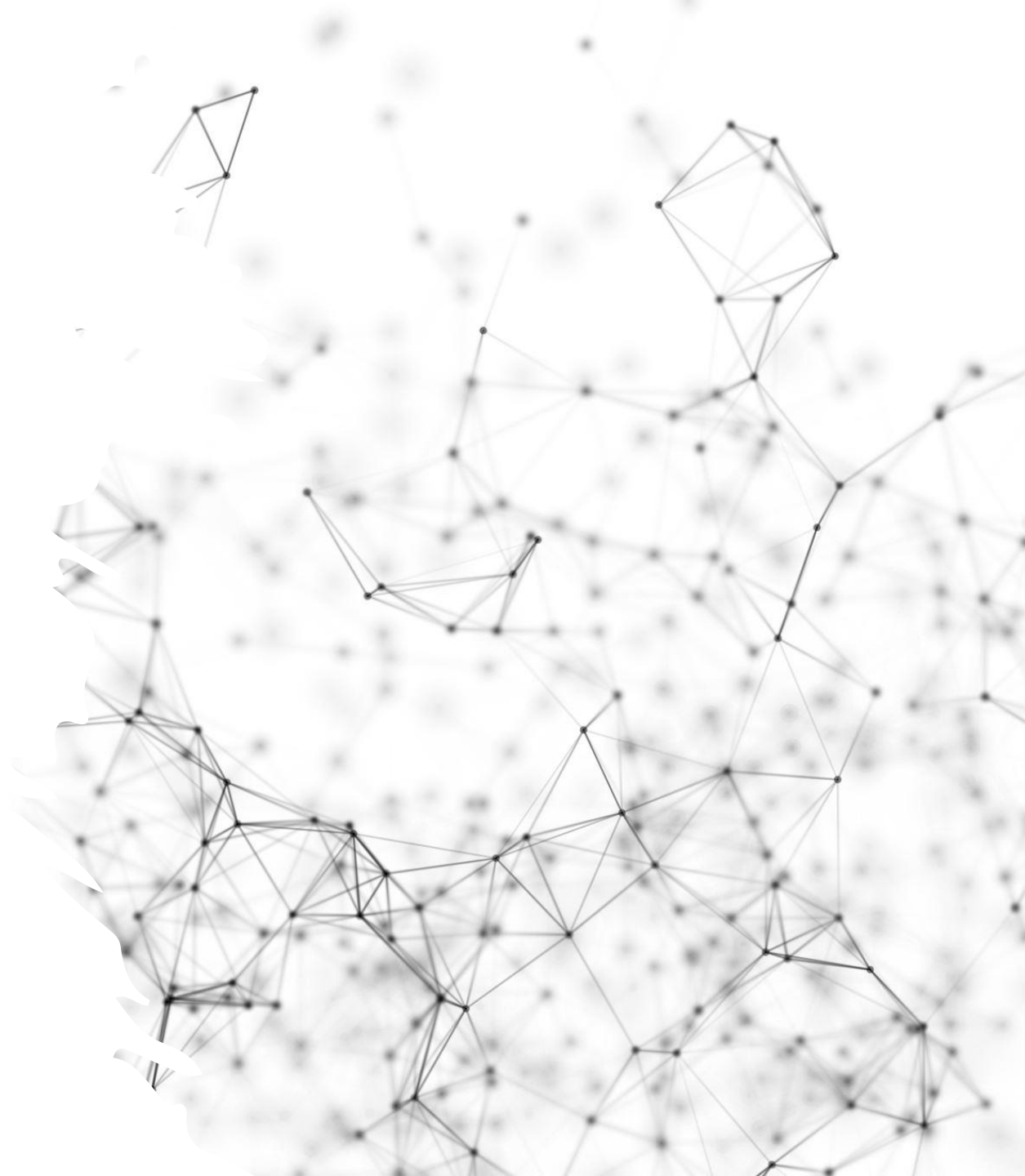




“KIN FRIENDLY” CHILD PLACING AGENCIES



Child Placing Agencies Kinship Program Scorecard

Feature	No (0)	Yes (1 point)
The CPA has a vision statement for their kinship specific program(s).		
There is information on website and/or printed literature about the CPA's kinship program.		
There is a specific intake and orientation process for kinship families that includes addressing psychosocial needs immediately.		
There is a "grandmother friendly" approach to explaining the home licensing process in general, as well as the specific services, programs, and supports offered to kinship families within the CPA. "Approach" includes staff understanding, written materials, built-in repetition, etc.		
The agency has specific procedures for licensing kinship families versus unrelated foster/adopt families. This can include, but is not limited to, financial support for fingerprints/safety equipment/TB Test; completing risk assessments, variances, waivers; offering in-home training, case management, use of agency technology (i.e., computers) to complete paperwork, etc.		
The CPA has at least one staff member that is knowledgeable about policies, practices, regulations, and current research related to kinship families.		
The CPA has at least one staff member that has worked with CPS kinship families for at least 3 years.		
The CPA offers specific trainings for kinship families and their lived experiences.		
The CPA has a supportive home monitoring program specifically for kinship families.		
The CPA has conducted mapping in support of community referrals (i.e., mental health, medical, dental, vision, housing, food pantries, utility assistance, day care, crisis intervention, post permanency/adoption services, transportation, furniture, clothing, respite care, kinship navigator programs, etc.). Support may include: direct contacts so that kinship families can easily access the resources; staff whose official job duties include support for families to co-navigate eligibility and related processes; step by step instruction that is relative-friendly; detailed and comprehensive inventory that considers all sources of actual support; and other supports that may enable kinship caregivers to be successful in accessing resources, i.e., not just a list of possible supports for the relative to work through.		
Total Score		

Scorecard Cutoff Scores = Exceptional 10; Acceptable 9 – 7;

Developing 6 – 4; Needs Improvement 3 - 0

Kinship Families Services and Support

Kinship care should generally be prioritized and supported. (Bissell, 2017; Doblin-MacNab 2015; Lin 2014; Miller 2017; Raphael 2008)

