



Kinship Caregiver Support Services

Definition:

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.

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 [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)

Programs

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	Target Population	CEBC Scientific Rating	CEBC CWS Relevance Level
Kinship Navigator (CHN-KN) Children's Home Network	Informal and formal kinship families, relatives, and nonrelatives raising children who are not being raised by parents	2	High
KEEP	Caregivers of children 4 to 12 years of age in foster or kinship care placements	3	High
Kinship Caregiver Engagement and Support Program	Potential and current kinship caregivers such as grandparents, other relatives (aunts/uncles, older siblings, etc.), and "fictive kin," (e.g., godparents, close family friends, etc.) of children involved in child welfare systems (children aged 0 to 21)	3	High
Kinship Supports Intervention	Kinship caregivers (relatives and fictive kin) of children involved in child welfare systems (children aged 0 to 18), regardless of custody status or supervision orders	3	High
Support Groups for Grandparent Caregivers of Children with Developmental Disabilities and Delays	Grandparent caregivers of children with developmental disabilities and delays	3	Medium