



# Inventory of Kinship Care Services in Florida

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## Executive Summary

Kinship care placements are considered a vital resource to the child welfare system. Kinship caregivers, relatives or fictive kin (no-blood relationship), raise children in their home and provide a sense of safety and familiarity. With more than one-third of all children in out-of-home care placed with a kinship caregiver, understanding the benefits and challenges of kinship care arrangements is crucial. Kinship caregivers, for example, are thought to experience barriers and hardships when caring for children in their care, particularly when kinship care programs are lacking in support, financial assistance, and system navigation services. Therefore, the current study sought to provide an inventory of all the community-based care (CBC) lead agencies in Florida to determine the kinship care services available throughout Florida.

The research team conducted a two-prong, multisource mixed-methods design, utilizing a document review, surveys, and focus group sessions to gather data from the CBC lead agency leaders and providers that work with kinship care families across the state. The Department of Children and Families (Department) provided a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) list, which the research team utilized to identify the leaders from each CBC lead agency, using a non-probability purposive sampling technique. Providers, identified by the leadership in each CBC lead agency, were contacted to participate in the provider survey and focus group sessions. The quantitative measures included the document review, leadership survey, and provider survey which asked participants to identify which of the 42 best-practice kinship care services considered essential to kinship navigator programs were available in their service area. Using these three quantitative measures, the research team was able to triangulate the services in each of the CBC lead agencies. The qualitative measures included the focus group sessions that utilized a semi-structured interview guide, which resulted in four themes: 1) experiences with kinship caregivers; 2) kinship care services available; 3) community collaborative partnerships; and 4) kinship care service gaps.

The quantitative results indicated that approximately 40 percent of the providers work with kinship care families *all of the time* and more than 71 percent of providers indicated that the kinship care services were moderately or extremely beneficial. One CBC lead agency was not given an inventory score as the leader did not provide documents for the document review or respond to the leadership survey. Approximately 28 percent of CBC lead agencies reported having fewer than 50 percent of the 42 best-practice services available and 28 percent of CBC lead agencies reported having between 50 and 75 percent of the 42 best-practice services available. Approximately 39 percent of CBC lead agencies reported having more than 75 percent of the 42 best-practice services available with five of these agencies having more than 80 percent of the 42 best-practice services available. The qualitative results indicated that there were four gaps in services identified as the most prevalent across agencies, including respite care, support for kinship caregivers, navigation, and funding. Providers noted that kinship caregivers are asked to take on the responsibility of caring for these children but are provided few supports to help maintain the stability of the placement. One provider in particular suggested that kinship caregivers are almost expected to be able to take on the extra responsibility just because they are family.

While the utilization of kinship care placements is vital to the child welfare system, kinship care families need supports in place to provide stable and safe environments for their children. Though 39 percent of the CBC lead agencies offer strong kinship care services, this study was unable to determine the effectiveness of those services. Therefore, future research needs to provide an evaluation of these services to determine the effectiveness and utility of these services, and the overall benefit to kinship care families.

## Introduction

Kinship care placements are vital to the child welfare system as kinship caregivers provide a sense of protection and benefit to children, such as maintaining a sense of family and tradition for children.<sup>1</sup> These placements are recognized as an advantage to the child welfare system as they promote the preservation and cultural identity of the family and reduce separation trauma.<sup>2</sup> Kinship care arrangements are a growing family type in the U.S.,<sup>3</sup> and according to the Department of Children and Families, of children placed in out-of-home care, 45 percent were placed with a kinship caregiver.<sup>4</sup> Kinship care placements are critical to the child welfare system in Florida.

## Background

According to section 39.5086, *Florida Statutes*, kinship caregivers are defined as relatives or fictive kin (no-blood relationship) who raise children in their home and continue to help them achieve permanency and stability.<sup>5</sup> Kinship care placements can be arranged informally or formally. In informal kinship care arrangements the guardian has physical custody by no established legal relationship—the children are not formally part of the dependency system. Formal kinship care arrangements typically involve children who are part of the child welfare system and receive public assistance. These arrangements are approved through the legal system, resulting in children being adjudicated and kinship care families having proceedings in the dependency system.<sup>6</sup>

Kinship care families are critical to the child welfare system as they help support the care of anywhere between one-third and one-half of children placed in out-of-home care.<sup>7,8</sup> In fact, estimates suggest 1 in 11 children under 18 live in a kinship arrangement at some point.<sup>9</sup> Research has pointed to the benefit of kinship care, which emphasizes keeping children connected to their extended family, as it increases stability and safety, maintains cultural and familial traditions,<sup>10,11</sup> and can result in fewer trauma experiences.<sup>12</sup>

However, research has also highlighted potential negative experiences of kinship caregivers and barriers to successful kinship care placements (particularly for informal kin caregivers).<sup>13</sup> In particular, these caregivers need support navigating the complex child welfare system, finding affordable housing, obtaining medical and health care, and navigating the educational system. Research suggests that kinship care services that support peer-to-peer navigation, kinship-navigators, and provide a wealth of information to their kinship caregivers can mitigate the barriers felt by these caregivers.<sup>14</sup>

Kinship caregivers often feel an increase in their daily demands when assuming the role of primary guardian, which can manifest as worry regarding financial stability and concerns about the child's well-being.<sup>15</sup> In addition, decreased social interactions with members of their own peer group contributes to feelings of diminished emotional support.<sup>16</sup> Research highlights the importance of support for kinship caregivers, particularly when supported by peers and other kinship caregivers who have similar experiences.<sup>17,18</sup>

The research is clear—supports and services for both kinship caregivers and kinship children are necessary to ensure placement stability.<sup>19,20</sup> Therefore, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act funded the creation of kinship navigator programs, which are used to provide information and referrals concerning access to legal services, childcare, and financial services to kinship caregivers.<sup>21</sup> Kinship navigator programs have been initiated to offer information on benefits, services, supports, and programs available to kin caregivers, to help families navigate the formal support system by increasing awareness of services and clarifying eligibility procedures. These programs also provide outreach to kinship care families and promote partnerships between public and private agencies.<sup>22</sup>

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) provides language about Kinship Navigator programs, specifically regarding education of kinship caregivers on the services and programs available to assist in meeting the needs of their kinship children. In addition, kinship navigator programs should coordinate services with community collaborative partners to provide guidance and support through outreach programs specifically for kinship care families.<sup>23</sup> Section 39.5086, *Florida Statutes*, also provides language similar to the FFPSA, stating that the purpose of kinship navigator programs is to assist kinship caregivers navigate the system by identifying community collaborative partners, providing education for kinship caregivers to assist them with meeting the needs of their children, and providing a dedicated hotline to link kinship caregivers to services.<sup>24</sup>

There are approximately 70 kinship navigator programs in 26 states across the U.S.<sup>25</sup> These programs suggest that the primary goals should include providing kinship caregivers with education regarding the services available, linking caregivers to community collaborative partners, and providing social and financial support.<sup>26</sup> These programs should also assist kinship care families in establishing self-sufficiency and long-term placement stability,<sup>27</sup> and can do so by utilizing technology, engaging peer-to-peer navigation, and promoting interdisciplinary teams.<sup>28</sup> These programs highlight the importance of strong kinship care services to the success of kinship care placement; however, none of these programs meet the FFPSA standard of a promising, supported, or well-supported program.<sup>29</sup> Given the importance the FFPSA places on evidence-based programs, child welfare agencies are continuing to examine existing kinship programs in an effort to develop strong kinship navigator programs.

## Current Study

In 2018, the Department of Children and Families (Department) conducted a brief survey of the 18 community-based care (CBC) lead agencies to determine which agencies reported kinship care services. Sixty-one percent of the lead agencies responded to this

survey, of which 36 percent reported there were no formalized kinship services available. While this brief survey provided the Department with some foundational information about the kinship care services across Florida, the survey lacked a nuanced inventory of which kinship care services are available in which agencies. Therefore, the Florida Institute for Child Welfare (Institute) was tasked with assessing the current kinship care services within Florida. The primary research question being addressed is: *What are the current kinship services throughout Florida?*

## Methods

### RESEARCH DESIGN

The research team utilized a two-prong, multisource mixed-methods design for the kinship inventory. The first prong of the inventory included a *document review*, which provided the Institute with a strong foundation for the formalized kinship services across the state based on documents submitted by each lead agency. The second prong of the inventory included *surveys and focus group/conference call sessions*. Surveys were used to gather data from agency leadership and providers who work with kinship care families across the state. These surveys provided the research team with a varied understanding of kinship care services from multiple perspectives. The focus groups also addressed kinship care services from multiple perspectives, providing a more robust understanding of the type and utility of services provided by each CBC lead agency throughout Florida.

### Sampling Design

After securing an approved Institutional Review Board letter, the research team reached out to the Department for a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) list, which provided contact information for leadership in each of the CBC lead agencies across Florida. The SPOC list was utilized to contact leaders using a non-probability purposive sampling technique.<sup>30</sup>

### Recruitment

The population of interest for this project included the leadership from each CBC lead agency and kinship care providers from each CBC lead agency and surrounding communities.

#### *Document Review*

In January 2019, the research team emailed leadership from each CBC lead agency ( $N = 18$ ) asking them to locate documents (such as practice guidelines, policy documentation, flyers/handouts, or program descriptions) about the kinship care services offered in their area. The research team sent two follow-up emails throughout January and February. Data collection ended February 2019.

#### *Survey*

There were two surveys sent out to participants: the leadership and provider surveys. The leadership survey targeted the 18 contacts from the SPOC list and one additional leader who requested inclusion in the project. Each contact received an email in March 2019, asking them to participate in a survey using Qualtrics, an online survey tool. The research team sent three follow up reminders throughout March and April. Data collection ended April 2019.



The provider survey targeted kinship care providers who were identified as key informants by each of the leaders in the leadership survey. In May 2019, 100 providers were sent an email soliciting participation in a survey using Qualtrics. The research team sent three follow-up reminders to participants throughout May and June. Data collection ended July 2019.

#### *Focus Group/Conference Call Sessions*

Given CBC lead agencies are located throughout the state of Florida, focus groups and conference calls were utilized to collect qualitative data. Programs with documents that indicated growth within the kinship care services were selected for in-person focus group sessions ( $n = 8$ ). However, given scheduling conflicts, some focus group sessions were rescheduled as conference call sessions ( $n = 5$ ). Programs with documents that indicated extensive or minimal kinship care services were selected for conference call sessions, utilizing Skype and Zoom modalities ( $n = 10$ ). Recruitment for the focus group/conference call sessions (*hereafter referred to as focus group sessions*) began June 2019. Data collection ended July 2019.

### Participants

Of the 18 leaders contacted for the document review, 16 provided documentation on kinship care services in their agencies. The two contacts who did not provide documentation responded that formalized kinship care services were not provided by their agencies. The research team co-coded two agency's documents resulting in 18 documents for the document review. Leadership surveys were completed by leaders from 17 CBC lead agencies, with one leader who did not complete the survey and two leaders completing the survey from one CBC lead agency resulting in 18 leadership surveys. The response rate for the provider survey was 62 percent ( $n = 62$ ), with a majority of respondents indicating they were from the Northeast (31%) and Suncoast (25%) regions. All 18 lead agencies were contacted for focus group sessions, with 17 CBC lead agencies and providers participating. A total of 76 providers participated in the focus group sessions (See Table 1 for providers from each region).

**Table 1. Providers from each Region**

Region	Provider Survey		Focus Group Sessions	
	%	Total N (62)	%	Total N (76)
Northwest	3%	2	12%	9
Northeast	31%	19	36%	27
Central	19%	12	17%	13
Suncoast	26%	16	17%	13
Southeast	11%	7	13%	10
Southern	10%	6	5%	4

#### *Incentives*

As a thank you to the kinship providers for taking time out of their busy schedules to participate in the focus group sessions, compensation in the form of a \$25 Amazon gift card was emailed to each of the 76 participants.

## MEASUREMENT DESIGN

### Quantitative Measures

The research team identified 42 best-practice kinship care services considered essential to kinship navigator programs from well-established or evaluated programs identified in the literature—e.g., Children's Home Network Kin-Tech.<sup>31</sup> Services were also identified through the Florida statutes and the FFPSA.<sup>32,33</sup> Using these 42 best-practice kinship care services, the research team constructed four subcategories based on the type of service provided (see Appendix A for a full list of services divided by subcategory).

- ◆ **Services for kinship caregivers.** The research team identified 19 of the 42 best-practice kinship care services as useful for kinship caregivers. These services directly impact kinship caregivers and include services such as medical, dental, mental health care, or parenting education.
- ◆ **Services for kinship children.** The research team identified 5 of the 42 best-practice kinship care services as useful for kinship children. These services directly impact children placed in kinship care and include services such as medical, dental, health care, or education assistance.
- ◆ **Programmatic support services.** The research team identified 13 of the 42 best-practice kinship care services as programmatic support, which serve to support and promote kinship care programs. These services directly influence kinship care, such as community collaborative partnerships, dedicated kinship navigators, and Family Finder's Components.
- ◆ **Other services.** The research team identified 5 of the 42 best-practice kinship care services as other, which are important but did not necessarily fit under one of the three categories listed above. These services were highlighted as important for kinship care programs to be effective and include services such as engagement and relationship building.

#### *Document Review*

The research team developed a Document Review Protocol (Appendix B) used to record key elements of the kinship care services available according to each CBC lead agency. Services were recorded as "available" if the research team could identify the service through the documents provided. Services were recorded as "unavailable" if the research team could not identify if the service was available based on the documents provided. The Document Review Protocol served as an overview of the kinship care services available within each agency.

#### *Leadership Survey*

The leadership survey outlined the 42 best-practice kinship care services and asked each of the leaders to identify which services were available in their agency (Appendix C). Responses recorded as "yes" indicated the service was available based on the leader and responses recorded as "no" indicated the service was not available based on the leader. An additional open-ended question asked, "What other services does your agency offer to kinship caregivers?"

#### *Provider Survey*

The provider survey included questions about the demographics of the provider—e.g., agency and job title and the experience

the provider has working with kinship caregivers. The providers were also asked to rate their perceptions working with kinship caregivers and to identify the benefits of the kinship care services available in their area. The provider survey also outlined the 42 best-practice kinship care services and asked each provider to identify which services were available in their area (Appendix D). Responses recorded as “yes” indicated the service was available based on the provider and responses recorded as “no” indicated the service was not available based on the provider. Finally, two open-ended questions were asked: “*What other services does your agency offer to kinship caregivers?*” and “*Thinking about kinship caregivers in your agency, what resources are needed to improve kinship care?*”

#### *Triangulation of Services*

The 42 best-practice kinship care services were assessed using the document review, leadership survey, and provider survey. The research team triangulated the services using these three quantitative data points to identify which of the 42 best-practice kinship care services were highly likely to be available, available, or not available for each CBC lead agency. To determine which services were highly likely to be available, the service must have been noted in all three quantitative data points (document review, leadership survey, and provider survey). Services considered available could be noted in one of three ways:

- 1) The service was noted in at least the leadership survey.
- 2) The service was noted in the document review and at least one provider survey.
- 3) The service was noted in more than 50 percent of the respondents of the provider survey.

Based on the availability of the 42 best-practice kinship care services, each CBC lead agency was provided a total inventory score (0-100%). Inventory scores above 75 percent indicate that the agency has at least 32 of the 42 best-practice kinship care services available for kinship care families. Inventory scores between 50 percent and 75 percent indicate that the agency has between 21 and 31 of the 42 best-practice kinship care services available for kinship care families. Finally, inventory scores below 50 percent indicate that the agency has fewer than 21 of the 42 best-practice kinship care services available and likely needs additional supports for their kinship care families.

#### **Qualitative Measures**

Focus group sessions utilized a semi-structured interview guide based on the interest of the Department and results from the document review and surveys. Focus group sessions were recorded and transcribed by a professional transcription service.

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

### **Quantitative Data Analysis**

The research team triangulated the quantitative data to identify which of the 42 best-practice kinship care services were available statewide, regionally, and within each agency. Triangulation, defined as the examination of one topic using various data collection methods involving different types of samples,<sup>34</sup> was well suited to the goal of developing a comprehensive inventory of kinship care services available in Florida. This triangulation provided an in-depth understanding of the services likely to be available and enhanced the research team's ability to interpret the quantitative data.<sup>35</sup>

### **Qualitative Data Analysis**

Focus group sessions were tape recorded and transcribed. Using an a priori deductive analysis based on the semi-structured interview guide, four themes were identified: 1) experiences with kinship caregivers; 2) kinship care services available; 3) community collaborative partnerships; and 4) kinship care service gaps. The themes were coded for each of the focus group sessions.

## **Results**

### **STATEWIDE FINDINGS**

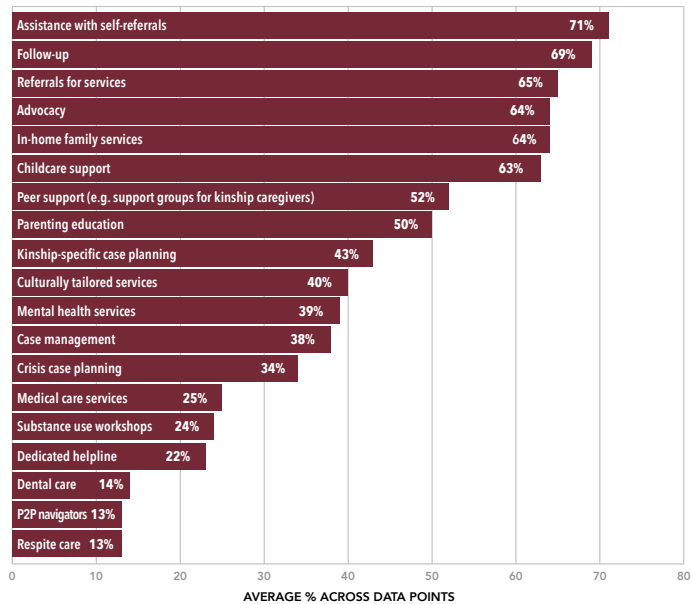
The statewide results, presented below, are based on the data collected via documents for the document review (16 out of 18 CBC lead agencies submitted documents), leadership survey (completed by 18 out of 19 leaders), provider survey (completed by 62 out of 100 providers), and focus group sessions (72 providers participated). The statewide findings include quantitative and qualitative data. The quantitative findings include the benefits of kinship care services and experiences working with kinship care families assessed through the provider survey, and the percentage of kinship care best-practice services available assessed through the document review, leadership survey, and provider survey. The qualitative findings include direct quotes from providers around the themes based on the semi-structured interview guide.

