a ready and well-qualified direct care workforce
 - Better pay
 - 2020 median hourly wage: \$12.98
 - Improved working conditions
 - Training, and
 - Improved career pathways
 - Nearly 90% of direct care workers (DCWs) are women
 - 3 in 5 are people of color, 1 in 3 are immigrants to the U.S.
 - More than half rely on some form of public assistance.
- 

DR. ALAN STEVENS


A Whole of Society Approach:
Actions for States, Communities, and Others




The Value of Partnerships

- The John A. Hartford Foundation
 - History of supporting ACL's efforts
 - Projects of national scope
 - Collaborated with ACL to develop concept for the RAISE Resource and Dissemination Center at NASHP
- National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP)
 - National Alliance for Caregiving
 - LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston
 - Community Catalyst
- Resources for Implementation
 - [The RAISE Family Caregiver Resource and Dissemination Center](#)

Extensive Public Engagement

- 2019: Two Requests for Information (RFI)
 - 2020: 13 Focus Groups/80 participants
 - 2020: Stakeholder listening sessions
 - 2021: 17 Key informant interviews and 22 listening sessions with 145 stakeholder organizations:
 - State and local entities
 - Employers of all sizes and unions
 - Health and LTSS providers
 - Respite and community-based organizations
 - Faith-based
 - Philanthropies
- 

Actions for States, Communities and Others

- Increasing awareness and recognition
 - Caregiver inclusion on health care teams
 - Increased use of caregiver assessment tools
 - Training of professionals
 - Care transitions and care coordination
 - Service expansion
 - Emergency planning
 - Strengthening the direct care workforce
 - Financial planning and tax policies
 - Employment protections, workplace and leave policies
 - Research topics for future consideration
- 



Break

Council Member Reflection and Discussion

Lori Stalbaum
Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services
Administration for Community Living

Reflection and Discussion

1. For you personally, what are the one or two standout features of this initial strategy?
2. What do you hope is the intended outcome for the sectors addressed by the strategy?
3. As you look back, what do you hope will be your legacy from this work?

Tools for Implementation and Technical Assistance



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*Release of the 2022 National Strategy to
Support Family Caregivers*

Collaboration to RAISE Up Family Caregivers



September 21, 2022

Rani E. Snyder, MPA
Vice President, Program
The John A. Hartford Foundation



The
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A private philanthropy
based in New York City,
established by family
owners of the A&P
grocery chain in 1929



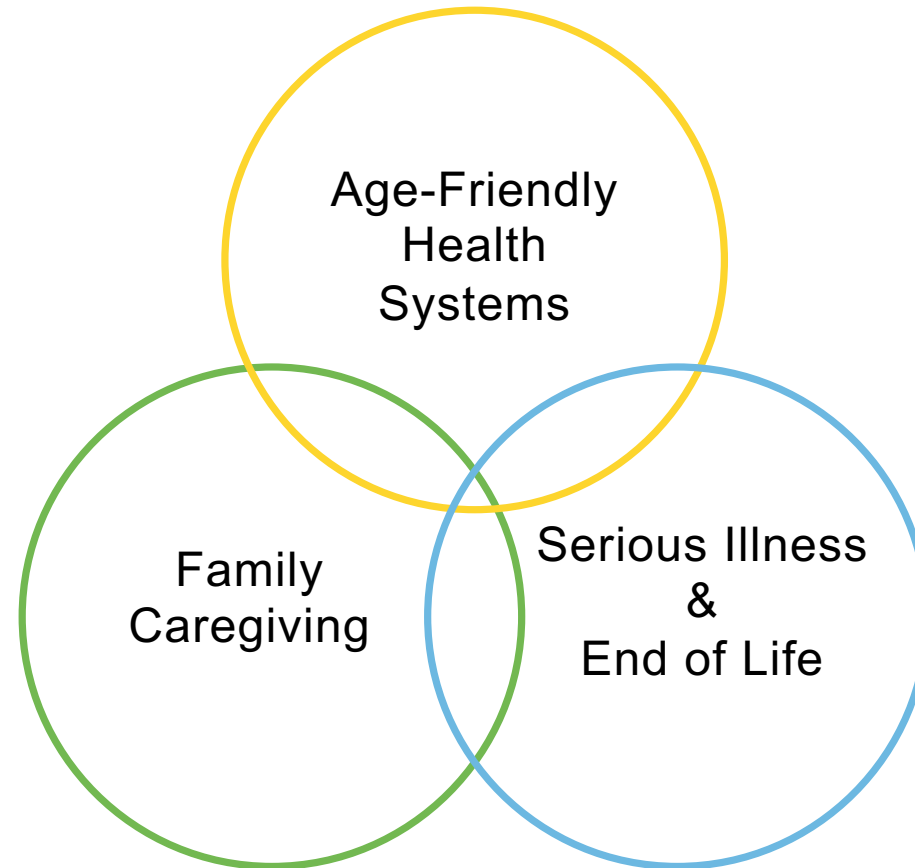
Mission & Priorities



The
John A. Hartford
Foundation

DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE CARE OF OLDER ADULTS

PRIORITY AREAS





Our Funding Priorities

- Improving the ability of health systems and providers to identify, assess, and support family caregivers
- Raising awareness among policymakers, health system leaders, funders, and the public about need for caregiver support
- Creating large-scale change in partnership with national efforts