Kinship caregivers need better, and more equitable, access to the financial resources and services available to non-kinship foster families. Their caregiving role often comes unexpectedly, leaving many kinship caregivers unprepared for the financial demands of caring for a child. Consequently, child welfare agencies and state governments should work to provide a greater number of resources to meet the demands of caregiving. (Bailey, et al. 2013; Lin 2014)

Kinship caregivers need more flexible licensing standards in order to remove barriers to kinship care. (Bissell 2017; Miller 2017)

Kinship caregivers need better access to and information about supportive services, support groups, and parenting skills training/education. (Castillo, et al. 2013; Collins 2011; Gerard, et al. 2006; Hayslip, et al. 2019; Hayslip & Kaminski 2005; Kirby 2015; Lee & Blitz 2014)

Kinship caregivers need resources directed to their individualized needs. (Carr, et al. 2012; Hayslip, et al. 2020)

Child welfare agencies and advocates can better support kinship caregivers if they consider cultural, racial, and ethnic differences and the impact of systematic oppression on different groups. (Carr, et al. 2012; Collins 2011; Fuller-Thompson 2005; Kopera-Frye 2009).

Benefits from Kinship Care

- Reduced trauma after removal by providing familiarity, continuity, and retention of familial ties. (Epstein 2017; Ehrle & Geen 2002).
- Improved mental health outcomes. (Epstein 2017; Messing 2006; Winokur, et al. 2018).
- Fewer behavioral problems and better social outcomes. (Holtan, et al. 2005; Rubin, et al. 2008; Sakai, et al. 2011; Winokur, et al. 2018).
- Better educational outcomes and educational stability. (Conway & Hutson 2007; Holtan, et. al. 2005; Mass. Ct. Impr. Prog. 2019).
- Greater placement stability and higher levels of permanency. (Hegar & Rosenthal 2009; Koh 2010; Koh & Testa 2008; Koh & Testa 2011; Sugrue 2019; Winokur, et al. 2018; Winokur, et al. 2018)
- Better cultural, ethnic, racial, and traditional connections to their communities of origin. Also, the ability for children to maintain in their sibling group, to have strong perceptions of cultural identity and connection, to participate in visits with biological parents, and maintain a stable placements. (Child Wel. Info. Gateway 2021; Conway & Hutson 2007; Hopkins 2020; Nat'l Ass'n of Black Soc. Workers 2003; Sugrue 2019).
- Stronger ties to the child's biological family. (Holtan, et al. 2005; Metzger 2008).
- Greater placement satisfaction for children and youth, including feelings of love and belonging. (Chapman, et al. 2004; Conway & Hutson 2007; Hegar & Rosenthal 2009; Metzger 2008; Montserrat & Casas 2006).



“The Edwards Family”

<https://youtu.be/bvVSvMZCWXI>