### **Quantitative**

According to the leadership survey, approximately 73 percent ( $n = 14$ ) of agencies have formalized kinship care services (e.g., written policies, procedures, informational handouts, description of kinship care services on the agency website, and other indicators of formal policies). According to the provider survey, almost all providers work with kinship care families some of the time, with nearly 40 percent of providers who work with kinship care families all of the time ( $n = 62$ ). Additionally, more than 70 percent of providers indicated kinship care services as moderately or extremely beneficial ( $n = 62$ ). Finally, on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 indicating very poor experiences and 10 indicating excellent experiences, providers noted, on average, that they had fairly good experiences working with kinship care families ( $\bar{X} = 7.69$ ;  $n = 56$ ).

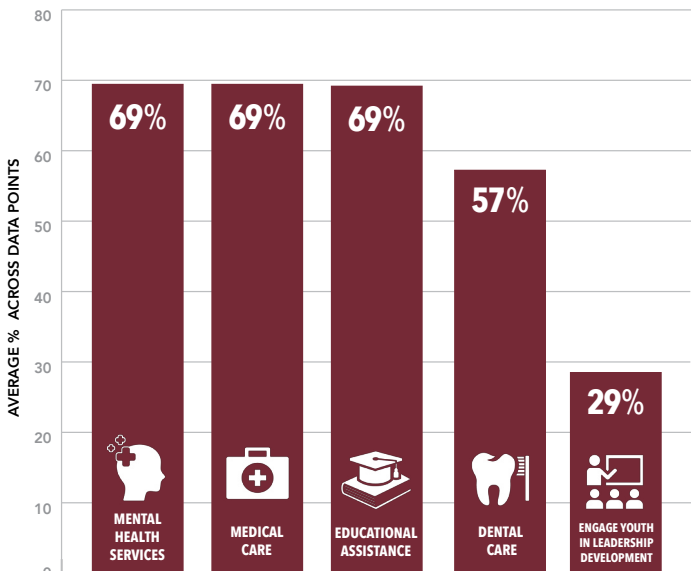
All 19 services for kinship caregivers were identified as being highly likely to be available (see Figure 1) throughout the state. Eight of these services (42%) were identified in an average of 50 percent or more of the data, while only three of these services were identified in an average of less than 15 percent of the data across all three quantitative data points.

**Figure 1. Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers from the Statewide Perspective**



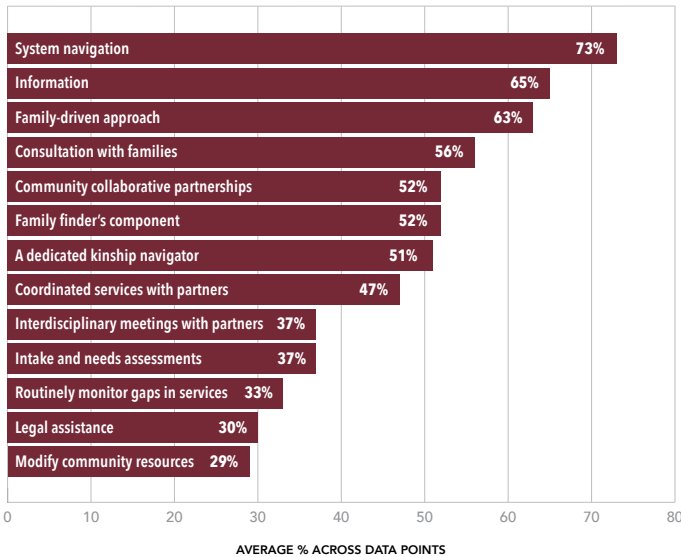
All five services for kinship children were identified as being highly likely to be available (see Figure 2) throughout the state. All but one of these services (80%) were identified in an average of more than 55 percent of the data across all three quantitative data points.

**Figure 2. Services Offered to Kinship Children from the Statewide Perspective**



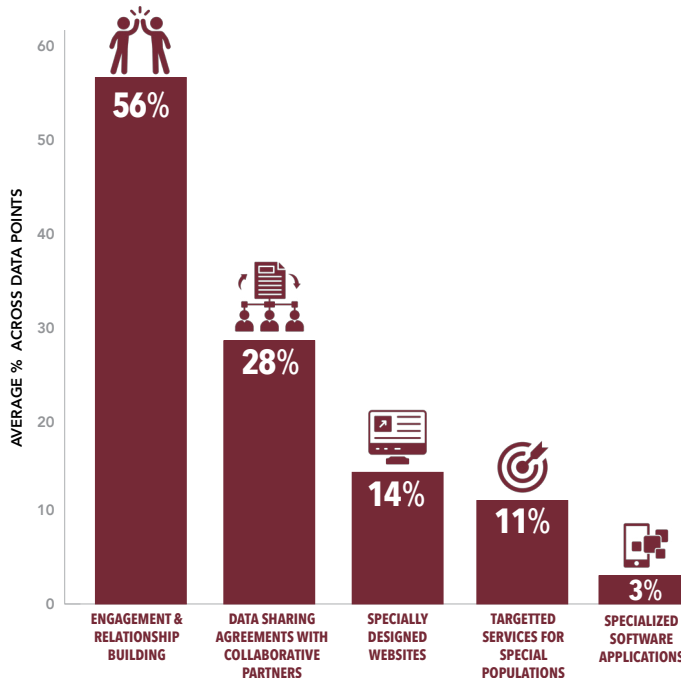
Approximately, 77 percent of the 13 programmatic support services (10) were identified as being highly likely to be available (see Figure 3) throughout the state. Seven of these services (54%) were identified in an average of more than 50 percent of the data across all three quantitative data points.

**Figure 3. Programmatic Support Services from the Statewide Perspective**



Three (60%) of the five other services were considered highly likely to be available (see Figure 4) throughout the state. However, only one of these services was identified in an average of more than 50 percent of the data across all three quantitative data points.

**Figure 4. Other Services from the Statewide Perspective**





*At a Glance: Statewide by Agency*

While 37 of the 42 best-practice kinship care services were highly likely to be available throughout the state, the data presented below in Tables 2-5, highlight the services by type from an agency perspective.

**Table 2. Statewide by Agency – Services for Kinship Caregivers**

	CBC Lead Agencies																		
Services for Kinship Caregivers	Family Support Services	Heartland for Children	Kids Central	ChildNet, Inc.	Embrace Families	Brevard Family Partnerships	Eckerd Community Alternative - Hillsborough	Childrens Network of SWFL	Our Kids	Safe Children Coalition	Eckerd Community Alternative – Pasco & Pinellas	Community Partnership for Children	Family First Network	Communities Connected for Kids	Kids First	Family Integrity Program	Partnership for Strong Families	Big Bend Community-Based Care	Coverage Across the State
Assist with Self-referrals																			17
Childcare Services																			17
Follow-up																			16
In-home Family Services																			16
Advocacy																			15
Provide Referrals																			14
Mental Health Services																			13
Peer Support Services																			12
Parenting Education																			11
Case Management																			10
Case Planning																			9
Culturally Tailored Services																			9
Crisis Case Planning																			9
Substance Use Workshops																			7
Dedicated Helpline																			6
Medical Care Services																			5
Respite Care Services																			5
Peer-to-Peer Navigation																			4
Dental Care Services																			3
Total Services:	18	17	16	16	16	15	14	13	11	11	9	8	8	7	7	6	6	0	

74 percent of the services available for kinship caregivers (n = 19) were identified by more than 50 percent of the agencies. Six of the services available for kinship caregivers (32%) were identified by more than 75 percent of the agencies.

**Table 3. Statewide by Agency – Services for Kinship Children**

	CBC Lead Agencies																			
Services for Kinship Children	Family Support Services	Kids Central	Heartland for Children	ChildNet, Inc.	Embrace Families	Brevard Family Partnerships	Our Kids	Safe Children Coalition	Children's Network of SWFL	Partnership for Strong Families	Eckerd Community Alternative – Pasco & Pinellas	Communities Connected for Kids	Kids First	Family Integrity Program	Community Partnership for Children	Eckerd Community Alternative – Hillsborough	Family First Network	Big Bend Community-Based Care	Coverage Across the State	
	Educational Assistance																			16
	Mental Health Services																			16
	Medical Care Services																			16
	Dental Care Services																			15
	Engage Youth in Leadership Development																			10
	Total Services:	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	0		0

100 percent of the services available for kinship children (n = 5) were identified by more than 50 percent of the agencies. Four of these services (80%) were identified by more than 75 percent of the agencies.

**Table 4. Statewide by Agency – Programmatic Support Services**

Programmatic Support Services	CBC Lead Agencies																		Coverage Across the State
	Family Support Services	Kids Central	Heartland for Children	ChildNet, Inc.	Eckerd Community Alternative - Hillsborough	Embrace Families	Brevard Family Partnerships	Our Kids	Eckerd Community Alternative – Pasco & Pinellas	Communities Connected for Kids	Safe Children Coalition	Kids First	Family Integrity Program	Children's Network of SWFL	Community Partnership for Children	Family First Network	Partnership for Strong Families	Big Bend Community-Based Care	
Family Driven Approach to Services																			17
System Navigation																			16
Information about Kinship-specific Services																			14
Family Finder's Component																			14
Consultation Support																			13
Dedicated Kinship Navigator																			13
Coordinated Services with Partners																			13
Interdisciplinary Meetings with Partners																			13
Community Collaborative Partnerships																			12
Monitor Gaps in Services																			12
Modify Community Resources																			10
Intake/needs Assessments																			8
Legal Assistance																			6
Total Services:	13	13	13	13	13	12	12	10	10	9	8	7	7	6	6	5	4	0	

More than 90 percent of the programmatic support services ( $n = 13$ ) were identified by more than 50 percent of the agencies. Four of these services (31%) were identified by more than 75 percent of the agencies.

**Table 5. Statewide by Agency – Other Services**

	CBC Lead Agencies																			
Other Services	Family Support Services	Kids Central	Communities Connected for Kids	Heartland for Children	ChildNet, Inc.	Embrace Families	Eckerd Community Alternative – Hillsborough	Our Kids	Eckerd Community Alternative – Pasco & Pinellas	Kids First	Family Integrity Program	Brevard Family Partnerships	Safe Children Coalition	Childrens Network of SWFL	Community Partnership for Children	Partnership for Strong Families	Family First Network	Big Bend Community-Based Care	Coverage Across the State	
	Engagement and Relationship Building																			17
	Data Sharing Agreements with Collaborative Partners																			9
	Specially Designed Website																			4
	Targeted Services for Specialized Populations																			1
	Specialized Software Applications																			0
	Total Services:	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0		

Only two of the other services (40%,  $n = 5$ ) were identified by more than 50 percent of the agencies. Engagement and relationship building was the only service identified by more than 75 percent of the agencies (94%).

Qualitative

Formal and Informal Kinship Care Arrangements

There were 76 providers who participated in the focus group sessions across the state. During the focus group sessions, the research team gleaned information regarding kinship care arrangements within each agency. Of the 17 agencies that did participate in the focus group sessions, six did not provide information regarding which kinship care families receive services (formal kinship care families—those who have a dependency case, or informal kinship care families—those who are outside the dependency system).

Four agencies suggested that there are services for both formal and informal kinship care arrangements. Community Partnership for Children indicated that they provide financial assistance for both formal and informal kinship care arrangements. While formal kinship care arrangements are provided relative/non-relative caregiving funds, informal kinship care arrangements are eligible for caretaker funds. Embrace Families suggested that while they primarily deal only with open dependency cases, they were given a grant that allowed the agency to work with non-dependency cases. Finally, Heartland for Children and Kids Central both provide full services for formal and informal kinship care arrangements. Heartland for Children suggested around 20 percent of the families served are considered informal arrangements and Kids Central suggested around 50 percent of the families served are considered informal arrangements.

Seven agencies suggested that they only have guaranteed services for formal kinship care arrangements. Brevard Family Partnership suggested that they reserve their services for formal kinship care families, but when available, will provide resources to informal kinship care families. Family Support Services also provides services primarily to formal kinship care arrangements; however, they suggested there are some informal services for non-dependency cases through community-based agencies. Children’s Network for Southwest Florida noted that there is a division within the agency, Camelot Diversion, which will work with families considered “safe but high risk” to reduce the likelihood of those families coming into the dependency system. However, the kinship care services are reserved for formal kinship care arrangements. Finally, Eckerd Community Alternative – Hillsborough suggested that Children’s Home Network has previously worked with informal kinship care families, but currently only families with an open dependency case have access to the kinship care services available.

The remaining three agencies suggested that they only provide services for formal kinship care arrangements. Providers from Kids First suggested that informal kinship care arrangements often do not receive any resources, putting these families at risk for placement instability. Providers from the Family Integrity Program suggested that the only assistance guaranteed from their agency is the relative/non-relative caregiving funds, which are reserved only for formal kinship care arrangements. Finally, providers from Our Kids suggested that only families with dependency cases are provided kinship care services.

Kinship Care Services

Four themes were developed from the semi-structured interview guide related to kinship care services in each agency. These four themes, with exemplary quotes, are provided below in Tables 6-9.

Table 6. Statewide Results from the Focus Group Sessions – Experiences with Kinship Caregivers

Experiences with Kinship Caregivers
<i>“It has been amazing. Relative caregivers are simply amazing. They go through the whole gamut of emotions of course. [T]hey are called to the task to step forward in the lives of their relative’s child for whatever situation.”</i>
<i>“This is by far my favorite part of working in child welfare is working with the relatives and nonrelatives in the kinship. So I just really feel strongly about kids being placed with their family.”</i>
<i>“It’s very rewarding when families are able to have their own kin in their homes but more importantly feeling like they’re getting support to make it successful. And overall the system, it’s a difficult system, child welfare. I feel that the families that we’re able to interact with have more support than those families that don’t come to our attention.”</i>

Table 7. Statewide Results from the Focus Group Sessions – Kinship Care Services Available

Kinship Care Services Available
<i>“There are kinship services available. And of course, when a grandparent advocates effectively for their grandchild, every service out there can be a service for kinship caregiving. But they have to be tenacious in their advocacy.”</i>
<i>“In terms of when we look system wide one measure that we see that we have done extremely well on and we continue to do well on is our placement stability. We are leading as I say at the top ranking in terms of placement stability in our circuit. I really contribute that because we are—there’s a sense of urgency of responding and ensuring that we’re getting things in place early on.”</i>
<i>“All of our staff are trained in how to assist our caregivers in getting Access Florida benefits, because finances are one of those things that are always key in any, when we’re dealing with our caregivers.”</i>

Leaders and providers noted several services as available to their kinship care families in the open-ended questions in the leadership (n = 10) and provider (n = 34) surveys, including:

- ♦ Funding
- ♦ In-home services such as physical, mental, and behavioral support and therapeutic crisis intervention
- ♦ Ongoing community outreach such as support groups, community events such as holiday events, back-to-school assistance, intergenerational events, and social media outreach such as Facebook groups for kinship caregivers
- ♦ Assistance with referrals and system navigation such as childcare referrals, navigating DCF benefit systems, and the legal system
- ♦ Services for teens such as planning for independence
- ♦ Trainings for caregivers and 24/7 on-call support
- ♦ Grief and loss counseling
- ♦ Development of respite care services
- ♦ Ongoing access to kinship services after case closure





**Table 8. Statewide Results from the Focus Group Sessions – Collaborative Partnerships**

Collaborative Partnerships
<p><i>"[We] attend community meetings so there's a partnership in every county with community providers where any one of us could pick-up a phone and call one of those providers and know that if they have it nine times out of ten our families are able to obtain the services there."</i></p>
<p><i>"It [is] just a wonderful collaboration of sharing and learning each other's resources so that we can refer appropriately and get all of our community needs met as quick as possible. [I]t's a great collaboration."</i></p>
<p><i>"[T]he staff are really well versed and have made a lot of networking connections in the community to try to get those families into services."</i></p>

**Figure 5. Most Prevalent Gaps in Service noted by the Participants from the Focus Group Sessions – Statewide Perspective**



**Table 9. Statewide Results from the Focus Group Sessions – Kinship Care Service Gaps**

 <p><b>Respite Care</b></p>	<p><i>"You know sometimes our caregivers develop really strong bonds by attending the support group and they become their own support system, that's ideal, but for some of those that doesn't happen. To be able to offer them a respite program would be amazing."</i></p> <p><i>"[T]hat is such a need for our caregivers. It's just some respite care a couple of hours even a week where they know that they can trust this person so that you know they can maintain their relationships. Go out on a date with their husband or their wife or whomever you know? That sort of a thing, go to a doctor. Sometimes you know if they're at home and they don't have childcare then they have to take that child with them everywhere they go, so even a few hours of respite."</i></p>
 <p><b>Support for Kinship Caregivers</b></p>	<p><i>"They're already taking so much, and then some of them have to have the kids in daycare in order to care for them. And so definitely I think a lot of our relative placements, a lot of them are—they're one stay-at-home parent and one parent that works full time, or they're both working."</i></p> <p><i>"I think a lot of the frustration with the relative and non-relatives is that lack of support, and I think if they had more of that support maybe some of their frustrations wouldn't be taken out towards the parents and breaking that relationship."</i></p>
 <p><b>Navigation</b></p>	<p><i>"I mean, it would be beautiful [to have] someone that understood the language, the court language and could talk to the caregiver and then present the court, what they were saying and what the other side was saying as well."</i></p> <p><i>"I mean, I think that support for the caregiver, the relatives and non-relatives to have their own—whatever title you want to give them. Not just the systems navigation piece, but like a targeted case manager, specific to the kinship families to help them get everything that they need."</i></p>
 <p><b>Funding</b></p>	<p><i>"A lot of times the caregivers they don't want their case to close, because they're afraid that they're going to lose all their services. That's a reality. It's so true for the informal caregivers because they don't qualify for a whole lot."</i></p> <p><i>"That has been one of the kind of recurring themes across the board is that these families—these kin families are often last in line for everything and only kin families that are adjudicated get resources. The informal kinship arrangements tend to be even further down the line. And so, our families don't get enough money in general."</i></p>



## REGION/AGENCY

The following data present the quantitative and qualitative findings from each region and agency within the region, starting with the Northwest Region and concluding with the Southern Region.