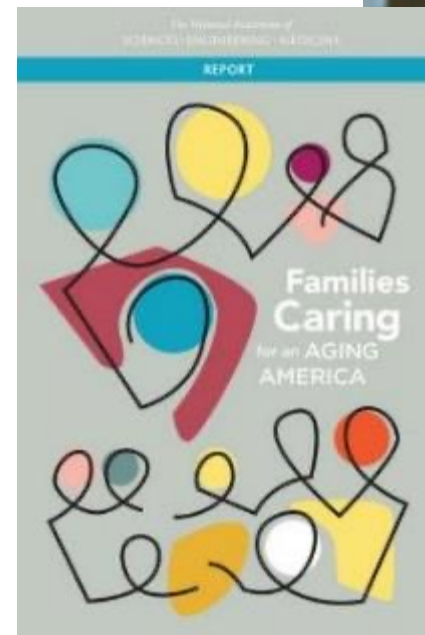
Families Caring for an Aging America (2016)



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- Focus needs to be on person- and family-centered care
- Support of family caregivers needs to be an integral part of the nation's responsibility for caring for older adults
- 4 recommendations, one of which calls for a **national family caregiver strategy**

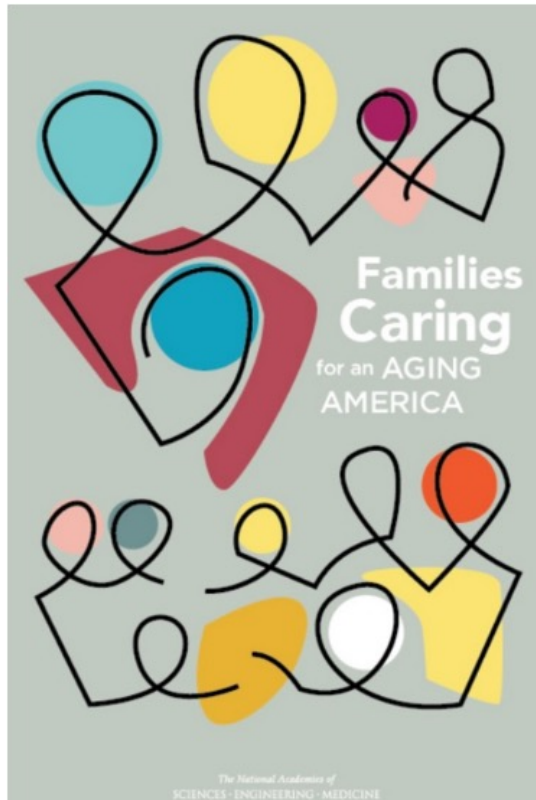
<https://nam.edu/families-caring-for-an-aging-america>



From Families Caring for an Aging America to RAISE



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RECOGNIZE



ASSIST



INCLUDE



SUPPORT



ENGAGE

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine



A Public-Private Collaboration to RAISE Up Family Caregivers



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Philanthropy Has An Important Role



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Grantmakers in Aging: Family Caregiving Funders Community

- More than 40 funders of varying sizes, types and geographies
- Shared commitment to supporting caregivers through innovative programs and policies
- Forthcoming Action Guide for Funders

Family Caregiving Funders Community

An Initiative of  GRANTMAKERS
IN AGING



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RALPH C. WILSON, JR.
FOUNDATION





A Call to Action

- Every person and organization has a role to play in improving support for family caregivers
- The National Strategy gives a clear set of actions to take now, and will evolve
- Declare your actions, call on your network, take action!
- Utilize resources from JAHF, NASHP, ACL and all our partners





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Thank You!

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WWW.JOHNHARTFORD.ORG



NASHP's Role in the National Strategy

September 21, 2022



NATIONAL ACADEMY
FOR STATE HEALTH POLICY

nashp.org

Speaker

Wendy Fox-Grage

Senior Policy Fellow

National Academy for State Health Policy

wfgrage@nashp.org



About NASHP

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is a nonpartisan organization committed to developing and advancing state health policy innovations and solutions.

