



Kinship Care in Kentucky

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August 24, 2023



Kinship Families
COALITION OF KENTUCKY



Kinship Care in Kentucky

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.

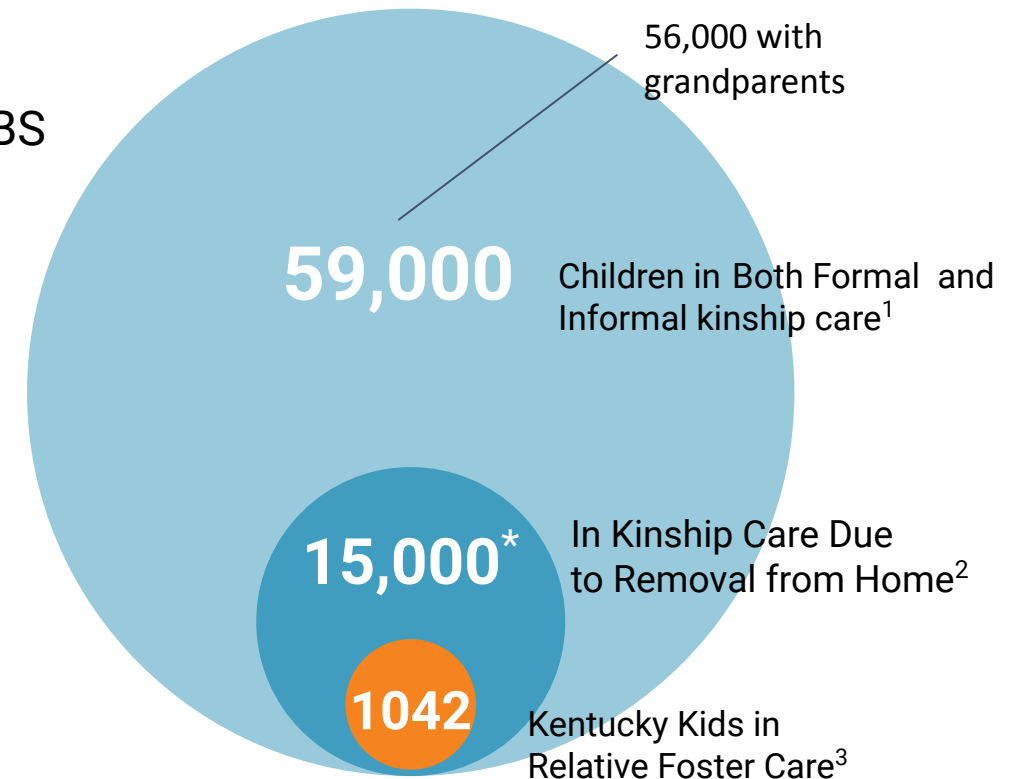
Relative foster care

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



Progress

- ✓ **2014** – Kinship Caregiver Authorization Affidavit
- ✓ **2015** – A Kinship Hotline was established and hosted by DCBS
- ✓ **2016** – Child care assistance increased access
- ✓ **2017** – Improved access to Relative Placement Support Benefit,
- ✓ **2018** – HB 1 additional supports for kinship caregivers, and legal access to de facto custodians
- ✓ **2019** – HB 2 required the creation of a service array and a collection of reporting of data around kinship care
- ✓ **2019-2021** – Increased access to supports through DCBS KY-FACES, including relative caregiver service array
- ✓ **2021** – Improved access to supportive services through the University of Kentucky Kinship Resource Center (KKRC)



Current Needs

- Financial support
 - Mileage
 - Funds for basic needs
 - Additional funds for Relative Placement Support Benefit
 - Guardianship Assistance Program
- KTAP Access
 - Child support exception needed
 - Timelines/options beyond 5 years
- Respite
- In-State College Tuition Waiver
- Urgent need for behavioral health supports
- Urgent need for more legal supports





Continuing the Work

- Communication with kinship families
 - Rollout of Services
 - Help Desk/Call In
 - Service Region Administrators
 - Inconsistencies of implementation in field
- Flexible approach on timelines for services
- Continue engaging Lived Experience
 - Feedback on materials
 - Feedback loop
 - Rollout of services
- Consider Opioid Settlement Funds for kinship families
- Consider Regional/Statewide Review Board

Thank you!



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