### Northwest

The results presented below are from the agencies in the Northwest Region of Florida: Big Bend Community Based Care, Circuits 2 and 14 and Families First Network, Circuit 1.

#### Quantitative

**Table 10. Northwest Region by Agency at a Glance**

Agency	Circuit/ County	Total N	Inventory Score	Services Reported
Family First Network	1	2*	33%**	14
Big Bend CBC, Inc	2 & 14	2*	0%***	0

\* One leader responded to the leadership survey and provided documents for the document review (Family First Network) and only two providers participated in the provider survey (Big Bend CBC, Inc.)

\*\* Percentage of Services Reported by 42 best practice services

\*\*\* No documents were sent to the research team, the leader did not complete the leadership survey, and there was more than 50 percent missing data from one of the providers who participated in the provider survey. Therefore, an inventory score was unable to be assessed

#### Qualitative

Nine providers participated in the focus group sessions in the Northwest Region. The four themes, with exemplary quotes, are provided below in Table 11.

**Table 11. Results from the Focus Group Session from the Northwest Region**

Themes	Exemplary Quote	Exemplary Quote
Experiences with Kinship Caregivers	<i>"Well, I love working with our kinship families; it provides us the opportunity to maintain those significant connections for the children that we're serving."</i>	<i>"We don't have a process in place for those non-, what we would deem traditionally non-emergencies, but can be an emergency for a caregiver."</i>
Support for Kinship Caregivers	<i>"That is something that I see extremely frequently, particularly when grandparents are caring for children, that they don't want their adult children to be punished because of the child support actions. And so, very frequently—even when experiencing financial difficulty, they're not wanting the relative caregiver funds because of the ties to the child support action."</i>	<i>"Yeah, and I think the CPI should request them to pay child support or request the court anyways."</i>
Collaborative Partnerships	<i>"[W]e're going to have to spend time connecting our business relationships in the different communities to the need of these caregivers. So, they have to understand that there are caregivers in their community that really need their support, and so these caregivers then become part of a higher priority list."</i>	<i>"So, it's that ongoing dialogue that we have to have with all of these players in the community who will have a direct impact on whether or not that placement is successful."</i>
Kinship Care Service Gaps	<i>"And, to me, that's a huge, huge need in our community is childcare providers that are willing to work with children that are coming from a traumatic situation or experiencing trauma. But just the majority of our kids have such a traumatic background, and we just don't have the support for them in that situation."</i>	<i>"[T]rauma behaviors look a whole lot like ADHD. And there's just a lack of training in the childcare system as a whole, I think."</i>

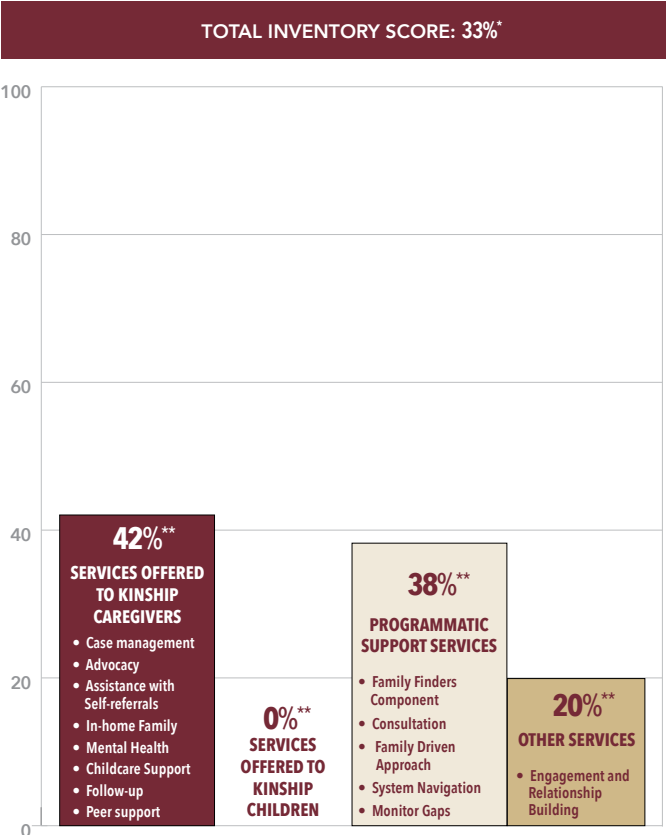


Families First Network

According to their leadership, the Families First Network provides formal kinship care services in Circuit 1. There were no provider surveys completed by kinship care providers from this circuit; therefore, only services identified by leadership were considered available. There were 14 services available based on the leadership survey (see Figure 6).<sup>a</sup>

Quantitative

Figure 6. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Families First Network



\*14 out of 42 best practice services available

\*\* 8 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers;  
0 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children;  
6 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services;  
1 out of 5 Other Services

Qualitative

Figure 7 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuit 1, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group sessions with kinship care providers in Circuit 1.

Figure 7. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuit 1

↑ INCREASED SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS		↑ INCREASED SYSTEM SUPPORT	
System Navigation	Strengthen Family Bonds	Childcare	Thorough Home Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Relative/Non-relative caregiving benefits</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Child Parent Psychotherapy</li><li>Trauma-focused training to help caregivers modify behavioral issues in children</li><li>Help caregivers maintain strong boundaries with parents</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increase the number of quality childcare options</li><li>More trauma-focused childcare options</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ensuring kinship placement will meet permanent guardianship standards</li></ul>

<sup>a</sup> Only services identified in the leadership survey were used to identify the available services as no provider surveys were completed.

*Big Bend Community-Based Care, Inc.*  
Big Bend Community-Based Care, Inc. services 12 counties over two circuits: Circuit 2 and Circuit 14. According to leadership from Big Bend Community-Based Care, Inc., there are no formal kinship care services available. Given this information, a document review and leadership survey were not completed. The quantitative data provided were based on feedback from two providers; however, there was missing data in more than 50 percent of the survey responses. Therefore, the research team could not determine which services were highly likely to be available or available, and an inventory score for Big Bend Community-Based Care, Inc. was unable to be determined.

**Qualitative**

Figure 8 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuits 2 and 14, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group session with kinship care providers in these circuits.

**Figure 8.** Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuits 2 & 14



## Northeast

The results presented below are from the agencies in the Northeast Region of Florida. Leadership from each of the agencies provided the research team with documents for the document review and completed the leadership survey. Eighteen providers participated in the provider survey in the Northeast Region.

### Quantitative

**Table 12. Northeast Region by Agency at a Glance**

Agency	Circuit/County	Total N	Inventory Score	Services Reported
Family Support Services	4/Duval & Nassau	7	93%*	39
Kids First	4/Clay	2	48%*	20
Family Integrity Program	7/St. Johns	7	45%*	19
Community Partnership for Children, Inc.	7/Flagler, Putnam, & Volusia	6	45%*	19
Partnership for Strong Families	3 & 8	6	38%*	16

\* Percentage of services reported out of the 42 best-practice kinship care services

**Table 13. Cross-tabulation of Agency by Service Type from Northeast Region**

	AGENCY					Average Across Agencies
	Family Support Services	Kids First	Family Integrity Program	Community Partnership for Children, Inc.	Partnership for Strong Families	
Services for Kinship Caregivers	95%	37%	32%	42%	32%	<b>48%</b>
Services for Kinship Children	100%	80%	80%	80%	100%	<b>88%</b>
Programmatic Support Services	100%	54%	54%	46%	31%	<b>57%</b>
Other Services	60%	40%	40%	20%	20%	<b>36%</b>

**Table 14. Quantitative Data from Northeast Region**

Variable	Total <i>N</i>		%	<i>n</i>
Kinship Care Services	18	Beneficial	65	17
		Moderately/Extremely Beneficial	29	17
Total <i>N</i>			$\bar{X}$	<i>n</i>
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families	18		6.65	17

## Qualitative

Twenty-six providers participated in the focus group sessions in the Northeast Region. The four themes, with exemplary quotes, are provided in Table 15.

**Table 15. Results from the Focus Group Sessions from the Northeast Region**

Themes	Exemplary Quote	Exemplary Quote
Experiences with Kinship Caregivers	<i>"Well, I've always enjoyed working with relative or non-relative or kinship families. Of course, that's the preferred placement for children when they're removed."</i>	<i>"I feel like most of the kinship families that I work with, they kind of feel like they're probably the only one in the situation. They are reaching out to us when they have hit their limit of frustration with the children in their home or maybe it's the parent that also has to be related to them."</i>
Support for Kinship Caregivers	<i>"I think the services are available. They're there. The funding isn't there to get these kids where they need to be going."</i>	<i>"But with the kinship program, I think [the kinship manager will] be able to work a little better with caregivers because that'll be their focus is just working with kinship families and maintaining children in the home."</i>
Collaborative Partnerships	<i>"We have a monthly meeting when different providers and resources, agencies come together to discuss services that, you know, even free medical clinics that families may not be aware of in the community. So it's constant collaboration and, of course, the information's taken back to our agency and other agencies so we can let others know in the community."</i>	<i>"So, we have good communications with our partners. We have monthly consortiums with all the providers, and we just maintain great communications with all of them. [A] lot of times we need something fast. We can really usually get someone to respond."</i>
Kinship Care Service Gaps	<i>"I think that having an ongoing kinship support group from the time a case closes, it kind of keeps them semi-connected and have people they can reach out to."</i>	<i>"[T]hese kin families are often last in line for everything and only kin families that are adjudicated get resources. The informal kinship arrangements tend to be even further down the line. And so, our families don't get enough money in general, foster or kin."</i>

## Family Support Services

According to their leadership, Family Support Services does provide formal kinship care services in Circuit 4 Duval/Nassau Counties. According to providers who completed the survey, kinship care services in Circuit 4 are perceived to be beneficial (see Table 16). There were 39 services considered available to families in Circuit 4, with more than 50 percent of these services considered highly likely to be available (see Figure 9).

## Quantitative

**Table 16. Quantitative Data Provided by Family Support Services**

Variable		%	n
Kinship Care Services	Beneficial	75	4
	Moderately/ Extremely Beneficial	50	4
		$\bar{x}$	n
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families		5.75	4

**Figure 9. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Family Support Services**



\* 39 out of 42 best practice services available

\*\*18 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 5 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 13 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 3 out of 5 Other Services

\*\*\* Service considered highly likely to be available

## Qualitative

Figure 10 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuit 4 Duval/Nassau Counties, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group sessions with kinship care providers in Duval/Nassau Counties.

**Figure 10. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuit 4: Duval & Nassau Counties**



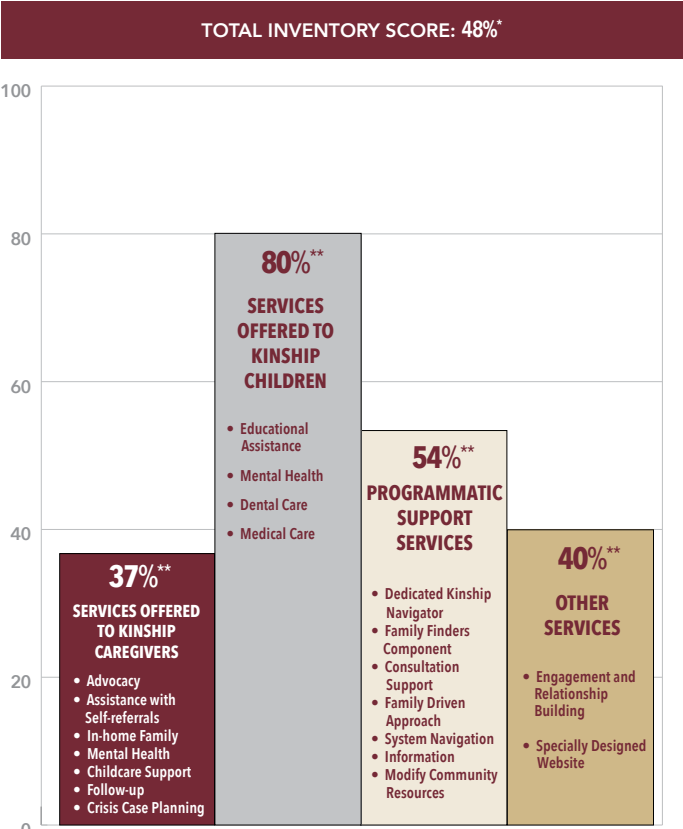


Kids First

According to their leadership, Kids First does provide formal kinship care services in Circuit 4 Clay County. There were no provider surveys completed by kinship care providers from this circuit; therefore, only services identified by leadership were considered available. There were 20 services available based on the leadership survey (see Figure 11).

Quantitative

Figure 11. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Kids First



\*20 out of 42 best practice services available

\*\*7 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 4 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 7 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 2 out of 5 Other Services

Qualitative

Figure 12 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuit 4 Clay County, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group sessions with kinship care providers in Clay County.

Figure 12. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuit 4: Clay County

↑ INCREASED SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS			↑ INCREASED SYSTEM SUPPORT	
Emotional Support	Respite Care	Family Finder	Kinship Navigator	Transportation
• Kinship-specific support groups		• Issues finding adequate kinship caregivers	• Specific to kinship care families • Specialized training on appropriate systems	• Particularly in rural areas

Family Integrity Program

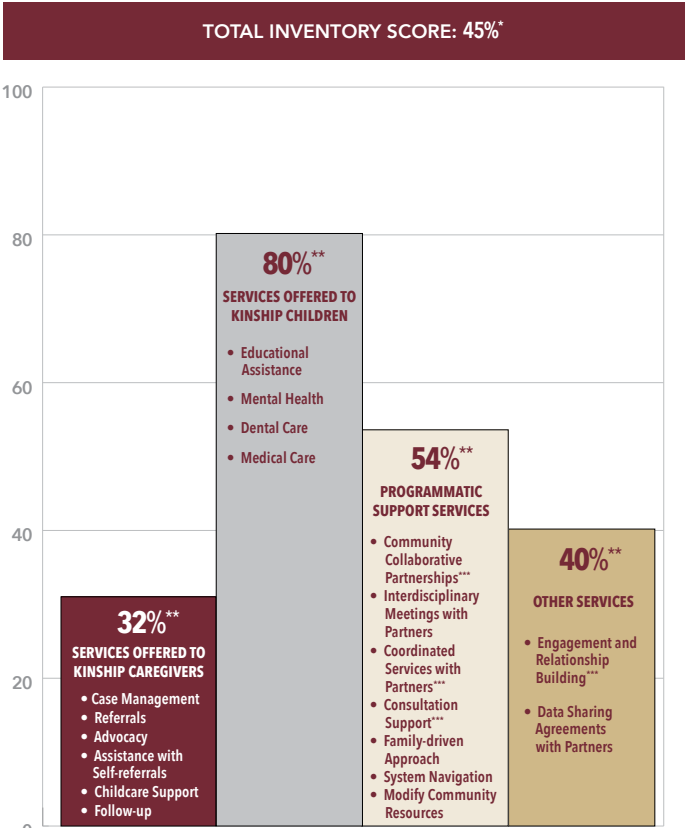
According to their leadership, the Family Integrity Program does not provide formal kinship care services in Circuit 7, St. John’s County. According to providers who completed the survey, kinship care services in Circuit 7 are perceived to be beneficial (see Table 17). There were 19 services considered available to families in Circuit 7 (see Figure 13).

Quantitative

Table 17. Quantitative Data Provided by Family Integrity Program

Variable	%	n
Kinship Care Services – Beneficial	60	5
	$\bar{X}$	n
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families	7.0	5

Figure 13. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Family Integrity Program



\*19 out of 42 best practice services available

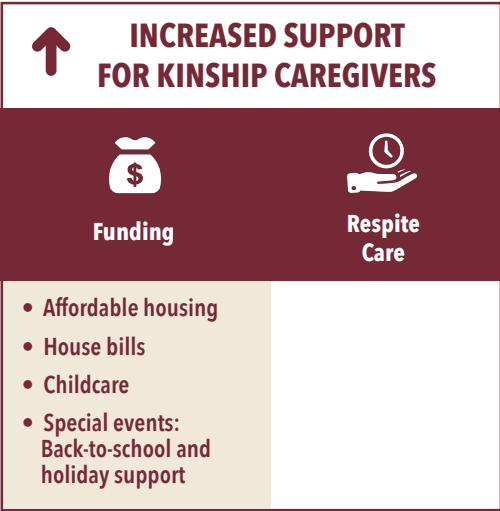
\*\*6 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 4 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 7 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 2 out of 5 Other Services

\*\*\*Service considered highly likely to be available

Qualitative

Figure 14 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuit 7 Clay County, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group sessions with kinship care providers in St. John’s County.