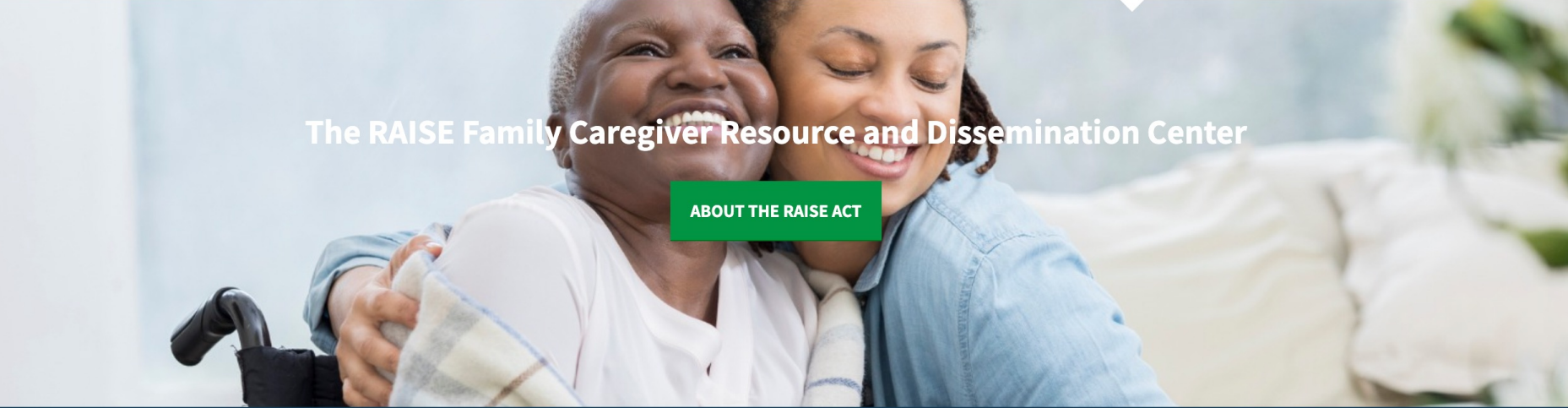
NASHP provides a unique forum for the productive exchange of strategies across state government, including the executive and legislative branches.



RAISE Family Caregiver Resource & Dissemination Center



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The RAISE Family Caregiver Resource and Dissemination Center

[ABOUT THE RAISE ACT](#)

- [THE FAMILY CAREGIVING ADVISORY COUNCIL AND FACULTY](#)
- [COUNCIL MEETING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES](#)
- [STATE RESOURCES](#)
- [RESPITE CARE](#)

Project Objectives

1. Provide robust resources and technical supports to the RAISE Act Advisory Council and its subcommittees;
2. Engage core partners and experts in the work;
3. Develop family caregiving resources for state and federal policymakers and other stakeholders; and
4. Facilitate uptake and implementation of Council recommendations at the state level.

Goal 1: Support to RAISE Act Council

- Worked closely with ACL and JAHF
- Co-developed agendas for Council and five subcommittees
- Supported and took notes for all public Council and internal subcommittee meetings
- Published reports on all full Council meetings

Advisory Councils Are Developing the National Family Caregiving Strategy

February 11, 2022 / by Salom Teshale and Kimberly Hodges










Goal 1: Support to RAISE Act Council

- Report to Congress: Published in September 2021 with input from NASHP's *Medicaid Supports for Family Caregivers* report
- Subcontracted with National Alliance for Caregiving to produce *Faces of Caregiving*
- Contracted with UMass Boston and Community Catalyst to analyze 1,600 responses to RFI and publish a report on the findings

Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, & Engage (RAISE)
Family Caregivers Act
Initial Report to Congress

Prepared by: RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council
With assistance from: Administration for Community Living,
an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

 
Administration for Community Living

    
RECOGNIZE **ASSIST** **INCLUDE** **SUPPORT** **ENGAGE**

September 22, 2021

56

Goal 1: Support to RAISE Act Council

- RAISE Act State Policy Roadmap for Family Caregivers
- Six papers highlighting state strategies and promising practices



Public
Awareness
and
Outreach



The Direct
Care
Workforce



Financial
and
Workplace
Security

Goal 1: Support to RAISE Act Council

- The Roadmap supports states in developing supports for family caregivers of older adults by identifying innovative and emerging policy strategies



Family
Caregiver
Services
and
Supports



Using
Research,
Data, and
Evidence-
Informed
Practices
to Support
Family
Caregivers



Engagement
of Family
Caregivers
in Health
Care
Systems

Goal 2: Engage Core Partners & Experts

RAISE Faculty

- **Susan Engels**, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
- **Robert Espinoza**, PHI
- **Lynn Friss Feinberg**
- **Laura Gitlin**, College of Nursing and Health Professions
- **Robyn L. Golden**, Rush University
- **Nicole Jorwic**, Caring Across Generations
- **Jill Kagan**, ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center
- **Kathleen Kelly**, Family Caregiver Alliance
- **Nancy Nikolas Maier**, North Dakota Department of Human Services
- **Sandy Markwood**, USAging
- **Greg Olsen**, New York State Office for the Aging
- **Jennifer Olsen**, Rosalyn Carter Institute
- **Lauren Pongan**, Diverse Elders Coalition
- **Bea-Alise Rector**, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
- **Susan Reinhard**, AARP Policy Institute
- **David Reuben**, Division of Geriatrics, UCLA
- **Dave Richard**, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
- **Connie Siskowski**, American Association of Caregiving Youth
- **Mary Sowers**, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
- **Michael Reese Wittke**, National Alliance for Caregiving
- **Jennifer Wolff**, Johns Hopkins University

