



IMPLEMENTING THE FOSTER KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM



WHY FOSTER KINSHIP?



Five percent of children in the United States are growing up without either parent. Grandparents, other relatives, and family friends step up for the majority, ensuring children who can't live safely with their parents stay with their family.

However, kinship families find their willingness is not met with the support and resources they need to raise healthy children. We know kinship families need help.

Foster Kinship's model closes this gap by providing evidence-based programming to strengthen caregivers' capacity to provide safe, stable, and nurturing homes for vulnerable children.

Kinship families need a village. Implementing a Kinship Navigator Program will offer hope to families in practical and real ways.

Foster Kinship's model is proven to provide the stability grandparent and other kin caregivers need to help children overcome trauma, neglect, and abuse.

Help ensure more safe, stable, and more nurturing childhoods for all children in kinship care by partnering with us today.

EVIDENCE-BASED OUTCOMES

- Increased access to financial support
- Increased licensure rates
- Decreased likelihood of placement disruption



**Title IV-E Prevention Services
CLEARINGHOUSE**

Drawing from social support theory and transaction cost theory, Foster Kinship's Kinship Navigator Program provides targeted information, referral, support, basic needs, and case management activities focused on reducing uncertainty for new caregivers.

Each Navigator service is designed to provide and connect kinship families to networks of social support, provide technical assistance, and tangible help to strengthen kinship family capacity.

Foster Kinship's model is designed to serve **any** kinship caregiver (defined as both relatives and fictive kin) raising children in nonparental care (neither parent resides in the home) in a defined jurisdiction.

WHY IT WORKS

By connecting caregivers to accurate information at the right time, the program reduces both search and acquisition costs, reducing caregiver stress and increasing their access to needed services.

Providing informational, emotional, and instrumental support services enables families to achieve the critical goals linked to child well-being such as adequate financial support and legal capacity.



PROGRAM GOALS

- The first goal is to build a **safe** foundation for children by meeting the immediate needs of the kinship family.
- The second goal is to provide the most **stable** home for children by strengthening the kinship family legally and financially.
- The final goal is to meet the well-being needs of children by increasing caregivers' capacity to provide **nurturing** parenting.

IMPLEMENTATION AT A GLANCE



TARGET POPULATION

Foster Kinship's model is designed to serve all relatives and fictive kin who are full-time caregivers for children not living with either biological parent in a defined jurisdiction:

1. Formal/inside families;
2. Informal/outside families;
3. Kinship families in transition;
4. Families who have adopted.

The Foster Kinship Navigator model is designed to serve all kinship families in a jurisdiction- those involved with child welfare, those diverted from child welfare, private families, and families who have achieved permanency. Services must be free and voluntary. Case plans are co-created with the caregiver and their navigator team.

The model design requires the IV-E Agency to contract with a nonprofit agency(ies) (501c3) serving the jurisdiction. This layer between the child welfare system and the caregiver will help more quickly establish trust and ensures the caregiver does not feel pressure from a government entity in making the best decisions for their family.

All services are provided free of charge. Kinship families may self-refer, or may be referred by an agency such as 2-1-1, legal aid, child welfare, school district, family resource center, or church. It is recommended that the child welfare agency have an agreement with the program to refer all kinship families to Navigator Services.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Through **Information, Referrals, Support**, the model provides accurate information, at the right time, so kinship caregivers can make the best decisions for their families. Through **Case Management**, Foster Kinship Navigator Program services are focused on four short-term outcome domains. By connecting caregivers to accurate information at the right time, The Navigator program reduces both search and acquisition costs for the caregiver, reducing their stress and increasing their access to needed services.

Providing informational, emotional, and instrumental (tangible and technical) support services enables families to achieve the critical goals linked to child well-being such as adequate financial support and legal capacity.

By increasing family stability in those four areas, the Kinship Navigator Program increases the **safety, stability**, and **nurturing** capacity of the kinship home.