Figure 14. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuit 7: St. John’s County



Community Partnership for Children, Inc.

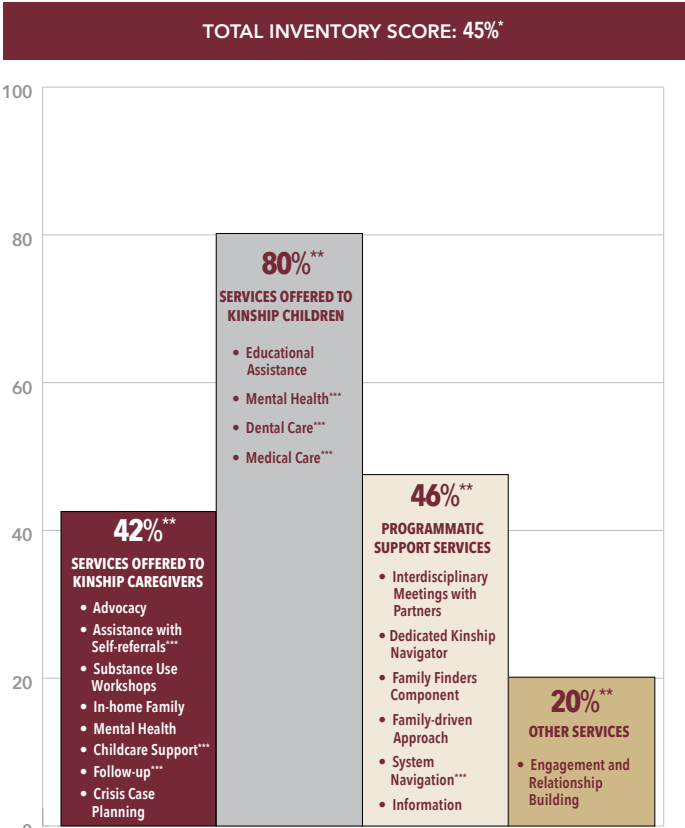
According to their leadership, Community Partnership for Children, Inc. does not provide formal kinship care services in Circuit 7: Flagler, Putnam, & Volusia Counties; however, there are informal kinship care services available. According to providers who completed the survey, kinship care services in Circuit 7 are perceived to be beneficial (see Table 18). There were 19 services considered available to families in Circuit 7, 37 percent of which were considered highly likely to be available (see Figure 15).

Quantitative

**Table 18.** Quantitative Data Provided by Community Partnership for Children, Inc.

Variable	%	n
Kinship Care Services – Beneficial	75	4
	$\bar{X}$	n
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families	7.5	4

**Figure 15.** Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Community Partnership for Children, Inc.



\*19 out of 42 best practice services available

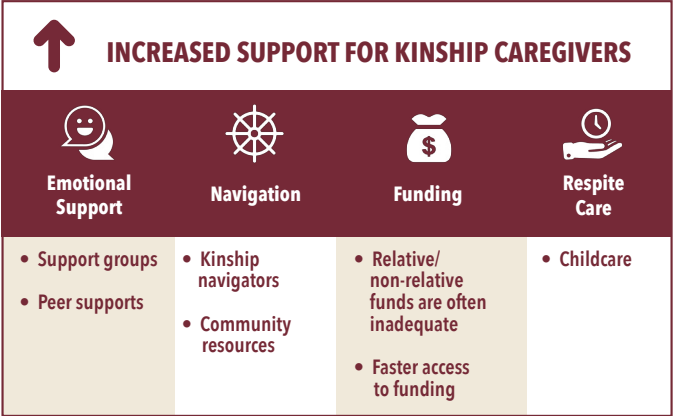
\*\*8 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 4 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 6 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 1 out of 5 Other Services

\*\*\* Service considered highly likely to be available

Qualitative

Figure 16 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuit 7 Flagler, Putnam, & Volusia Counties, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group sessions with kinship care providers in this service area.

**Figure 16.** Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuit 7: Flagler, Putnam, & Volusia Counties



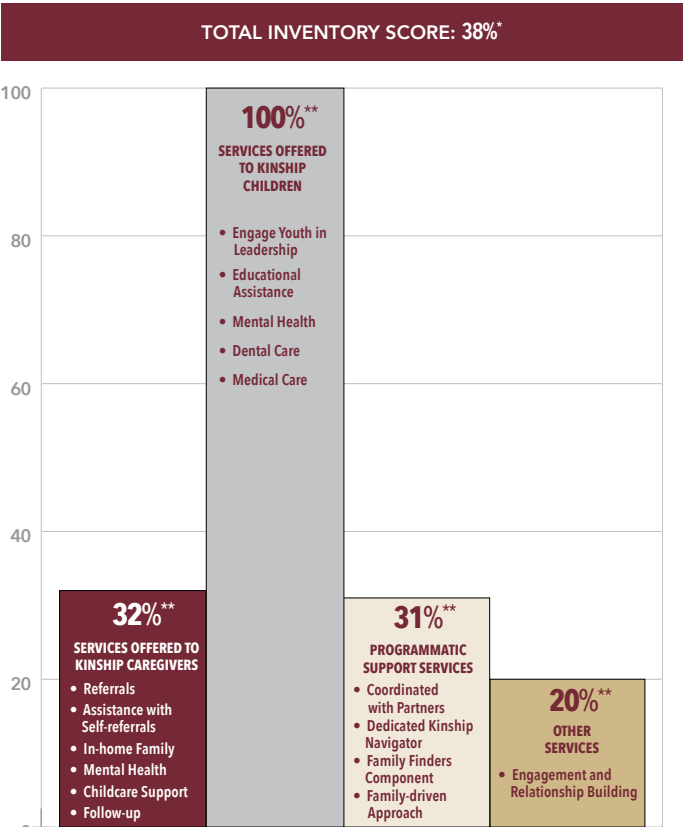
According to their leadership, the Partnership for Strong Families does not provide formal kinship care services in Circuits 3 and 8; however, there are informal kinship care services available. According to providers who completed the survey, kinship care services in Circuits 3 and 8 are perceived to be beneficial (see Table 19). There were 16 services considered available to families in Circuits 3 and 8 (see Figure 17).

Quantitative

Table 19. Quantitative Data Provided by Partnership for Strong Families

Variable	%	n
Kinship Care Services – Beneficial	33	3
	$\bar{X}$	n
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families	6.3	3

Figure 17. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Partnership for Strong Families



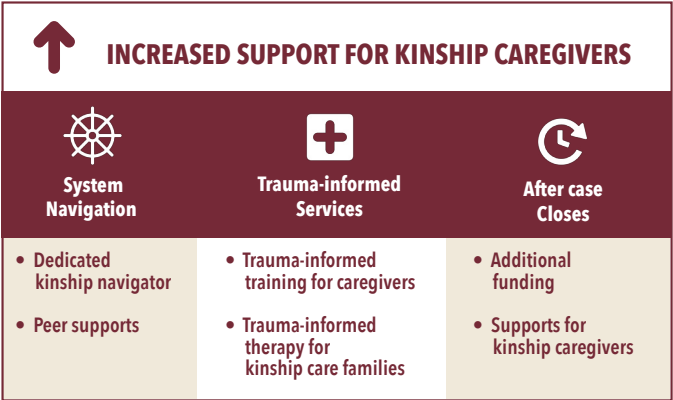
\*16 out of 42 best practice services available

\*\*6 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 5 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 4 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 1 out of 5 Other Services

Qualitative

Figure 18 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuits 3 and 8, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group sessions with kinship care providers in these circuits.

Figure 18. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuits 3 & 8



Central

The results presented below are from the agencies in the Central Region of Florida. Leadership from each of the agencies provided the research team with documents for the document review and completed the leadership survey. Eleven providers participated in the provider survey in the Central Region.

Quantitative

Table 20. Central Region by Agency at a Glance

Agency	Circuit/County	Total N	Inventory Score	Services Reported
Kids Central, Inc.	5	8	88%*	37
Heartland for Children	10	5	88%*	37
Embrace Families	9 & 18/Seminole	5	83%*	35
Brevard Family Partnerships	18/Brevard	4	79%*	33

\* Percentage of services reported out of the 42 best-practice kinship care services

Table 21. Cross-tabulation of Agency by Service Type from Central Region

	AGENCY				Average Across Agencies
	Kids Central, Inc.	Heartland for Children	Embrace Families	Brevard Family Partnerships	
Services for Kinship Caregivers	84%	89%	84%	79%	84%
Services for Kinship Children	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Programmatic Support Services	100%	100%	92%	92%	96%
Other Services	60%	40%	40%	20%	40%

Table 22. Quantitative Data from Central Region

Variable		%	N
Kinship Care Services	Moderately/Extremely Beneficial	100	10
		$\bar{X}$	N
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families		9.0	10



Thirteen providers participated in focus group sessions in the Central Region. The four themes, with exemplary quotes are provided below in Table 23.

**Table 23. Results from the Focus Group Sessions from the Central Region**

Themes	Exemplary Quote	Exemplary Quote
Experiences with Kinship Caregivers	<i>"[T]hese caregivers are so grateful that they have this program to be able to turn to in their time of need when they had no idea what they were going to do or how they were going to get through their new role."</i>	<i>"Kinship caregivers have the heart and they have the home, but they don't always understand what this decision entails until they're in it. So, we certainly want to be there to offer support, to let them know that they're not in this by themselves, and that we're going to walk with them, talk with them, share with them, and make sure that we get them connected to services, so they start to feel a sense of empowerment and security in the decisions that they've made."</i>
Support for Kinship Caregivers	<i>"Well, I mean, just having that emotional support, having someone that's gonna be there almost immediately to help them start navigating decisions that they've made to take children into their home, providing that emotional piece."</i>	<i>"A lot of the caregivers that are informal—a lot of them are not aware that their eligible for a cash assistance. So it's very nice that a lot of our caregivers that attend the support group they could be shopping in a grocery store talking in line and meeting with another caregiver that happens to have their grandchild and one thing leads to another and that caregiver ends up coming to the support group and find out that they're eligible for cash assistance and food stamps."</i>
Collaborative Partnerships	<i>"The whole hope is that you know we want to connect them with the resources that are available to them and for them to develop their support system."</i>	<i>"[M]aking sure that we're doing everything that we can to link them to resources in the community—because we want to make sure that those who have the expertise are the ones that are responding to the needs."</i>
Kinship Care Service Gaps	<i>"I've been very verbal, vocal about that and it is an area that I will continue to advocate for. It's an area that needs to be significantly looked at. [C]aregivers absolutely need the help and services."</i>	<i>"[A] lot of time the caregivers they don't want their case to close, because they're afraid that they're going to lose all their services. That's a reality. It's so true for the informal caregivers because they don't qualify for a whole lot."</i>

Kids Central, Inc.

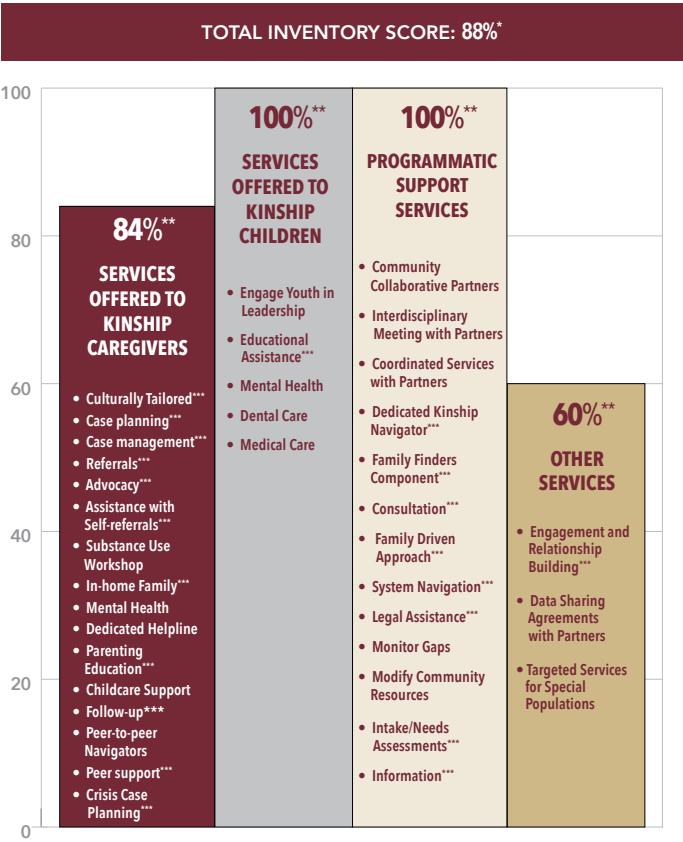
According to their leadership, Kids Central, Inc. does provide formal kinship care services in Circuit 5. According to providers who completed the survey, kinship care services in Circuit 5 are perceived to be extremely beneficial (see Table 24). There were 37 services considered available to families in Circuit 5, of which 54 percent were considered highly likely to be available (see Figure 19).

Quantitative

Table 24. Quantitative Data Provided by Kids Central, Inc.

Variable	%	n
Kinship Care Services – Beneficial	100	3
	$\bar{x}$	n
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families	10.0	3

Figure 19. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Kids Central, Inc.



\*37 out of 42 best practice services available



\*\*16 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 5 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 13 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 3 out of 5 Other Services

\*\*\* Service considered highly likely to be available

Qualitative

Figure 20 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuit 5, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group sessions with kinship care providers in Circuit 5.

Figure 20. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuit 5

↑ INCREASED SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS	SYSTEM SUPPORT
 Respite Care	 Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Adequate childcare support</li><li>Promote self-care</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To support evaluations of kinship navigator programs</li><li>To increase programmatic supports, such as peer-to-peer navigators</li></ul>

According to their leadership, Heartland for Children does provide formal kinship care services in Circuit 10. According to providers who completed the survey, kinship care services in Circuit 10 are perceived to be extremely beneficial (see Table 25). There were 37 services considered available to families in Circuit 10, of which 30 percent were considered highly likely to be available (see Figure 21).

Quantitative

Table 25. Quantitative Data Provided by Heartland for Children

Variable	%	n
Kinship Care Services – Extremely Beneficial	100	3
	$\bar{x}$	n
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families	8.3	3

Figure 21. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Heartland for Children



\*37 out of 42 best practice services available

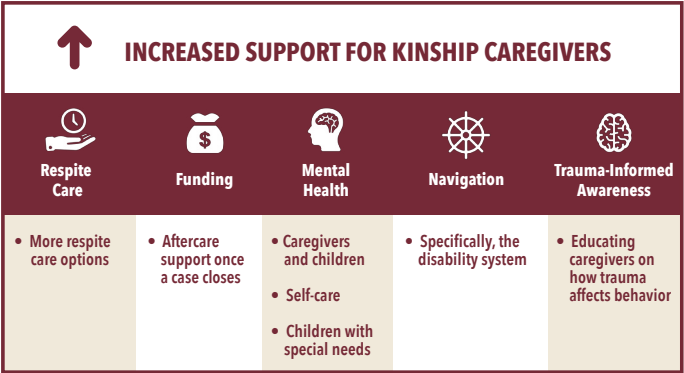
\*\*17 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 5 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 13 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 2 out of 5 Other Services

\*\*\* Service considered highly likely to be available

Qualitative

Figure 22 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuit 10, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group session with kinship care providers in Circuit 10.

Figure 22. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuit 10



Embrace Families

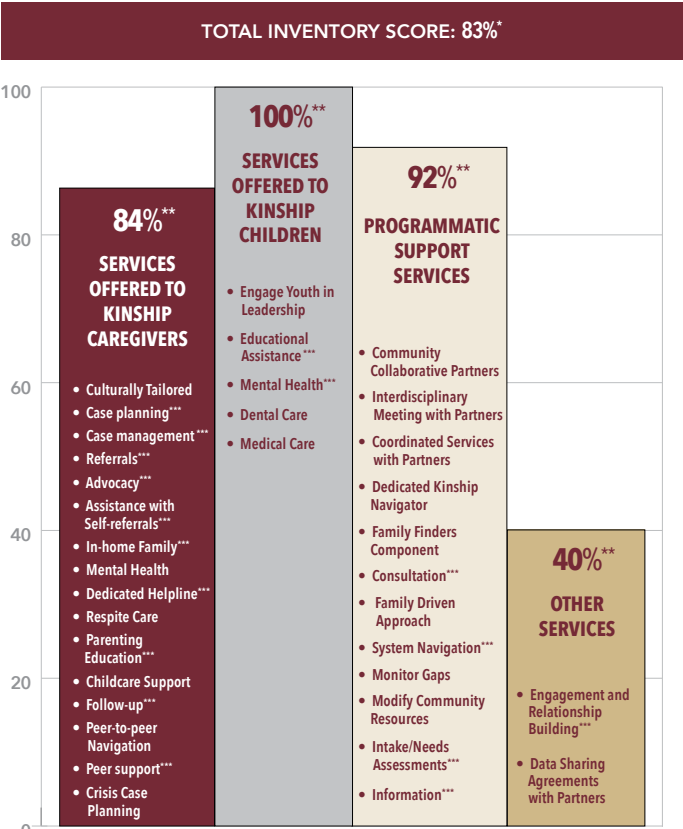
According to their leadership, Embrace Families does provide formal kinship care services in Circuits 9 and 18/Seminole. According to providers who completed the survey, kinship care services in Circuits 9 and 18/Seminole are perceived to be moderately beneficial (see Table 26). There were 35 services considered available to families in Circuits 9 and 18/Seminole, of which 46 percent were considered highly likely to be available (see Figure 23).