Goal 2: Engage Public at Every Step

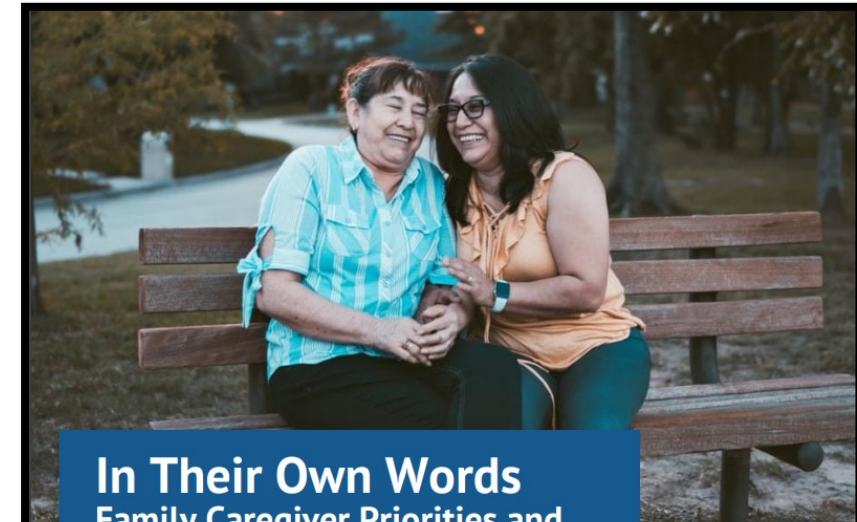
- ACL Request for Information (2019)
 - 1613 responses
 - 75% from caregivers
- Caregiver Focus Groups
 - 13 sessions/80 individuals
 - All populations, including teens
 - Delved into Request for Information findings
- Stakeholder Listening Sessions
 - Aging and disability organizations
 - 60 invited/42 participated
 - 6 sessions focused on operationalizing the recommendations
- Council meetings
- Interviews & Listening Sessions
 - 17 key informant interviews
 - 22 listening sessions
 - 145 stakeholder organizations
- Stakeholders included
 - State entities
 - Counties
 - Employers (large and small)
 - LTSS and healthcare providers
 - Respite providers
 - CBOs/faith-based organizations

Goal 2: Engage Family Caregivers & Many Others

FEBRUARY 2022

Building a National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers

Findings from Key Informant Interviews and Stakeholder Listening Sessions



In Their Own Words Family Caregiver Priorities and Recommendations: Results from a Request for Information

Pamela Nadash, PhD
Taylor Jansen, MS
Eileen J. Tell, MPH
Marc Cohen, PhD

February 16, 2021



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info@communitycatalyst.org
www.communitycatalyst.org



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Meet the Caregiver



Goal 3: Resources and Dissemination

- NASHP has developed:
 - RAISE-related blogs
 - Family Caregiving Advisory Council meeting reports

Washington Demonstrates Cost Savings and Improved Outcomes from Supporting Family Caregivers

Advisory Councils Are Developing the National Family Caregiving Strategy

February 11, 2022 / by Salom Teshale and Kimberly Hodges

On Tuesday, January 25, 2022, the RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council and the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (SGRG) convened to discuss the development and completion of a national family caregiver strategy.



