

# Kinship Caregiver Support Programs



The CEBC defines Kinship Caregiver Support Programs as programs that support the needs of kinship caregivers, such as training and education, financial services, and support groups. Kinship care refers to the care of children by relatives or, in some jurisdictions, close family friends (often referred to as fictive kin). Kinship care may be formal and involve a training and licensure process for the caregivers, along with monthly subsidies to help defray the costs of caring for the child, or may include voluntary or mediated kin caregivers referring to those relative caregivers caring for children following a child welfare agency assessment to ensure the safety and suitability of the home, or informal caregivers, referring to those relative caregivers caring for children privately, without the involvement of child welfare or other government agencies.

The CEBC also provides information on [financial support programs for kinship caregivers](#).

## Kinship Caregiver Support Programs Topic Area criteria:

- **Target population:** Potential and current kinship caregivers, including relatives (e.g., grandparent, sibling, etc.) and fictive kin (e.g., godparents, close family friends, etc.)
- **Services/types that fit:** Interventions to orient new kinship caregivers or to provide training, skills development, education, or support for new or existing kinship caregivers
- **Delivered by:** Child welfare workers, behavioral health professionals, or other professionals or paraprofessionals trained to deliver a kinship caregiver support program
- **In order to be included in this topic area on the CEBC:** Program must specifically identify the support needs of kinship caregivers as a goal
- **In order to be rated in this topic area by the CEBC:** There must be research evidence (as specified by the CEBC [Scientific Rating Scale](#)) that examines outcomes for the kinship caregiver (e.g., knowledge or skill, psychological support, improvement in kinship caregivers' satisfaction with their kinship role, or retention of the child in their home) or outcomes for the child(ren) in their care (e.g., placement stabilization, reunification).



The table below provides a summary of the rated programs currently listed in the [Kinship Caregiver Support Programs](#) topic area. More detailed information can be found on the CEBC website.

Program	Overview	CEBC Scientific Rating	CEBC CWS Relevance Level
<a href="#">Kinship Navigator (CHN-KN) Children's Home Network</a>	Provides a centralized intake line, comprehensive assessments, family conferencing, and navigation services that include securing concrete needs, enrollment in public assistance, linkage to key community resources, development of informal and formal supports, service and crisis planning, support groups, and follow-up contacts	2	High
<a href="#">KEEP</a>	Aims to give parents effective tools for dealing with their child's externalizing problems, trauma, and other behavioral and emotional problems and to support them in the implementation of those tools	3	High
<a href="#">Kinship Caregiver Engagement and Support Program</a>	A trauma-informed, triad-centric, child welfare intervention that aims to increase the likelihood of a placement with relatives or fictive kin	3	High
<a href="#">Kinship Supports Intervention</a>	Helps kinship caregivers, including relatives and fictive kin, navigate the child welfare system and connect them to federal, state, and local resources	3	High
<a href="#">Support Groups for Grandparent Caregivers of Children with Developmental Disabilities and Delays</a>	Provides information on 1) financial issues, 2) guardianship, 3) respite care, 4) emotional support, and 5) problems interacting with multiple social service systems, including accessing health care, educational supports, and housing	3	Medium