Quantitative

Table 26. Quantitative Data Provided by Embrace Families

Variable	%	n
Kinship Care Services – Moderately Beneficial	100	2
	$\bar{x}$	n
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families	8.5	2

Figure 23. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Embrace Families



\*35 out of 42 best practice services available





\*\*16 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 5 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 12 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 2 out of 5 Other Services

\*\*\* Service considered highly likely to be available

Qualitative

While several services are offered to kinship care families in Circuits 9 and 18/Seminole, there were still gaps in services noted by providers. Addressing these gaps in services would enhance the kinship care services in Circuits 9 and 18/Seminole. Figure 24 provided below presents these identified gaps in services.

Figure 24. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuits 9 and 18/Seminole

↑ INCREASED SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS		SYSTEM SUPPORT	
 Respite Care	 Funding	 Training	 Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More respite care options</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to timely financial benefits</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parenting and education</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• De-escalating violence</li><li>• Knowledge about community resources for children with mental health concerns</li><li>• Conducting holistic family team meetings</li></ul>

### Brevard Family Partnerships

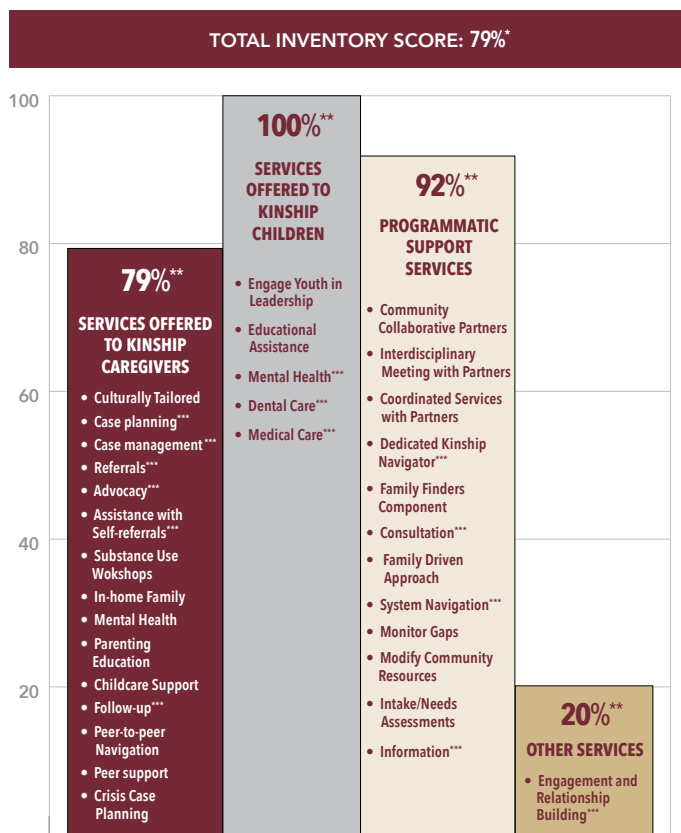
According to their leadership, Brevard Family Partnerships does provide formal kinship care services in Circuit 18/Brevard. According to providers who completed the survey, kinship care services in Circuit 18/Brevard are perceived to be extremely beneficial (see Table 27). There were 33 services considered to be available in Circuit 18/Brevard, with 42 percent of these services considered highly likely to be available (see Figure 25).

### Quantitative

**Table 27. Quantitative Data Provided by Brevard Family Partnerships**

Variable	%	n
Kinship Care Services – Moderately Beneficial	100	2
	$\bar{x}$	n
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families	8.5	2

**Figure 25. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Brevard Family Partnerships**



\*33 out of 42 best practice services available

\*\*15 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 5 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 12 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 1 out of 5 Other Services

\*\*\* Service considered highly likely to be available

### Qualitative

Figure 26 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuit 18/Brevard, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group sessions with kinship care providers in Brevard County.

**Figure 26. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuit 18/Brevard County**

↑ INCREASED SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS	SYSTEM SUPPORT
<p><b>Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to timely financial benefits</li> </ul>	<p><b>Simplify Applications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACCESS application is complicated and difficult</li> </ul>



## Suncoast

The results presented below are from the agencies in the Suncoast Region of Florida. Leadership from each of the agencies provided the research team with documents for the document review and completed the leadership survey. Eighteen providers participated in the provider survey in the Suncoast Region.

### Quantitative

**Table 28. Suncoast Region by Agency at a Glance**

Agency	Circuit/County	Total <i>N</i>	Inventory Score	Services Reported
Eckerd Community Alternative - Hillsborough	13	7	76%*	32
Children's Network of Southwest Florida	20	6	60%*	25
Eckerd Community Alternative – Pasco & Pinellas	6	4	60%*	25
Safe Children Coalition	12	8	60%*	25

\* Percentage of services reported out of the 42 best-practice kinship care services

**Table 29. Cross-tabulation of Agency by Service Type from Suncoast Region**

	AGENCY				Average Across Agencies
	Eckerd Community Alternative Hillsborough	Children's Network of Southwest Florida	Eckerd Community Alternative Pasco & Pinellas	Safe Children Coalition	
Services for Kinship Caregivers	68%	74%	47%	58%	<b>62%</b>
Services for Kinship Children	100%	60%	80%	100%	<b>85%</b>
Programmatic Support Services	46%	100%	77%	62%	<b>71%</b>
Other Services	20%	40%	20%	20%	<b>25%</b>

**Table 30. Quantitative Data from Suncoast Region**

Variable	Total <i>N</i>		%	<i>n</i>
Kinship Care Services	18	Beneficial	100	14
		Moderately/Extremely Beneficial	79	14
	Total <i>N</i>		$\bar{x}$	<i>n</i>
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families	18		7.79	14

## Qualitative

Thirteen providers participated in the focus group sessions in the Suncoast Region. The four themes, with exemplary quotes, are provided in Table 31.

**Table 31. Results from the Focus Group Sessions from the Suncoast Region**

Themes	Exemplary Quote	Exemplary Quote
Experiences with Kinship Caregivers	<i>"[Kinship caregivers are] extraordinary people—it's one of the bright spots on my professional calendar. They are tremendously resourceful and supportive of one another, and supportive of their grand- and great-grandchildren."</i>	<i>"[Kinship caregivers are] in desperate need of support, especially considering, you know, there really is a lack of resources available to them. So, you know, in my experience working with these families, they've been very grateful and, you know, really needing of support and services."</i>
Support for Kinship Caregivers	<i>"There are kinship services available. [W]hen a grandparent advocates effectively for their grandchild, every service out there can be a service for kinship caregiving. But they have to be tenacious in their advocacy."</i>	<i>"Yeah. I mean I think that I do feel that our kinship program is unique in that we do provide very intensive wraparound services for families, with an including, you know, a therapeutic component that most programs won't provide."</i>
Collaborative Partnerships	<i>"We actually don't provide services. What we do is we assist the families in linking to services. So we're out there meeting the families, helping them understand the system. And then based on the needs of the children that are going to be placed in their home or with them, then we work with the case management team to make sure those services are being delivered. We're a resource in a linkage service."</i>	<i>"And then a lot of the other stuff we do is literally just brokering our linkage to like community providers."</i>
Kinship Care Service Gaps	<i>"[T]here's no real framework for respite care when kids are placed with relatives or non-relatives. So that's definitely a gap in services, where we sometimes we're dropping off six kids with grandparents and they have really nobody—they're the only approved people to be around the kids."</i>	<i>"[T]wo additional needs are, you know, the first is childcare during the regular school year, including aftercare, as well as summer camp programs."</i>

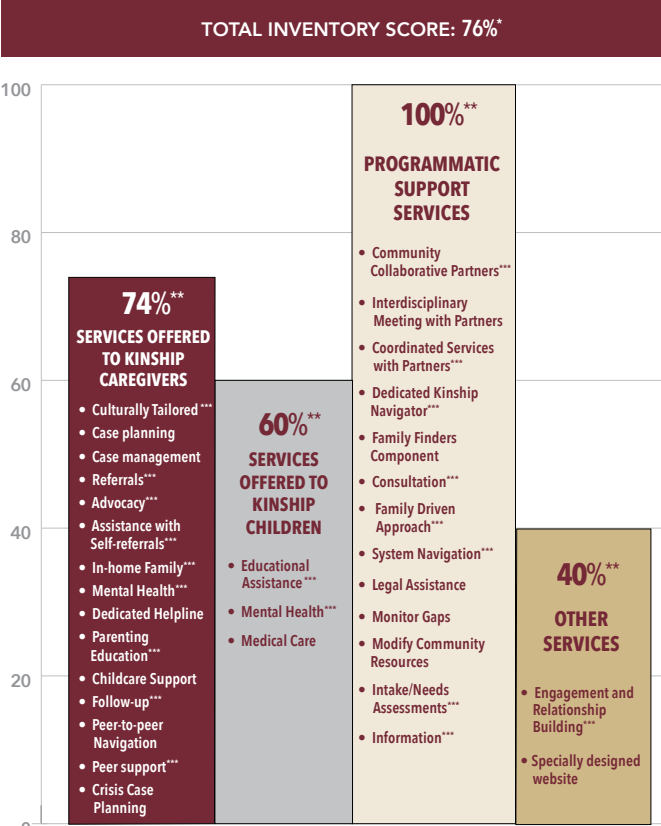
According to their leadership, Eckerd Community Alternative – Hillsborough provides formal kinship care services in Circuit 13. According to providers who completed the survey, kinship care services were perceived to be beneficial (see Table 32). There were 32 services considered available to families in Hillsborough County, of which 66 percent are considered highly likely to be available (see Figure 27).

Quantitative

Table 32. Quantitative Data Provided by Eckerd Community Alternative – Hillsborough

Variable	%	n
Kinship Care Services – Beneficial	100	3
	$\bar{x}$	n
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families	8.3	3

Figure 27. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Eckerd Community Alternative – Hillsborough



\* 32 out of 42 best-practice services available;





\*\* 15 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 3 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 13 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 2 out of 5 Other Services

\*\*\* Service considered highly likely to be available

Qualitative

Figure 28 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuit 13, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group session with kinship care providers in Hillsborough County.

Figure 28. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuit 13

↑ INCREASED SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS		↑ INCREASED SYSTEM SUPPORT	
 Respite Care	 Wraparound Services	 Funding	 Kinship-specific Counselors
• The screening process can be overwhelming and demanding	• More services for school-aged children ineligible for aftercare funding	• Support for nonrelative caregivers with informal kinship placements	• Increase the number of kinship-specific counselors to help with navigation services and reduce caseloads

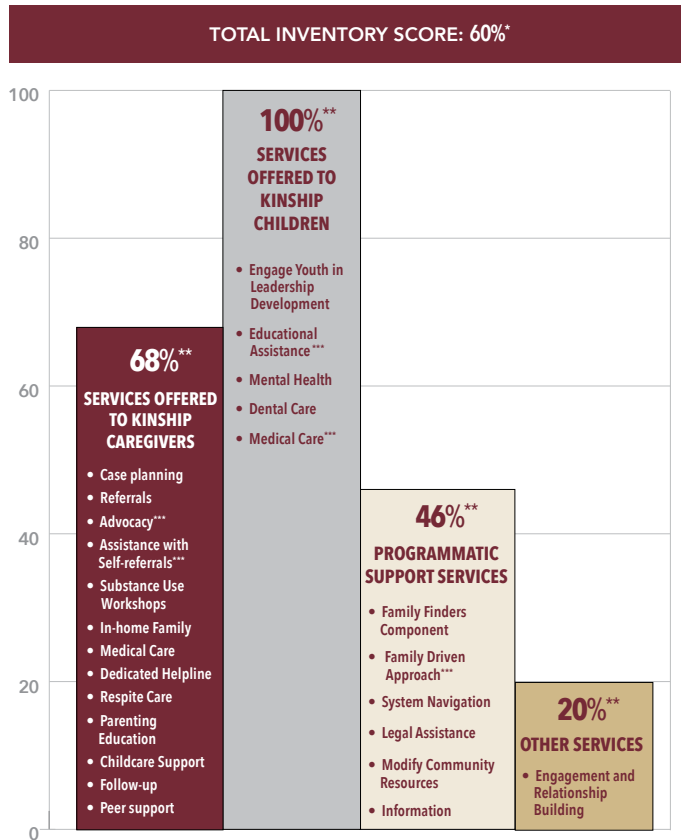
According to their leadership, the Children's Network of Southwest Florida does not provide formal kinship care services in Circuit 20; however, there are informal kinship care services available. According to providers who completed the survey, kinship care services in Circuit 20 are perceived to be beneficial (see Table 33). There were 25 services considered available to families in Circuit 20 (see Figure 29).

## Quantitative

**Table 33. Quantitative Data Provided by Children's Network of Southwest Florida**

Variable		%	N
Kinship Care Services	Beneficial	100	4
	Moderately/ Extremely Beneficial	50	4
		$\bar{X}$	N
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families		8.25	4

**Figure 29. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Children's Network of Southwest Florida**



\*25 out of 42 best practice services available

\*\*13 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 5 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 6 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 1 out of 5 Other Services

\*\*\* Service considered highly likely to be available

## Qualitative

Figure 30 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuit 20, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group session with kinship care providers in Circuit 20.

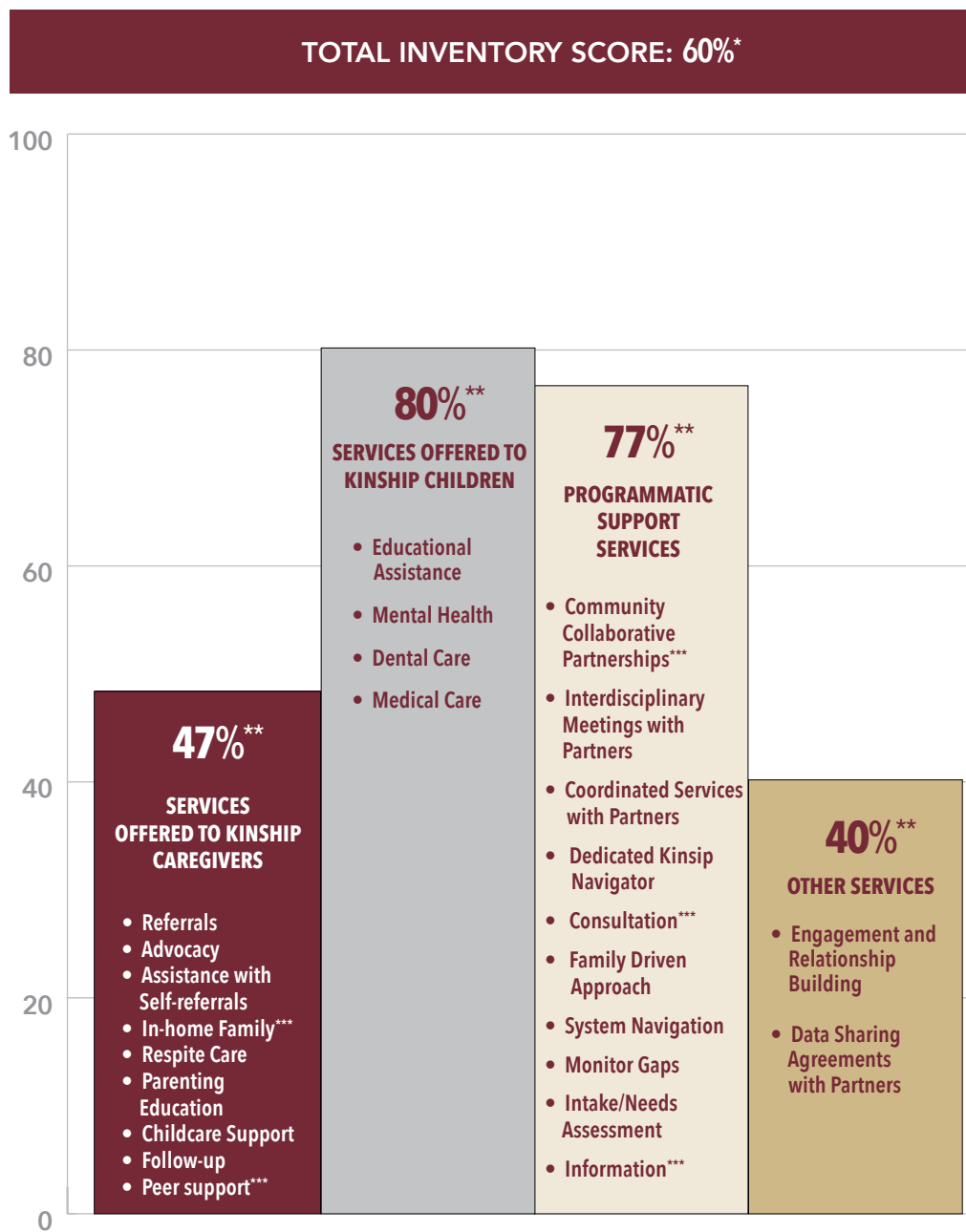
**Figure 30. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuit 20**

↑ INCREASED SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS		
Funding	Peer Support	Respite Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Particularly for larger families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support groups</li> <li>Peer navigators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional funding</li> <li>Supports for kinship caregivers</li> </ul>

According to their leadership, Eckerd Community Alternative Pasco & Pinellas provides formal kinship care services in Circuit 6. The leader from Circuit 6 provided the research team with documents for the document review and completed the leadership survey. Two providers also participated in the provider survey; however, there was more than 50 percent missing data for one of the providers. Due to the missing data, perceptions of the benefit of kinship care services and experiences working with kinship care families are not reported. The research team determined there were 25 services available to families in Circuit 6 (see Figure 31) based on the document review, leadership survey, and provider survey. A focus group session was not completed with providers from Circuit 6, therefore, qualitative data are not presented either.