Children raised in **safe, stable**, and **nurturing** homes are more likely to overcome the **challenges of early childhood trauma** to experience **typical adulthood**.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Information, Referrals & Support

General Information regarding community, legal, financial, and emotional resources for kinship families are available via various mechanisms to deliver the same information:

- Online Kinship Resource Locator Tool [RLT] (self-service or case manager use)
- Telephone helpline with toll-free and local numbers staffed by professional family advocates
- In-person support by professional Family Advocates with lived experience in local offices
- Email
- Website: FAQ about guardianship, child-only TANF, Kinship Care, and Resources.

Intake & Assessment Services

Provided through phone or in-person assessment. Once the intake is completed, all families receive a personalized Kinship RLT via in-person, email, or mail. Post-intake, if any needs are identified, the family is referred immediately to the case management level of the navigator program.

Mail, Notary & Copy Service

To meet legal and financial case plan goals

Internal Referrals

BASED ON IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION, the following are examples only, not requirements. These would be based on the organizations existing services that could be expanded to kinship families

Case Management

REQUIRED COMPONENT. See next page.

Education & Training

Provide parenting classes, safety classes, pre-licensing training classes.

Basic Needs Distribution

Provide basic need assistance including clothing, diapers, formula, car seats, cribs/beds, household items, school supplies, hygiene items, toys/books

Childcare Program

Provide respite care, behavioral consults, trauma-informed play groups, youth support groups, FASD/Autism/SED diagnosis and service navigation, and other direct services to children.

PROGRAM SERVICES (CONTINUED)

Emotional Support

- **Support Groups:** In-person groups at a variety of locations in a jurisdiction including meals/childcare. Online groups offered at least monthly.
- **Social Media Based Online Support Group:** 24/7 caregiver to caregiver support; managed and moderated by Family Advocates.
- **Family Events:** designed to be fun for kids but also as a vehicle for distributing info to caregivers and emergency resources to families. For example: Back to School, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.
- **Peer/Professional Support:** Family Advocates delivering services have lived experience with kinship and/or foster care and spend time listening to the caregiver's stories.

Case Management

- **Case plan unique to the family** to determine goals based on the family need(s): legal capacity, financial stability, parenting/child community connection, and caregiver emotional support. Goals for the kin family are created in partnership with the kinship family.
- **Application explanation, completion, and submission support** for legal and financial goals including: temporary guardianship, legal guardianship, private TPR/adoption, child-only TANF applications/child-support documents, SNAP, Medical, Energy Assistance Program, kinship licensing through foster care, child care subsidy, WIC, etc.
- **Financial Assistance** in order to meet any case plan goal application requirements (e.g. pay for birth certificates to prove relationship for child-only TANF, or certification of mailing for guardianship).
- **Emergency Financial Support (when/if available)** such as gift cards, child care or rent payments, bus passes, provided it meets case plan goals and the implementing organization has availability
- **1:1 Emotional Support** throughout the case plan.
- **Warm handoffs and follow-up** with all internal referrals to other organization support programs and external referrals to trusted community partners to monitor and ensure engagement and satisfaction.
- **Regular family contact** to keep track of all goals and services outlined in the case plan and to problem solve any barriers.



IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

1

Strategic Planning

2

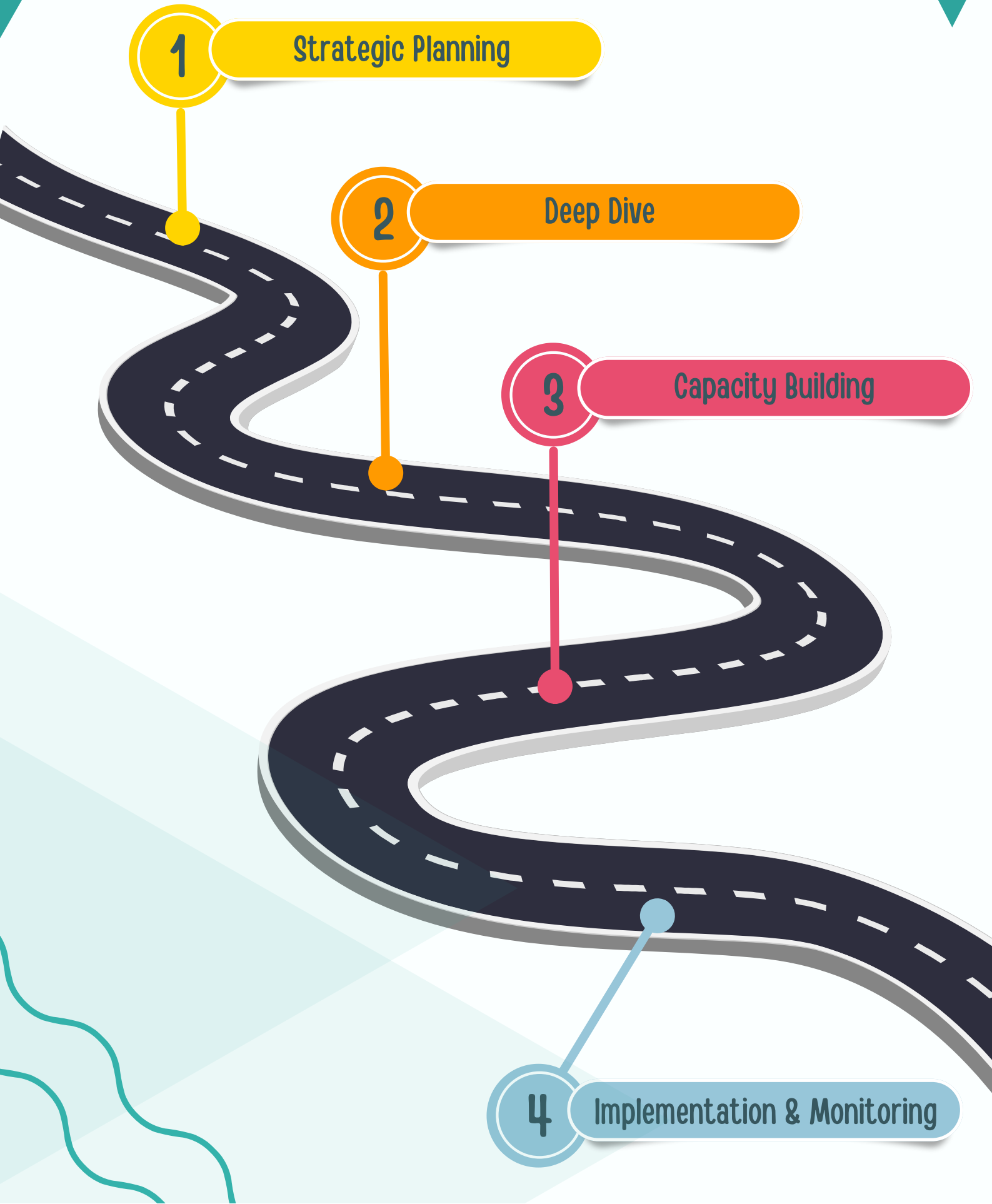
Deep Dive

3

Capacity Building

4

Implementation & Monitoring



IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

1

Strategic Planning



1 Month



Based on Jurisdiction

- Licensing Contract between IV-E Agency & Foster Kinship
- Assistance with SOW/RFP for subcontracting non-profit(s) to target ideal partners for implementation or model
- Strategic Planning Meeting(s) with IV-E Agency Designated for POC for Implementation

2

Deep Dive



2 Months



Based on Jurisdiction

- Initial Site Visit to jurisdiction by FK implementation team (Two- 3 day trips)
- POC Site Visit to Nevada (3 days)
- Mapping Assessment of Jurisdiction Resources
- Creation of Kinship Client Profiles for the Resource Location Tool
- Timeline of Capacity Building Deliverables
- Salesforce Database for Jurisdiction
- Resource Locator Tool for the Jurisdiction