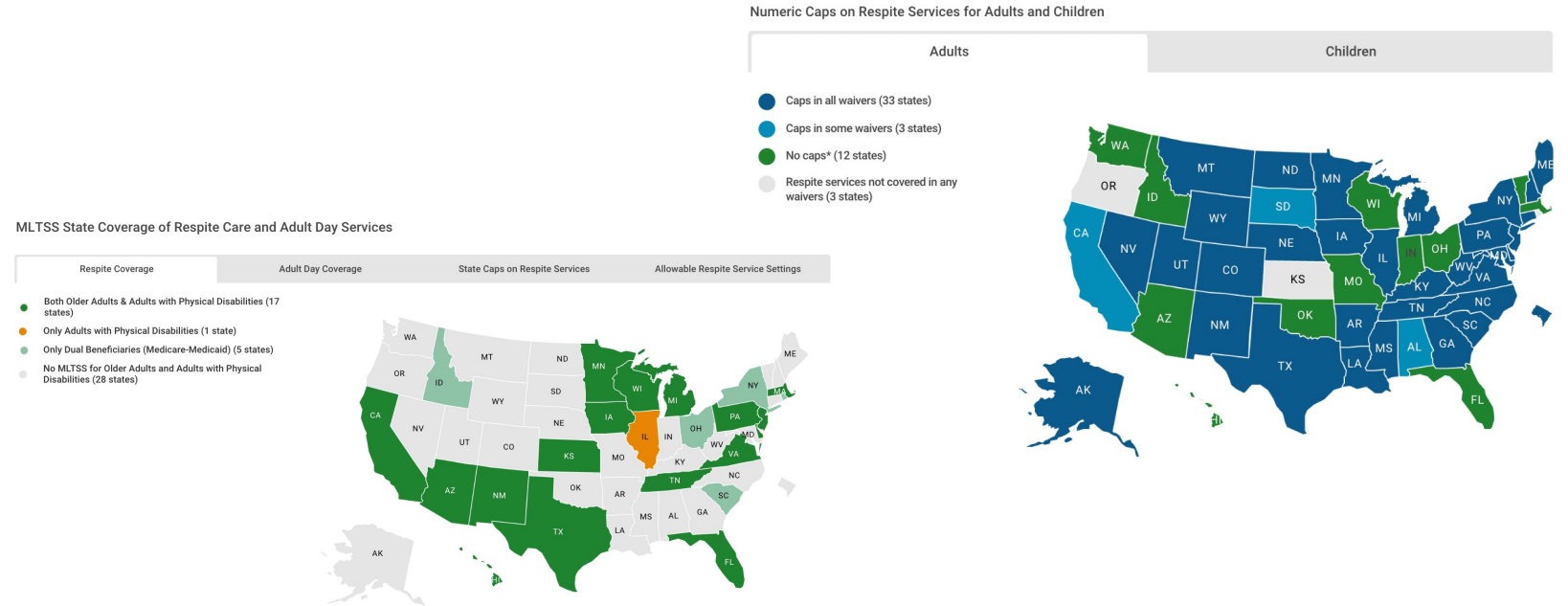
Goal 3: Resources and Dissemination

- NASHP Conference Session
 - 2021: "Quantum Leap: Long-Term Services Post-COVID" convened leaders from Connecticut and Washington to speak about sustaining change to long-term services and supports systems
 - 2022 Caregiving Preconference on September 12 on state solutions to support family caregivers and the direct care workforce

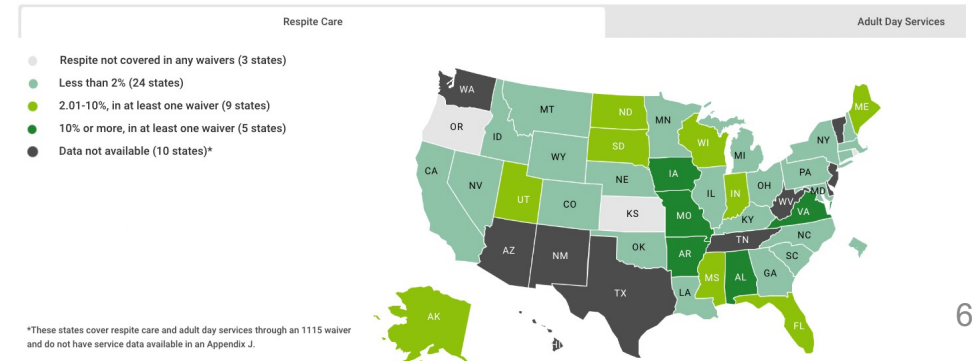
Goal 3: Resources and Dissemination

Respite Care Maps

- State Caps on Respite Waiver Services Vary Greatly
- State Respite Care Spending Is Low in Most Home and Community-Based 1915(c) Waivers
- States Cover Respite Care and Adult Day Services in Medicaid Managed Long-Term Services and Supports



Percentage of 1915(c) Waiver Spent on Respite Care and Adult Day Services



Goal 3: Resources and Dissemination

- Present at national meetings:
 - Grantmakers in Aging (October 2021)
 - PCORI (November 2021)
 - Gerontological Society of America (November 2021)
 - HCBS (December 2021)
 - American Society on Aging conference (April 2022)
 - National Academy for Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (May 2022)