## Quantitative

**Figure 31. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Eckerd Community Alternative – Pasco & Pinellas**



\*25 out of 42 best practice services available

\*\*9 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 4 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 10 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 2 out of 5 Other Services

\*\*\* Service considered highly likely to be available

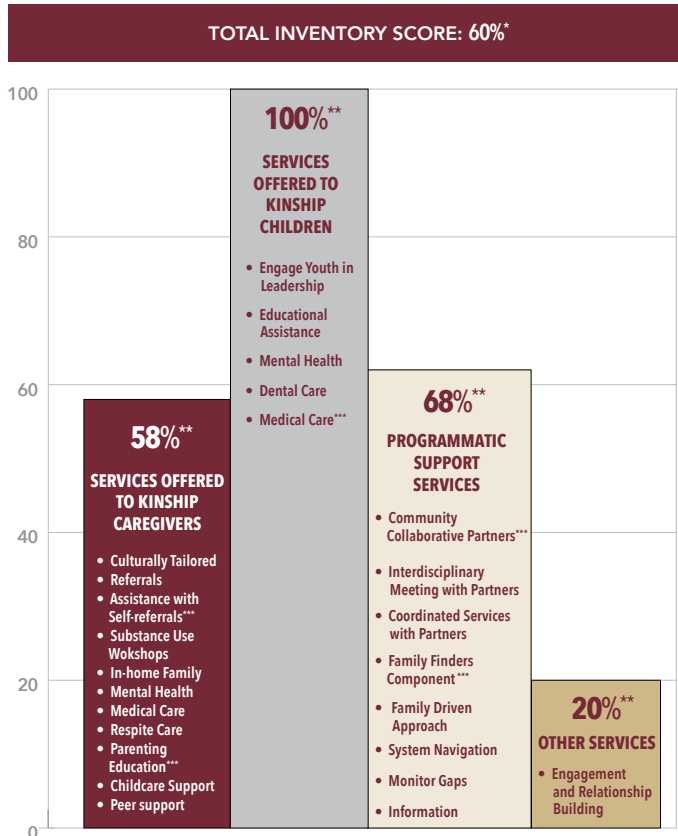
According to their leadership, the Safe Children Coalition does not provide formal kinship care services; however, there are informal kinship care services available in Circuit 12. According to providers who completed the survey, kinship care services in Circuit 12 are perceived to be beneficial (see Table 34). There were 25 services considered available to families in Circuit 12 (see Figure 32).

## Quantitative

**Table 34. Quantitative Data Provided by Safe Children Coalition**

Variable		%	N
Kinship Care Services	Beneficial	100	5
	Moderately/ Extremely Beneficial	40	5
		$\bar{X}$	N
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families		7.4	5

**Figure 32. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Safe Children Coalition**



\*25 out of 42 best practice services available

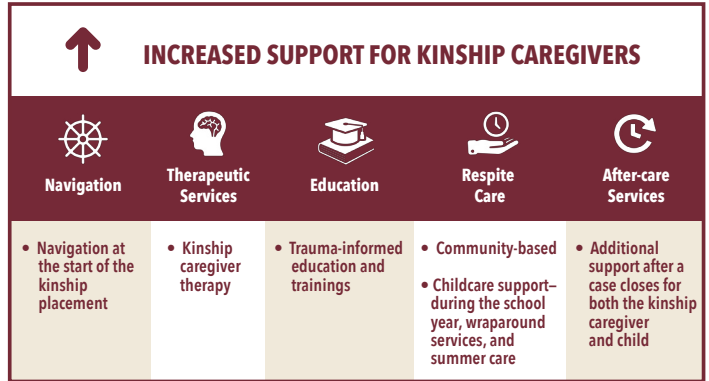
\*\*11 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 5 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 8 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 1 out of 5 Other Services

\*\*\* Service considered highly likely to be available

## Qualitative

Figure 33 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuit 12, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group session with kinship care providers in Circuit 12.

**Figure 33. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuit 12**



## Southeast

The results presented below are from the agencies in the Southeast Region of Florida. Leadership from the agencies provided the research team with documents for the document review and completed the leadership survey. There were six providers who participated in the provider survey in the Southeast Region.

### Quantitative

**Table 35. Southeast Region by Agency at a Glance**

Agency	Circuit/County	Total <i>N</i>	Inventory Score	Services Reported
ChildNet, Inc.	15 & 17	7	86%*	36
Communities Connected for Kids	19	3	55%*	23

\* Percentage of services reported out of the 42 best-practice kinship care services

**Table 36. Cross-tabulation of Agency by Service Type from Southeast Region**

	AGENCY		Average Across Agencies
	ChildNet, Inc.	Communities Connected for Kids	
Services for Kinship Caregivers	84%	34%	59%
Services for Kinship Children	100%	80%	90%
Programmatic Support Services	100%	69%	85%
Other Services	40%	60%	50%

**Table 37. Quantitative Data from Southeast Region**

Variable		%	<i>N</i>
Kinship Care Services	Beneficial	100	6
	Moderately/Extremely Beneficial	83	6
		$\bar{X}$	<i>N</i>
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families		7.83	6



## Qualitative

There were 10 providers participated in the focus group sessions in the Southeast Region. The four themes, with exemplary quotes, are provided in Table 38.

**Table 38. Results from the Focus Group Sessions from the Southeast Region**

Themes	Exemplary Quote	Exemplary Quote
Experiences with Kinship Caregivers	<i>"It's so overwhelming when all of a sudden you become that legal official caregiver. So the caregivers are often just very open to any guidance, support, any help they can have, besides that case manager who is obviously also a support to the family."</i>	<i>"Sometimes they don't even need services. They just need somebody to really hear what they have to say."</i>
Support for Kinship Caregivers	<i>"I think initially there is a lot of confusion about the system which can be very complicated, and so there's not a lot of understanding of that. I think it just, it's just they don't have the same training as foster parents or other licensed providers to understand the system, and so they are just asked to take in their relatives and they don't have that understanding of the system like others do."</i>	<i>"[Kinship caregivers] don't know anything about [the system], so we try to guide them to the best that we can to make sure it is easier for them to take care of those kids that we place in their care."</i>
Collaborative Partnerships	<i>"No, in the sense we would make a referral for them. I mean, we don't do any in-house mental health counseling, so if they needed that specific support, then we would guide them to where they needed to go, and that would be a community provider that would provide the mental health and/or medical."</i>	
Kinship Care Service Gaps	<i>"I think one of the issues is where in order for them to get relative caregiver funds they have to ask for child support, and or to put the parents onto child support. And so that process is a little bit confusing in how they're able to do that. I think it's hard system to navigate."</i>	<i>"I worry sometimes where the gray area is when it comes down to exactly what services we can provide that worries me in regards to being able to fund everything that's required."</i>

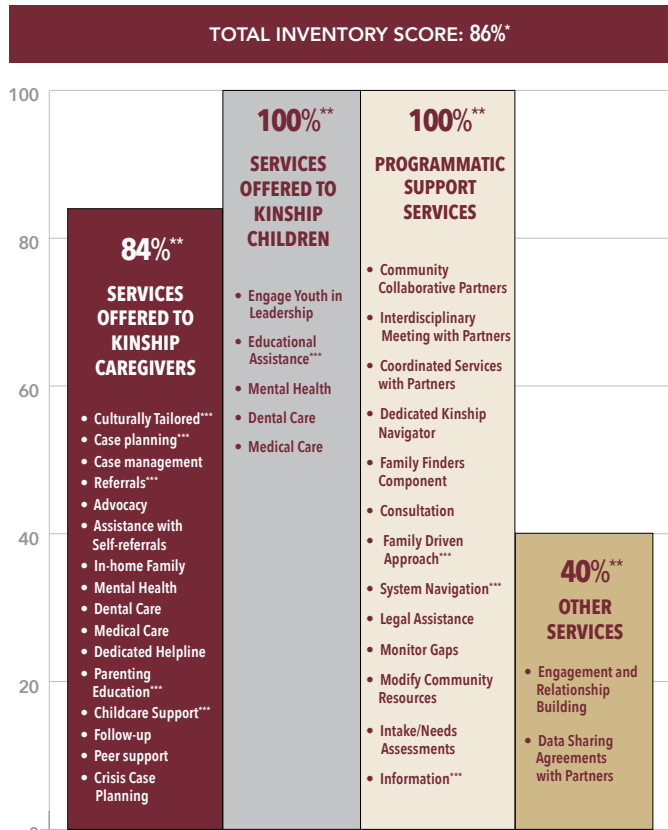
ChildNet, Inc. is the lead agency that serves Circuits 15 - Palm Beach County and 17 - Broward County. According to leadership from ChildNet, Inc., there are formalized kinship care services in Circuits 15 and 17. According to providers who completed the survey, kinship care services in Circuits 15 and 17 are perceived to be beneficial (see Table 39). There were 36 services considered available to families in Circuits 15 and 17, of which 30 percent are considered highly likely to be available (see Figure 34).

## Quantitative

**Table 39. Quantitative Data Provided by ChildNet, Inc.**

Variable		%	N
Kinship Care Services	Beneficial	100	5
	Moderately/ Extremely Beneficial	60	5
		$\bar{X}$	N
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families		7.8	5

**Figure 34. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by ChildNet, Inc.**



\*36 out of 42 best practice services available

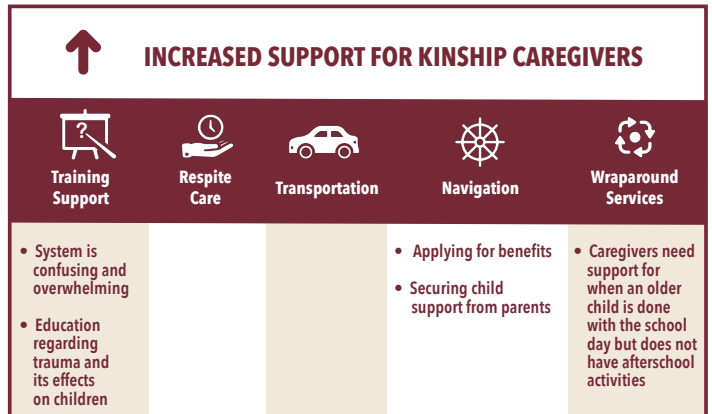
\*\*16 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 5 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 13 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 2 out of 5 Other Services

\*\*\* Service considered highly likely to be available

## Qualitative

Figure 35 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuits 15 and 17, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group session with kinship care providers in Palm Beach and Broward Counties.

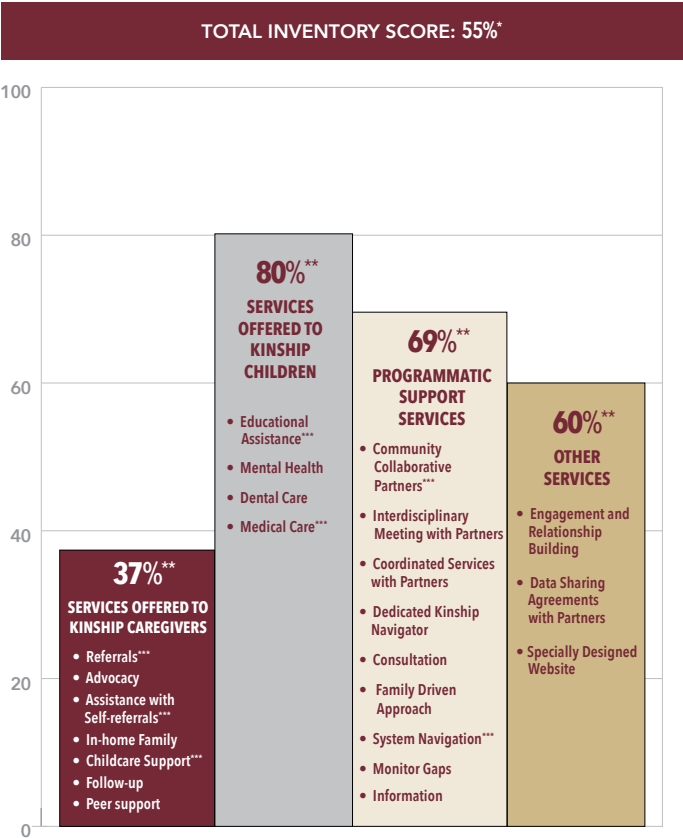
**Figure 35. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers in Circuits 15 and 17**



According to their leadership, Communities Connected for Kids provides formal kinship care services in Circuit 19, which services four counties. Given only one provider participated in the survey, the perception of kinship care services and experiences working with kinship care families will not be reported. There were 23 services considered available to families in Circuit 19, of which 35 percent were considered highly likely to be available (see Figure 36).

Quantitative

Figure 36. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Communities Connected for Kids



\*23 out of 42 best practice services available

\*\*7 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 4 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 9 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 3 out of 5 Other Services

\*\*\* Service considered highly likely to be available

Qualitative

Figure 37 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuit 19, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group session with kinship care providers in Circuit 19.

Figure 37. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuit 19



Southern

The Southern Region of Florida is comprised of Circuits 11 and 16 and is serviced by one CBC lead agency, Our Kids. Therefore, the results presented below will be based entirely from data according to the Our Kids agency.

Our Kids

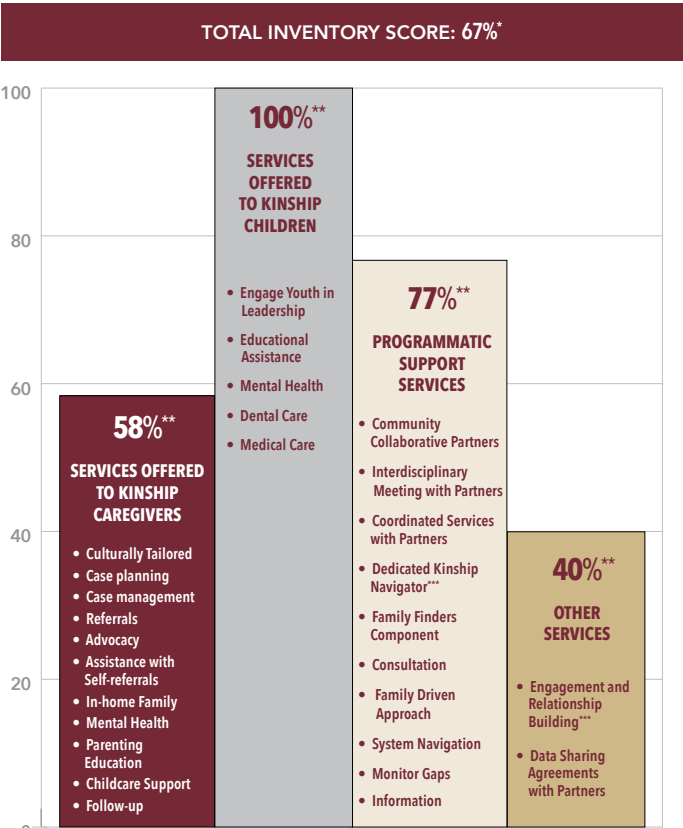
According to their leadership, Our Kids provides formal kinship care services in Circuits 11 and 16, the entirety of the Southern Region. According to providers who completed the survey, kinship care services in Circuits 11 and 16 are perceived to be beneficial (see Table 40). There were 28 services considered available to families in Circuits 11 and 16 (see Figure 38).

Quantitative

Table 40. Quantitative Data Provided by Our Kids

Variable		%	N
Kinship Care Services	Beneficial	100	6
	Moderately/Extremely Beneficial	50	6
		$\bar{X}$	N
Perceptions working with Kinship Care Families		6.5	6

Figure 38. Kinship Care Services Available According to Data Provided by Our Kids



\* 28 out of 42 best practice services available

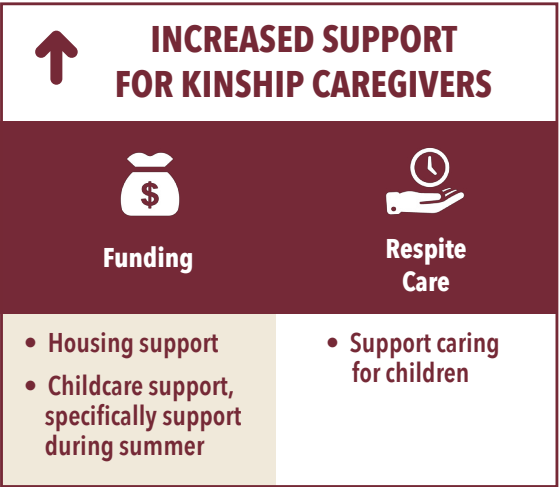
\*\* 11 out of 19 Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers; 5 out of 5 Services Offered to Kinship Children; 10 out of 13 Programmatic Support Services; 2 out of 5 Other Services

\*\*\* Service considered highly likely to be available

Qualitative

Figure 39 below highlights the gaps in services that, if provided to kinship care families in Circuits 11 and 16, could enhance kinship care services. These gaps were based on the focus group session with kinship care providers in Monroe and Miami-Dade Counties.

Figure 39. Gaps in Kinship Care Services According to Kinship Care Providers from Circuits 11 and 16



Discussion

LIMITATIONS

This study utilized a non-probability purposive sampling technique, soliciting responses from identified leaders from each of the CBC lead agencies. These leaders also provided the research team with the names of key informants from their service area to participate in the survey and the focus group sessions. This is a limitation as these participants might have provided different responses compared to respondents selected at random.<sup>36</sup> However, given the scope of this study, this process was necessary.

Another potential limitation is the design of the study, specifically, utilizing the document reviews to identify services available within each circuit. Document reviews are limited by the people pulling the information, particularly if the person gathering the data provides out-of-date or incomplete data. This limitation was expected to be mitigated as the research team relied on the expertise of the leadership within each of the CBC lead agencies.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The results presented in this report provide an overview of the services available throughout the state, within each region, and the agency-specific services. The data included both quantitative data sources (from the document review and surveys) and qualitative data sources (from the focus group sessions).

