



Kentucky  
youth  
Advocates





Kentucky youth Advocates

**Kentucky Youth Advocates is the independent voice for Kentucky kids. Our vision is to make Kentucky the best place in America to be young.**

**We do this by:**

- **Working with decision-makers**
- **Educating and mobilizing advocates**
- **Publishing data and research**
- **Convening stakeholders**

# Blueprint for Kentucky's Children





# Kentucky Kids in the Care of Relatives

Children Being Cared for by Kin  
Both Formally and Informally<sup>1</sup>

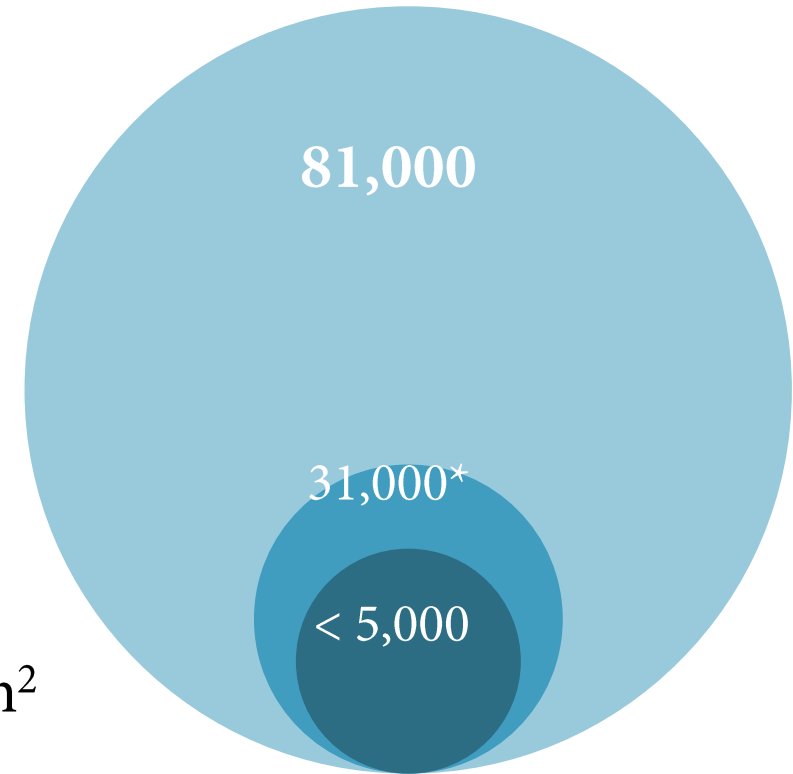
In Kinship Care Due to  
Removal from Home

In Kentucky Kinship Care Program<sup>2</sup>

Kentucky Kids in Relative Foster Care<sup>3</sup>



1222



Sources: 1. 2017 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) Research File, 2018 CPS ASEC Bridge File, 2019 CPS ASEC. Estimates represent a three-year average.. 2. Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services Oct 2017 (**No new kinship families have been able to enroll in this program** since a moratorium put in place in April 2013) 3. Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services, Foster Care FACTS 9/2020 \*estimate based on CHFS conversation

## Informal kinship care

Varying types of custody depending on arrangements made within those families.

## Kinship Care/Fictive Kin care

Children who are placed with **relatives** or **close family friends (fictive kin)** as a result of an investigation and removal due to dependency, neglect, or abuse. Involvement with Department or Community Based Services (DCBS)—custody of the child is maintained by the relative or DCBS.

**Relative foster care.** Children placed with relatives or close family friends who have become certified as foster parents—custody of the child is maintained by DCBS.



# Current Supports

## DCBS Service Array

- **Relative Caregiver Program**
- **Relative Placement Support Benefit** – \$350 per child—One-time benefit
- **Child Care Assistance (CCAP)** – Subsidized child-care
- **KCHIP**—Children’s health insurance coverage

## National & Kentucky Caregiver Program

- Grandparent of a grandchild no older than 18 who is related by blood, marriage or adoption.
- Incomes of no more than 150 percent of the federal poverty level and not receive state Kinship Care program benefits.
- Up to \$500 annually



I need more **emotional support** than I did before the pandemic.

Stakeholder Group	Agree or Strongly Agree
Foster or Kinship Alumni	95%
Foster Parent	33%
<b>Kinship Caregiver</b>	<b>43%</b>
Biological Parent	25%





I need more **financial support** than I did before the pandemic.

Stakeholder Group	Agree or Strongly Agree
Foster or Kinship Alumni	95%
Foster Parent	42%
<b>Kinship Caregiver</b>	<b>57%</b>
Biological Parent	25%



# Solutions During COVID-19 & Beyond

## Identified Solutions

- Increase access to peer support
- Increase communication related to available mental health services
- Communicate through various mediums, frequently in times of crisis
- Recruit and retain quality DCBS workers



# Solutions During COVID-19 & Beyond

## Identified Solutions

- Stipend for internet services
- Increase access to information through hotlines, websites, and social media for specific groups
- Co-ops, “hubs” or “pods”



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**Questions?  
Thank you!**

Kya  
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BLUEPRINT *for*  
KENTUCKY'S  
CHILDREN