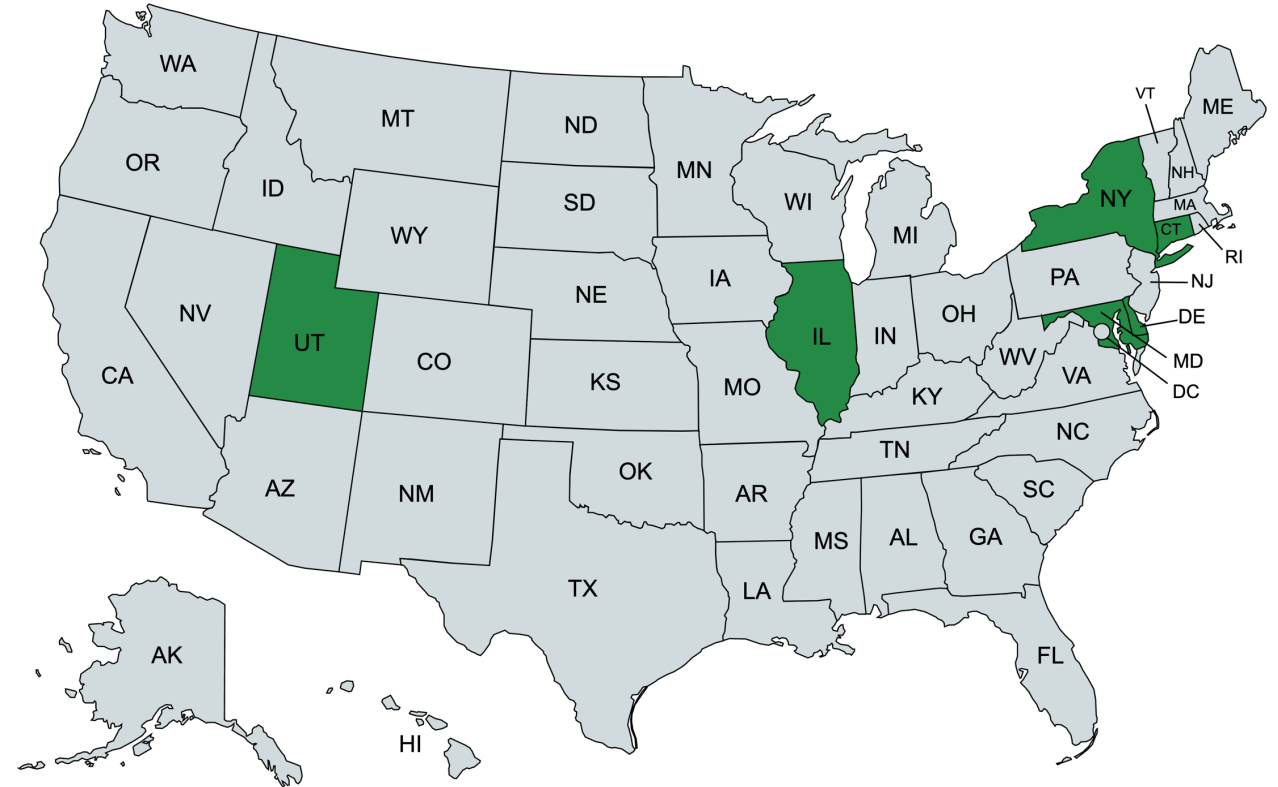
The National Academies of

SCIENCES
ENGINEERING
MEDICINE

Goal 4: Medicaid Institute on Family Caregiving

- Participant states:

- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Illinois
- Maryland
- New York
- Utah



Our Asks

- Help disseminate the National Strategy (social media promo, press release, direct emails to your network, e-news, etc.)
- Provide feedback during public comment period
- Analyze the National Strategy for actions steps that your agencies/organizations can take
- Participate and promote the NASHP Oct 3rd webinar and November Twitter chat

Thank you!



NATIONAL ACADEMY
FOR STATE HEALTH POLICY

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NASHP | National
Academy for State
Health Policy



**Second Joint Meeting
RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council
and
Advisory Council to Support Grandparents
Raising Grandchildren**

Ana Beltran

Director, Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network:
A National Technical Assistance Center

September 21, 2022

Children in Kinship/Grandfamilies



For every **1 child** being raised by kin in foster care, there are **18 children** being raised by kin outside foster care.



Kinship/Grandfamilies Strengths: Children Thrive



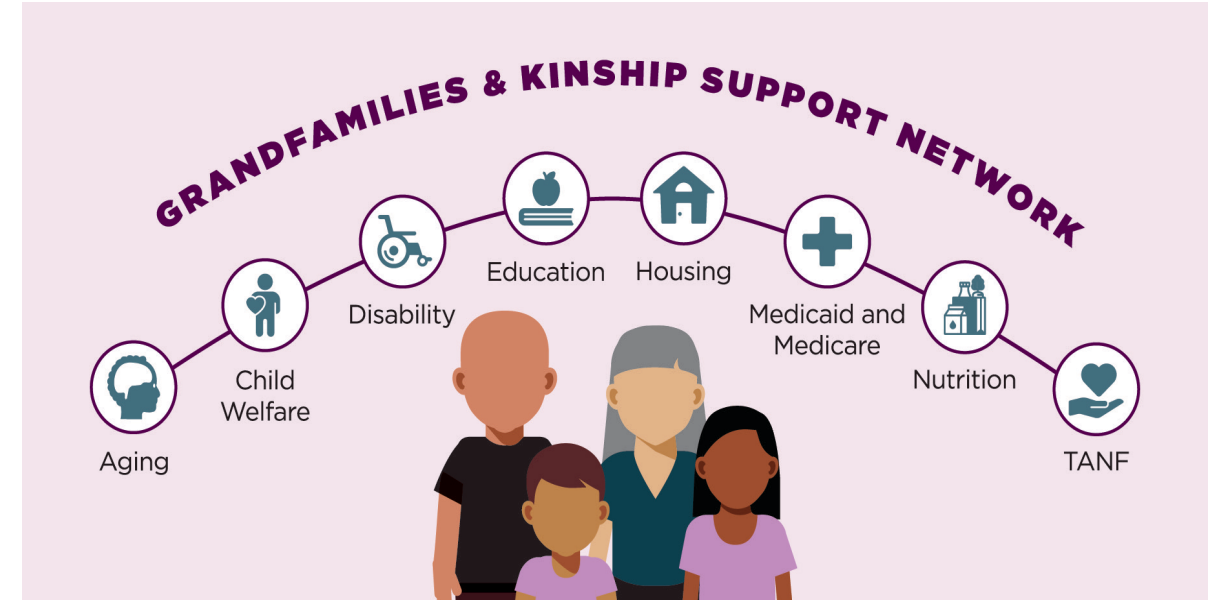
First Federally Funded National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families



GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK

A National Technical Assistance Center

- \$10 million for 5 years, awarded as a cooperative agreement in September 2021, overseen by the Administration for Community Living (ACL)
- Generations United has worked on behalf of and with kinship/grandfamilies since 1997
- Purpose is to provide technical assistance to the array of government agencies – **aging, child welfare, disability, education, housing, Medicaid and Medicare, nutrition, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** – and organizations that serve kinship families, including **kinship navigator programs**
- Not designed to help the families directly – will improve systems for families now and into the future



National Partners



**generations
united**
Because we're stronger together®

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

Subject Matter Experts

Alexandra Ashbrook, JD
Food Research and Action Center
(FRAC)

Terry Cross, DHL
National Indian Child Welfare
Association (NICWA)

Joseph Crumbley, PhD

Angelique Day, PhD, MSW
University of Washington

Curt Decker, JD
National Disability Rights Network
(NDRN)

Gail Engel
GRAND Voice

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 and
Emily Peeler, JD, MSW**
American Bar Association (ABA)
Center on Children and the Law

Sarah Smalls
GRAND Voice

Tyreasa Washington, PhD, LCSW
Child Trends

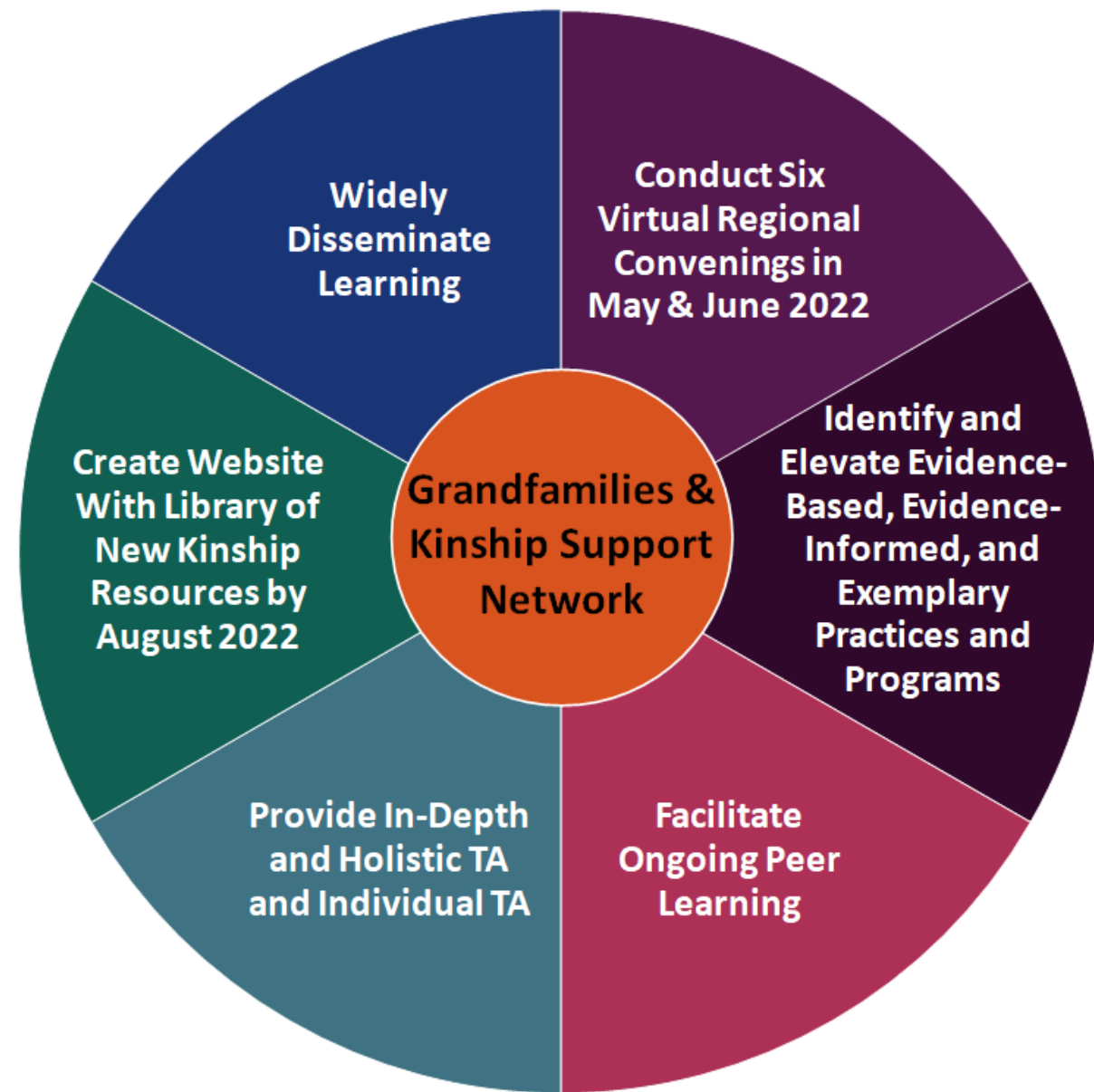
Nancy Young, PhD
Children and Family Futures