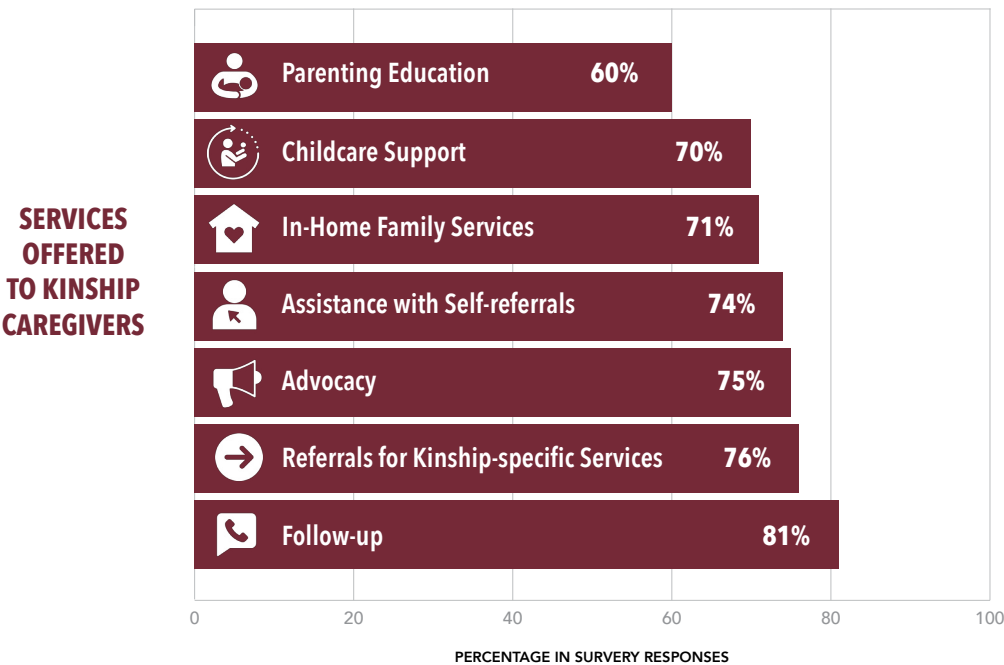
Kinship Care Services Available

Statewide

A majority (73%) of the agencies indicated they have formalized kinship care services available within their area. Using the identified 42 best-practice kinship care services identified through the literature on kinship navigator programs (e.g., Children's Home Network Kin-Tech), across the state there are 37 of these services available. Of these 37 services, 21 services are prevalent in 50 percent or more of the quantitative data (document review, leadership survey, and provider survey), indicating that these 21 services are the most prevalent kinship care services across Florida.

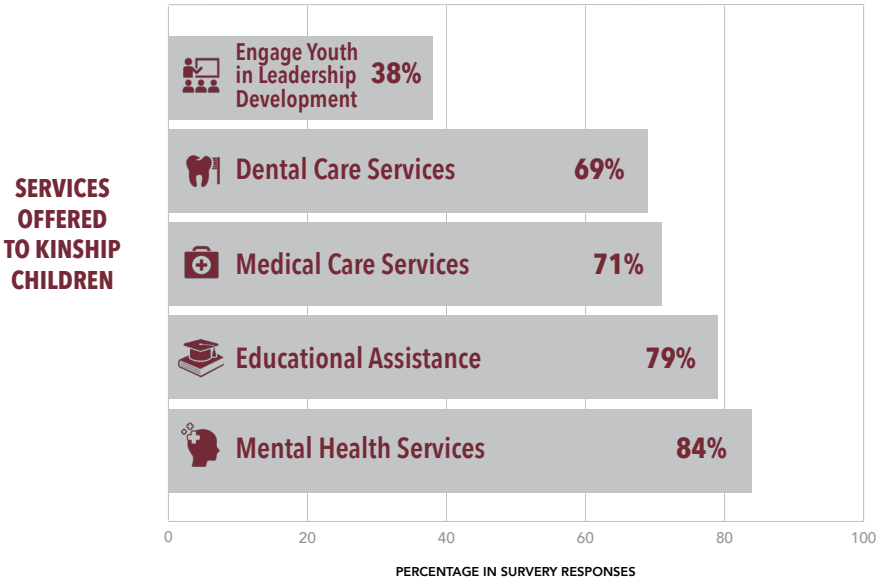
According to the data presented above, all 19 services offered to kinship caregivers were available statewide; with nine of these services identified in more than 50 percent of the data across all three data points (document review, leadership survey, and provider survey). This indicates that these nine services are prevalent in more than 50 percent of the state. Seven of these nine services were also indicated in more than 60 percent of the survey responses (leadership and provider), indicating that these seven services are the most prevalent services available to kinship caregivers across Florida (see Figure 40 below).

Figure 40. Most Prevalent Services Available to Kinship Caregivers According to the Survey Responses



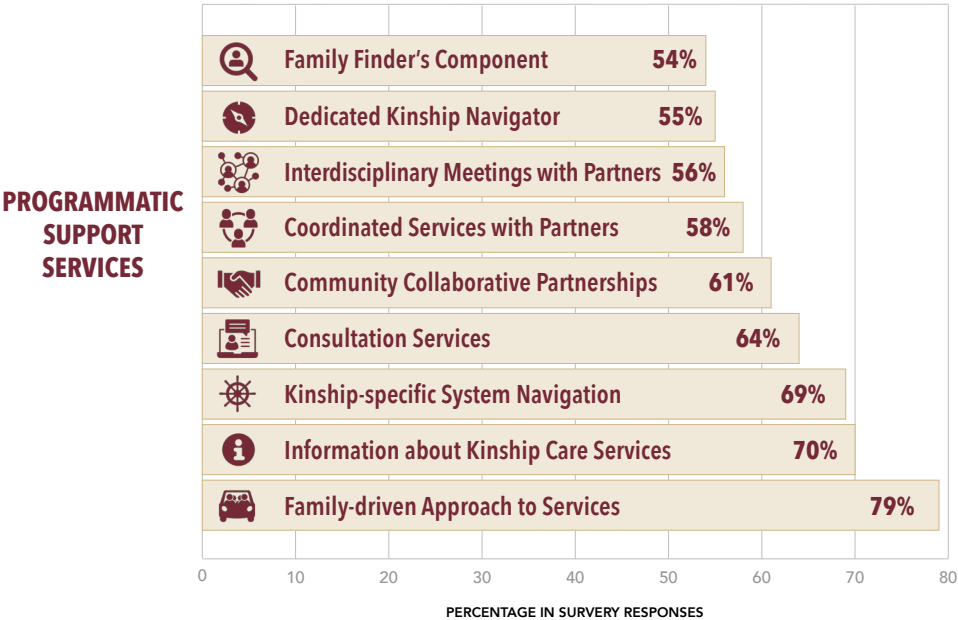
According to the data presented below, all five services offered to kinship children were available statewide, with all but one of these services identified in more than 55 percent of the data across all three data points (see Figure 41). This indicates these four services are prevalent in more than 55 percent of the state. These four services were also indicated in more than 65 percent of the survey responses, indicating these four services are the most prevalent services available to kinship children across Florida.

Figure 41. Most Prevalent Services Available to Kinship Children According to the Survey Responses



According to the data presented below, 10 of the 13 programmatic support services were available statewide, with seven of these services identified in more than 50 percent of the data across all three data points. This indicates that these seven services are prevalent in more than 50 percent of the state. There were nine programmatic support services indicated in more than 50 percent of the survey responses, suggesting these services are the most prevalent across Florida (see Figure 42).

Figure 42. Most Prevalent Programmatic Support Services Available According to the Survey Responses



Finally, according to the data presented above, three “other services” were available statewide, with only one of these services identified in more than 50 percent of the data across all three data points. This indicates this service, *engagement and relationship building*, is prevalent in more than 50 percent of the state. Engagement and relationship building was also indicated in 70 percent of the survey responses, indicating this was the most prevalent other service available across Florida.

### *Region-wide*

This report provided the kinship care services offered by the six regions throughout Florida: Northwest; Northeast; Central; Suncoast; Southeast; and Southern. According to the quantitative data, within three of the regions, 100 percent of agencies indicated having formal kinship care services available (Central, Southeast, and Southern); within two of the regions, 50 percent of the agencies indicated having formal kinship care services available (Northwest and Suncoast); and in the Northeast region, 40 percent of the agencies indicated having formal kinship care services available.

### **Northwest**

According to the data, 14 of the 42 best-practice kinship care services were available within the Northwest Region, with only five services available in both agencies in the region. Three of these five services were identified as services offered to kinship caregivers and the other two were identified as programmatic support services. However, given the problems with the data collection in this region (i.e., only 50% of leaders completed the leadership survey and only providers from one agency participated in the provider survey), the research team was unable to determine the prevalence of these services within this region.

### **Northeast**

According to the data, all but one of the services offered to kinship caregivers were available in the Northeast Region; however, only 4 of these services were identified in more than 50 percent of the quantitative data and only 3 of these services were verified across all circuits: assist kinship caregivers with self-referrals; childcare support; and follow-up. These 3 services were also indicated in more than 70 percent of the survey responses, suggesting that these are the most prevalent services offered to kinship caregivers in the Northeast Region.

According to the data, all 5 services offered to kinship children were available in the Northeast Region, with all but 1 of these services identified in more than 70 percent of the quantitative data. These four services were also verified across all circuits and indicated in more than 85 percent of the survey responses, suggesting educational assistance, mental health, dental care, and medical care services are the most prevalent services offered to kinship children in the Northeast Region.

According to the data, all 13 programmatic support services were available in the Northeast Region; however, only 4 of these services were identified in more than 50 percent of the quantitative data, and they were not available in every circuit. One service, family-driven approach to services, was available in all circuits, but was not identified in any of the document reviews. Of note, family-driven approach to services was also indicated in more than 90 percent of the survey responses, suggesting this is the most prevalent programmatic support service available in the Northeast Region.

Finally, according to the data, three other services were available in the Northeast Region, with 1 of these services identified in more than 50 percent of the quantitative data. This service, engagement and relationship building, was available in all circuits across the region and according to the survey results, was indicated in more than 70 percent of responses, suggesting this was the most prevalent other service available in the Northeast Region.

### **Central**

According to the data, all services for kinship caregivers were available in the Central Region, with 13 of these services available across all circuits in the region. Eleven of these 13 services were identified in more than 50 percent of the quantitative data, with two identified in 100 percent of the data: referrals for kinship care services and advocacy. Five services were also identified in 100 percent of the survey responses: culturally tailored services, referrals for kinship care services, advocacy, assisting kinship caregivers with self-referrals, and follow-up, indicating these are the most prevalent services available to kinship caregivers in the Central Region.

According to the data, all five services for kinship children were available in the Central Region; however, only two of these services were available across all circuits in the region and were identified in more than 70 percent of the quantitative data. This indicates educational assistance and mental health services are the most prevalent services available to kinship children in the Central Region.

According to the data, all 13 programmatic support services were available in the Central Region; with all but one of these services available across all circuits in the region and identified in more than 50 percent of the quantitative data. Two of these services were identified in more than 95 percent of the data: kinship-specific navigation and providing information about available kinship care services. These two services, as well as consultation services, were also identified in more than 95 percent of the survey responses, indicating these three services were the most prevalent programmatic support services in the Central Region.

Finally, according to the data, three other services were available in the Central Region, with only one of these services available across all circuits and identified in more than 80 percent of the quantitative data. This service, engagement and relationship building, was also identified in more than 90 percent of survey responses, suggesting this was the most prevalent other service available in the Central Region.

### **Suncoast**

According to the data, 17 of the 19 services for kinship caregivers were available in the Suncoast Region, with six services available across all circuits in the region. Two of these services: in-home family services and childcare support services, were identified in more than 50 percent of the quantitative data. Providing referrals and assisting with self-referrals were the next most prevalent services available, being identified in more than 55 percent of the quantitative data. Finally, parenting education and peer support were the most prevalent services, both services identified in more than 60 percent of the quantitative data.

According to the data, all five services for kinship children were available in the Suncoast Region, with three services available across all circuits in the region. These three services: educational assistance, mental health services, and medical care services, were identified in more than 60 percent of the quantitative data, indicating these are the most prevalent services available to kinship children in the Suncoast Region.

According to the data, all 13 programmatic support services were available in the Suncoast Region; however, only three services were available across all circuits. Family-driven approach to services, kinship-specific navigation, and providing information about available kinship care services were identified in more than



60 percent of the quantitative data, indicating these were the most prevalent programmatic support services in the Suncoast Region.

Finally, according to the data, three other services were available in the Suncoast Region, with only one of these services verified across all circuits. However, engagement and relationship building was only identified in 47 percent of the quantitative data and only 40 percent of the survey responses. While this service was certainly available, it is not necessarily prevalent across the Suncoast Region.

### **Southeast**

According to the data, 16 of the 19 services for kinship caregivers were available in the Southeast Region. Seven of these services were available across all circuits in the region and were identified in more than 50 percent of the quantitative data. One of the services, referrals for kinship-specific services, was indicated in 100 percent of the data across the region. Two of the services, referrals for kinship-specific services and follow-up with kinship caregivers, were noted in 100 percent of the survey responses, indicating these three services were the most prevalent across the Southeast region.

The data show that all five services for kinship children were available in the Southeast Region, with four of these services available across all circuits in the region. Mental health services and dental care services were identified in more than 55 percent of the quantitative data. Given that education assistance and medical care services were identified in more than 80 percent of the quantitative data, these two services are the most prevalent services available to kinship children in the Southeast Region.

According to the data, all 13 programmatic support services were available in the Southeast Region, with eight of these services available across all circuits in the region. There were eight services identified in 50 percent or more of the data. Consultation support and interdisciplinary meetings with partners were identified in 50 percent or more of the quantitative data. A dedicated kinship navigator and coordinated services with parents were identified in 60 percent or more of the quantitative data. Provide information about kinship-specific services and family-driven approach to services were identified in more than 70 percent of the quantitative data. Finally, community collaborative partnerships and kinship-specific navigation were identified in more than 80 percent of the quantitative data. Of note, two of these eight services, community collaborative partnerships and coordinated services with partners, were noted in 100 percent of the survey responses across the region, indicating these are the most prevalent programmatic support services available in the Southeast Region.

Finally, according to the data, four other services were available in the Southeast Region, with only one of these services available across all circuits and identified in more than 61 percent of the quantitative data. Engagement and relationship building was also identified in 92 percent of the survey responses, indicating this was the most prevalent other service available in the Southeast Region.

### **Southern**

According to the data, 7 of the 19 services for kinship caregivers were available in the Southern Region. Five of these seven services were indicated in 75 percent or more of the survey responses. Two services: follow-up with kinship caregivers and referrals for kinship caregivers, were indicated in 90 percent or more of the survey responses, indicating these are the most prevalent services available to kinship caregivers in the Southern Region.

All five services for kinship children were available in the Southern Region, with four of these services noted in more than 90 percent of the survey data. Three of the services: mental health services, dental care services, and medical care services, were identified in 100 percent of the survey responses, indicating these are the most prevalent services available to kinship children in the Southern Region.

According to the data, 10 of the 13 programmatic support services were available in the Southern Region, with six services identified in 75 percent or more of the surveys. Two services: provide information about kinship care services and family-driven approach to services, were both identified in more than 80 percent of the survey responses. One service, kinship-specific navigation, was identified in 100 percent of the survey responses, indicating these are the most prevalent programmatic support services in the Southern Region.

Finally, according to the data, two other services were available in the Southern Region, with one identified in more than 80 percent of the surveys. Engagement and relationship building was the most prevalent other service available in the Southern Region.

### *Inventory Scores*

Each agency was provided with an inventory score based on the number of services determined to be available through the quantitative data by the research team (see Table 41). For one agency, Big Bend Community-Based Care, Inc., an inventory score was unable to be assessed, as a document review and leadership survey were not provided. However, this agency noted during the focus group session that with the addition of the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP), which rolled out after data collection, they anticipated that the services for kinship care families would increase. However, given the GAP was outside the scope of this study, no information about the GAP or the perceived benefits to agencies was reported. The remaining 17 CBC lead agencies are presented below based on the total inventory score. The inventory scores can be thought of as the percentage of available kinship care services within each CBC lead agency based on the 42 best-practice kinship care services.

**Table 41. Snapshot of Inventory Scores**

Agency	Circuit/County	Inventory Score	Services Reported (out of 42)
<b>Less than 50 Percent of Services Available</b>			
Big Bend CBC, Inc	2 & 14	0%	0
Family First Network	1	33%	14
Partnership for Strong Families	3 & 8	38%	16
Community Partnership for Children	7/Flagler, Putnam, & Volusia	45%	19
Family Integrity Program	7/St. Johns	45%	19
Kids First	4/Clay	48%	20
<b>Between 50 Percent and 75 Percent of Services Available</b>			
Communities Connected for Kids	19	55%	23
Children's Network of Southwest Florida	20	60%	25
Eckerd Community Alternative – Pasco & Pinellas	6	60%	25
Safe Children Coalition	12	60%	25
Our Kids	11 & 16	67%	28
<b>More than 75 Percent of Services Available</b>			
Eckerd Community Alternative - Hillsborough	13	76%	32
Brevard Family Partnerships	18/Brevard	79%	33
Embrace Families	9 & 18/Seminole	83%	35
ChildNet, Inc.	15 & 17	86%	36
Heartland for Children	10	88%	37
Kids Central, Inc	5	88%	37
Family Support Services	4/Duval & Nassau	93%	39

### **Less than 50 Percent of Services Available**

According to the data, 5 of these agencies had less than 50 percent of the 42 best-practice services available, indicating these agencies need more support for kinship care families. Interestingly, all five of these agencies had family driven approach to services (programmatic support service) and engagement and relationship building (other service) available. This indicates that these five agencies/service areas promote rapport building with kinship care families.