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Capacity Building



Based on Jurisdiction



Based on Jurisdiction

- Cloud-based Jurisdiction Toolkit based on mapping assessment (including all relevant applications, referral forms, process, and resources tied to local resources)
- Roadmap for Formal Kinship Caregivers
- Diversion Guide for Jurisdiction
- Basic Video Library (CW Info Sessions, Legal Options, Financial Options)
- Pre-Screens for legal; financial resources for the jurisdiction
- Updated Kinship Navigator manual for the jurisdiction
- 80 Hours of Implementing non-profits(s) staff training, technical support, and coaching

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Implementation & Monitoring



Ongoing



\$12,000 Annually

- Use of Foster Kinship Program including registered trademarks, copywritten materials
- Monthly fidelity checks and dashboard reporting
- On-site training and skill building every 6 months
- Access to the Foster Kinship Training Institute Library of videos and resources
- Real-time program updates
- 80 hours of additional technical support for IV-E Agency or non-profit subcontractor(s)

PREPARING PARTNERS

The cost to operate the Foster Kinship Navigator Program model in a partnering non-profit should be estimated based on the number of families the organization can reasonably be expected to serve annually, and requires staff support for both levels of the model: Information, Referral, and Support (IRS) and Case Management (CM).

For every 1000 new families served annually, the model requires:

- One (1) Full-time Family Advocate focused on IRS,
- Three (3)-Five (5) Full Time Family Advocate specializing in Case Management,
- One (1) Full-Time Supervisor responsible for model fidelity, direct services, training, support, and supervision.

Other line-item costs:

- Salesforce license for subcontracted organization (at least one per organization required)
- Technology for Family Advocates
- Space for Family Advocates
- Office supplies for Family Advocates
- Equipment for Family Advocates
- Printing
- Admin Postage
- Purchasing Legal Forms
- Postage for families (certified mailing, etc.)
- Purchasing Birth Certificates
- Snacks/meals for support groups
- Notary
- Basic needs items like gift cards, and diapers are optional but helpful
- IF NEEDED: Family Needs Assessments (per family served)

Ideal nonprofit partners for the IV-E Agency subcontract will have a track record of serving kinship families, be familiar with child-welfare policy and procedure and have existing contracts and/or relationships with child welfare, the division of welfare, legal aid services, and other community resources for families.

Ideal nonprofit partners will be able to leverage their existing internal services, external partnerships, and fundraising opportunities to enhance the kinship navigator program implementation.

To support federal reimbursement, the contracted nonprofit(s) may need to be in the IV-E Agency cost allocation plan.



IMPLEMENTATION TEAM



ALI CALIENDO, PHD

Founder and

Executive Director, Foster Kinship

Dr. Caliendo is the founder of Foster Kinship. As the developer of the Foster Kinship Navigator Program, she is passionate about ensuring kinship families across the country have access to evidence-based family stabilization support.



LEAH DODS, MSW

Director of Programs, Foster Kinship

Leah has been with Foster Kinship during the Navigator Program formalization, and evaluation, and currently manages fidelity for the organization. She is an expert in kinship program design, implementation, training, and monitoring.



DEDICATED MANAGERS

Full Service Technology Consulting

As the developer of the Resource Locator Tool (RLT), Dedicated Managers has a decade of experience creating technology solutions for Kinship Navigator Programs. The Dedicated Managers team will ensure proper development of the RLT for the implementing jurisdiction and will support with Salesforce database set up and management.

MORE INFORMATION

Foster Kinship's Navigator model has been rigorously evaluated (Preston, 2021a; Preston, 2021b) and found to significantly improve the following outcomes: access to services (child-only TANF, kinship licensing) and preventing disruption into traditional foster care (with strangers/non-kin).

Foster Kinship's Navigator Model is designed to be the starting place for kinship caregivers. By providing information, referrals, support and case management, the program helps caregivers access legal, financial, and support resources. Our program provide grandparent and kinship caregivers with the tools to break generational cycles of abuse and neglect and raise healthy children.

We look forward to working with you to help keep home in the family and secure a vibrant future for all children in kinship care!

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A vibrant future
for all Children