Lisa Zetley, MD
American Academy of Pediatrics



Virtual Convenings

- 53 pre-convening virtual calls held, one with each state, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia
- Five regional convenings and one NICWA-led tribal convening, all held in May and June
- Goals:
 - (1) To facilitate relationships across agencies and service providers to better support kinship/grandfamilies
 - (2) To engage peer learning to reveal emerging kinship/grandfamily practices and programs, and pinpoint consistent challenges
 - (3) To inform all the Network's future technical assistance, including which resources we develop



Promising Practices



Legal



Legal issues are frequently among the top concerns for kinship/grandfamilies, particularly for those outside the child welfare system.

- **Washington** has a statewide kinship legal aid coordinator, funded with state dollars
- **Illinois** provides help to caregivers in obtaining guardianship outside of child welfare involvement



Health & Nutrition

Both the caregivers and the children in these families face physical and mental health issues to a greater degree than the general population.

- The **National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP)** and **Native American Caregiver Support Program (NACSP)**, part of the Older Americans Act, Title III-E and Title VI-C, federally fund 5 categories of supportive services to grandparents and other relatives age 55+ who are raising children
- **Minnesota** offers child-only benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps



Housing



*Grandparent Family Apartments -
South Bronx, New York*

Kin/grandfamily caregivers often begin caring for children without warning or preparation, and they face unique problems with respect to housing.

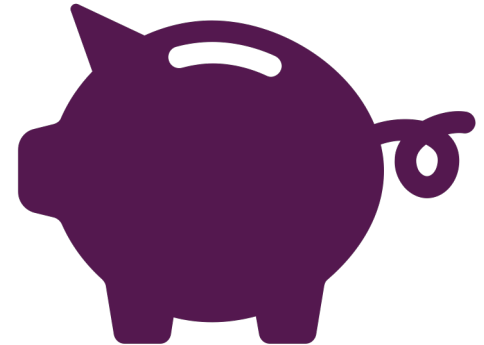
- Dedicated grandfamilies housing with services on-site exist in at least 18 programs around the country
- See <https://www.gu.org/resources/a-place-to-call-home-building-affordable-housing-for-grandfamilies/>



Finances

Financial challenges are often a major struggle for caregivers who did not plan or expect to raise a child.

- **Massachusetts** grants good cause exemptions for assigning child support to the state to all kin/grandfamily caregivers applying for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) child-only grants
- **Oklahoma** uses state funds to provide emergency assistance while a kinship home is being licensed as a foster home



How We Help



Learning Collaboratives and Information Dissemination

The Network hosts webinars and facilitates learning collaboratives.



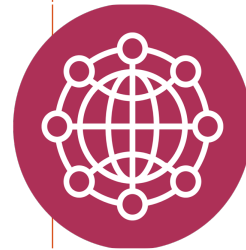
Individual Assistance

We respond to individual requests for help from government agencies, kinship navigators, and community-based nonprofits.



Targeted, Specialized Support

For jurisdictions that want and are ready for a larger investment of effort, the Network will help optimize their collaborative approaches and improve their services. Solutions will be replicable for others.



A Centralized Hub

The Network is elevating exemplary kinship/grandfamily practices and programs from around the country on its new accessible website, www.GKSNetwork.org.

Applications to be considered “exemplary” are open until Nov. 16.



The First-Ever National Technical Assistance Center for those who Serve Grandfamilies & Kinship

We help government agencies and nonprofit organizations in states, tribes, and territories work across jurisdictional and systemic boundaries to improve supports and services for grandparents, other relatives, close family friends, and the children they raise when parents cannot.



Stay Connected & Access Support

Sign up for our monthly newsletter, which will provide you with updates on new Network resources.



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Thank you

acl.gov/caregiverstrategy