According to the data, Family First Network had 33 percent of the best-practice kinship care services available, of which more than half of the services were services offered to kinship caregivers. One of the issues with this agency, though, is that the data only came from the document review and leadership survey; therefore, this inventory score may not reflect all of the services available to kinship care families in Circuit 1. For example, in the document review process, the research team identify four services offered to kinship children as being available, yet in the leadership survey these services were not selected.

Partnership for Strong Families, which services Circuits 3 and 8, had 38 percent of the best-practice kinship care services available. All five of the services offered to kinship children were available, indicating Circuits 3 and 8 have essential services for children in kinship care. There were six services offered to kinship caregivers and four programmatic support services available: referrals, assistance with self-referrals, childcare support, follow-up, coordinated services with partners, and dedicated kinship navigator assist kinship caregivers with ensuring they are getting their needs met. Two services: in-home family services and mental health services, are therapeutic services available to kinship caregivers and families to help support the family.

Community Partnership for Children, which services three counties in Circuit 7, had 45 percent of the best-practice kinship care services available, with 37 percent of these services considered highly likely to be available based on the triangulation of data—the services were noted in all three quantitative data points. There were four services offered to kinship children available, of which 75 percent were considered highly likely to be available: mental health, dental care, and medical care services, indicating Circuit 7 has essential services for children in kinship care available. Nine of the services (five offered to kinship caregivers and four from programmatic support) provide assistance to kinship caregivers to ensure their needs are being met; four of these services: assistance with self-referrals, childcare support, follow-up, and system navigation, were considered highly likely to be available, indicating kinship caregivers are provided some support as they navigate the system and access the services needed for successful placement. In addition, three of the services: substance use workshops, in-home family services, and mental health services, are therapeutic services available to kinship caregivers and families to help support the family.

The Family Integrity Program, which services the St. John's area of Circuit 7, also had 45 percent of the best practice services available, of which three services were considered highly likely to be available. These three services: community collaborative partnerships, coordinated services with partners, and consulting with kinship care families, are services dedicated to ensuring the needs of kinship care families are met. Additionally, 10 other services were available to support kinship care families in meeting their needs: six kinship care services—case

management, referrals, advocacy, assistance with self-referrals, childcare support, and follow-up; and three programmatic support services: interdisciplinary meetings with partners, system navigation, and modify community resources; and data sharing agreements with partners. There were four services offered to kinship children through the Family Integrity Program. These four services were the same four services available in Community Partnership for children, indicating that Circuit 7 provides essential services for children placed in kinship care.

The last agency that had less than 50 percent of the best-practice kinship care services available was Kids First, which services Circuit 4 – Clay County. Approximately 48 percent of services were available through this agency. Kids First has a website specifically for kinship care families, which is said to serve as a single point of access for available services in Clay County. The four services offered to kinship children: educational assistance, mental health, dental care, and medical care services, indicate that Circuit 4 – Clay County provides essential services for children placed in kinship care. Nine services were available to assist kinship care families with meeting their needs. Four of these are services offered to kinship caregivers, including advocacy, assistance with self-referrals, childcare support, and follow-up. Five of these are programmatic support services, including dedicated kinship navigator, consulting with kinship care families, system navigation, modify community resources, and provide information about available kinship care services. There were two services: in-home family services and mental health services, available that provide therapeutic support for kinship caregivers and families.

### **Between 50 and 75 Percent of Services Available**

According to the data, five of the 17 lead agencies had between 50 and 75 percent of the 42 best-practice kinship care services available, indicating these agencies have good support for kinship care families. Similar to the above, family driven approach to services and engagement and relationship building were available in all five agencies. This indicates that these five agencies/service areas also promote building rapport with kinship care families. Four of the five agencies also had peer support as an available service, which according to the literature can be a valuable resource for kinship caregivers.<sup>37,38</sup> In addition, all five agencies provide at least four of the five services offered to kinship children, indicating these five agencies/service areas provide essential support to children placed in kinship care.

Communities Connected for Kids, which services Circuit 19, had 55 percent of services available, with seven services considered highly likely to be available. Five of these services are considered services to assist kinship care families with meeting their needs. Referrals, assistance with self-referrals, and childcare support are services offered to kinship caregivers, and community collaborative partnerships and system navigation are programmatic support services. The other two highly likely to be available services offered to kinship children were educational assistance and medical care services. There were two other services offered to kinship children available: mental health and dental care services, indicating essential services for children placed in kinship care are available in Circuit 19. There were several other services available that assist kinship care families with meeting their needs, including: advocacy and follow-up (services offered to kinship caregivers); interdisciplinary meetings and coordinated services with partners, dedicated kinship navigator, consulting with kinship care families, monitor

gaps in services, and provide information about kinship care services (programmatic support services); and data sharing with partners and a website specifically for kinship care families (other services). According to the data, peer support was also an available service, indicating Circuit 19 provides several essential services for kinship caregivers.

Children's Network of Southwest Florida, which services Circuit 20, had 60 percent of the best-practice kinship care services available, with four services considered highly likely to be available. Two of the services, advocacy and assistance with self-referrals, are considered services to assist kinship care families meet their needs. The other two services, educational assistance and medical care services, are services essential to kinship children. In fact, according to the data, all five of the services offered to kinship children were available, indicating Circuit 20 provides essential services for children placed in kinship care. Of the 25 best-practice kinship care services available in this area, more than half of the services are aimed for kinship caregivers, including respite care and peer support, both are critical to placement stability. This indicates that Circuit 20 also provides a number of essential services for kinship caregivers. There were six programmatic support services available, three of which assist kinship care families with meeting their needs: system navigation, legal assistance, and provide information about kinship care services.

Eckerd Community Alternative-Pasco and Pinellas, which services Circuit 6, also had 60 percent of the best-practice services available, with five services considered highly probable to be occurring. Three of these services are programmatic support services that assist kinship care families with meeting their needs: community collaborative partnerships, consulting with kinship care families, and provide information about services. There were seven additional programmatic support services available, five of which assist kinship care families with meeting their needs, making programmatic support services the most prevalent services available in Circuit 6. There were also nine services offered to kinship caregivers, five of which assist kinship care families meet their needs. Respite care and peer support were also available services along with parenting education, all of which are essential to support placement stability. Four of the five services offered to kinship children were also available, indicating Circuit 6 provides essential services for children placed in kinship care. Family driven approach to services and engagement and relationship building were also available services, indicating Circuit 20 promotes building rapport with kinship care families.

Safe Children Coalition, which services Circuit 12, also had 60 percent of the best-practice kinship care services available, with four services considered highly likely to be available. All five of the services offered to kinship children were available in Circuit 12, with one of these services, medical care services, considered highly likely to be available. This indicates that essential services are available for children placed in kinship care. Nearly half of the available services in Circuit 12 are offered to kinship caregivers, including parenting education, which was considered highly likely to be available, respite care and peer support, services that assist kinship care families with meeting their needs (four), and services that support kinship caregivers (four), such as medical care and mental health. The programmatic support services: community collaborative partnerships and Family Finders were highly likely to be available and six other programmatic support services assist kinship care families with meeting their needs. This indicates that Circuit 12 provides essential services to support kinship care families with meeting their needs.

Finally, Our Kids, which serviced Circuits 11 and 16 at the time of this study, had 67 percent of the best-practice kinship care services available. Our Kids was, until recently, the lead agency in Circuits 11 and 16 and was therefore used for this study. According to the data, all five services offered to kinship children were available in these circuits, indicating that Circuits 11 and 16 provide essential services for children placed in kinship care. Approximately 40 percent of services were offered to kinship caregivers and just under 40 percent of services were for programmatic support. Eight of the 11 kinship caregiver services and eight of the 10 programmatic support services assist kinship care families with meeting their needs. Dedicated kinship navigator, a programmatic support service that assists kinship care families with meeting their needs, was highly likely to be available. With more than 50 percent of the services available that provide assistance to kinship care families to meet their needs, Circuits 11 and 16 provide essential services to support kinship care families with meeting their needs.

### **More than 75 Percent of Services Available**

According to the data, seven of the 17 lead agencies had more than 75 percent of the 42 best-practice kinship care services available, indicating these agencies provide strong supports for the kinship care families. All seven of these agencies also indicated having formalized kinship care services. Five of the seven agencies had 16 or more of the 19 services offered to kinship caregivers available. Six of the seven agencies had 100 percent of the services offered to kinship children available. Finally, five of the seven agencies had 100 percent of the programmatic support services available, with the other two agencies having all but one of the programmatic support services available. This indicates that these agencies might have strong kinship care programs that could potentially be modeled in other areas. In addition, all seven agencies indicated having some form of peer support, with more than half of the agencies having peer-to-peer navigators available, both of which are considered critical supports for kinship caregivers.<sup>39,40</sup> Similar to the above, family driven approach to services and engagement and relationship building were available in all seven agencies. This indicates that these seven agencies/service areas also promote building rapport with kinship care families.

Eckerd Community Alternative-Hillsborough, which services Circuit 13, had 76 percent of the best-practice kinship care services available, of which 66 percent were considered highly likely to be available. There were three services available for kinship children, of which two were highly likely to be available: educational assistance and mental health services. This indicates that there are a few essential services available for kinship children, though Eckerd Community Alternative-Hillsborough had the fewest services offered to kinship children of the seven agencies. Of note, Eckerd Community Alternative-Hillsborough reported having a website specifically designed for kinship care families available, which can be utilized as a single point of contact for kinship care families and the system. Ten of the 14 services offered to kinship caregivers were considered highly likely to be available. According to the data, nine of these services assist kinship care families with meeting their needs, three services: in-home family services, mental health services, and crisis case planning, have a therapeutic component, one service provides parenting education, and one service provides peer support. According to the data, 100 percent of the programmatic support services were available, with eight considered highly



likely to be available. Seven of these services assist kinship care families with meeting their needs. This indicates that there are several essential services for kinship caregivers and kinship care families available in Circuit 13.

Brevard Family Partnership, which services Circuit 18 – Brevard County, had 79 percent of best-practice kinship care services available. As noted above, all five services offered to kinship children were available, with three services considered highly likely to be available: mental health, dental care, and medical care services. This indicates that there are essential services available for children placed in kinship care in Brevard County. According to the data, 15 of the 19 services offered to kinship caregivers were available in Brevard County, with six of these services considered highly likely to be available. All six of these services assist kinship care families with meeting their needs. In addition, peer support and peer-to-peer navigation were available, both of which are considered critical supports for kinship caregivers. All but one of the programmatic support services were available, with three considered highly likely to be available: dedicated kinship navigator, system navigation, and consulting with kinship care families. These three services are also services that assist kinship care families with meeting their needs, indicating that several essential services for kinship caregivers and kinship care families are available in Brevard County.

Embrace Families, which services Circuits 9 and 18 – Seminole County, had 83 percent of the best-practice kinship care services available, 47 percent of which were considered highly likely to be available. All five services offered to kinship children were available, with two services considered highly likely to be available: educational assistance and mental health, indicating that there are essential services for children placed in kinship care in Circuits 9 and 18 – Seminole County. According to the data, 16 of the 19 services offered to kinship caregivers were available, with more than 60 percent considered highly likely to be available. Seven of these services assist kinship care families with meeting their needs, one of these services has a therapeutic component, one of the services provides training, and one of the services provides peer support. In addition, peer-to-peer navigation and respite care were also available. All but one of the programmatic support services were available, four of which were highly likely to be available: consulting with kinship care families, system navigation, intake and needs assessments, and provide information about kinship services. These four services assist kinship care families with meeting their needs, indicating that several essential services for kinship caregivers and kinship care families are available in Circuits 9 and 18 – Seminole County.

ChildNet, Inc., which services Circuits 15 – Palm Beach and 19 – Broward, had 86 percent of the best-practice kinship care services available. All five services offered to kinship children were available, with two considered highly likely to be available: educational assistance and mental health, indicating that there are essential services for children placed in kinship care in Circuits 15 and 19. According to the data, 16 of the 19 services offered to kinship caregivers were available, with five of these considered highly likely to be available. Four of these services: culturally tailored services, case planning, case management, and childcare support, assist kinship care families with meeting their needs, while the other service: parenting education, provides training for kinship caregivers. All 13 programmatic support services were available, with three of these considered highly likely to be available: family-driven approach to services, system navigation, and providing information about services. Given all

but six services are available in this circuit, the data indicates that several essential services for kinship caregivers and kinship care families are available in Circuits 15 and 19.

Heartland for Children, which services Circuit 10, had 88 percent of the best-practice kinship care services available. All five services offered to kinship children were available, indicating that there are essential services for children placed in kinship care in Circuit 10. According to the data, 17 of the 19 services offered to kinship caregivers were available, with seven of these considered highly likely to be available. Four of these services: referrals, advocacy, assistance with self-referrals, and follow-up, assist kinship care families with meeting their needs. Two services: in-home family services and crisis case planning, offer a therapeutic approach to services. Finally, one of the services provides peer support. Respite care was also a service available in Circuit 10. All 13 programmatic support services were available, with four of these considered highly likely to be available: Family Finders Component, system navigation, intake and needs assessment, and providing information about services. Given all but five services are available in this circuit, data indicate that several essential services for kinship caregivers and kinship care families are available in Circuit 10.

Kids Central, which services Circuit 5, had 88 percent of the best-practice kinship care services available, more than half of which were considered highly likely to be available. All five services offered to kinship children were available, with one service considered highly likely to be available: educational assistance, indicating that there are essential services available for children placed in kinship care in Circuit 5. According to the data, 16 of the 19 services offered to kinship caregivers were available, with more than 65 percent of these considered highly likely to be available. Seven of these services assist kinship care families with meeting their needs, two have a therapeutic component, one provides training, and one provides peer support. In addition, peer-to-peer navigation was also a service available, considered a critical support for kinship caregivers. All 13 programmatic support services were available, with more than 60 percent of these considered highly likely to be available. Almost all of these services assist kinship care families with meeting their needs, indicating that several essential services for kinship caregivers and kinship care families are available in Circuit 5.

Finally, Family Support Services, which services Circuit 4 – Duval/Nassau, had 93 percent of the best-practice kinship care services available, with more than 50 percent of these services considered highly likely to be available. All five services offered to kinship children were available, with two considered highly likely to be available: engage youth in leadership and educational assistance, indicating that there are essential services available for children placed in kinship care in Circuit 4 – Duval/Nassau. According to the data, all but one of the services offered to kinship caregivers were available, with just under half of these services considered highly likely to be available. Five of these services assist kinship care families with meeting their needs, one has a therapeutic component, one provides training, and one provides peer support. In addition, peer-to-peer navigation was also available. All 13 programmatic support services were available, with almost 70 percent of these services considered highly likely to be available. Almost all of these services assist kinship care families with meeting their needs, indicating that several essential services for kinship caregivers and kinship care families are available in Circuit 4 – Duval/Nassau.

## Kinship Care Service Gaps

Kinship caregivers take on the role of parent and guardian, often while balancing the needs of the parents and children.<sup>41</sup> The data from this report, as well as from relevant literature, identifies the struggle many kinship caregivers face: having a multitude of needs that continuously go unaddressed.<sup>42</sup> As noted by the providers in this report, which is supported by the literature, kinship caregivers need increased access to respite care; increased practical support such as emotional support; childcare; mental health services; training and education services; increased support with navigating the system; and increased financial support.<sup>43</sup>

### *Respite Care*

According to the data in this report, respite care was the most prevalent gap in service noted across Florida. Among the quantitative data, respite care was noted as an available service in an average of less than 15 percent of all data points. Within the provider survey, respite care was noted by only 18 percent of all providers and was identified as a need in the open-ended question 17 times among providers. Finally, respite care was a prevalent gap addressed among providers in the focus groups. Most providers suggested a need for formal respite care services for both formal kinship care placements and informal kinship care placements. In fact, even among providers who suggested there was some form of respite care available, the providers suggested needing more options for respite care services. Respite care is also mentioned throughout the literature as a prevalent gap noted across kinship caregivers.<sup>44, 45</sup>

### *Support for Kinship Caregivers*

Support for kinship caregivers spans a wide range of topics, including peer support, which according to the literature is an important consideration.<sup>46</sup> Interestingly, it was noted in some areas that the kinship caregivers with strong peer support networks engage in informal respite care as a result of these supports. According to the data in this report, increasing support for kinship caregivers was the second most prevalent gap in service noted across Florida. Support for kinship caregivers included building and increasing a network of support such as peer support groups, childcare and wraparound services, mental health services, training and education, and support after a case closes. According to the quantitative data, peer support, childcare, and parenting education were noted in an average above 50 percent across all data points; however, these supports were also brought up as gaps in service within the provider survey and focus group sessions. Mental health services were only noted in an average of 39 percent across all data and was also mentioned in the provider survey and focus groups. Aftercare programs were not a best-practice service, but it was noted in the provider surveys and focus group sessions as a gap in service. These supports are both practical and emotional, which according to the literature, are important to kinship caregivers and to the stability of kinship care families.<sup>47</sup>

### *Navigation*

Navigation, like support for kinship caregivers, can have a range of meanings, including kinship-specific navigators, child welfare system navigation, peer-to-peer navigation, and navigating community resources/partnerships. According to the data in this report, kinship-specific navigation was mentioned on average more than 70 percent across all data points. However, during the focus group sessions, providers suggested a need for more support for these navigators in accessing the system.

It was suggested that not all providers are aware of the different systems that kinship care families will engage in and that lack of know-how can create barriers for the family. Research supports this sentiment, suggesting strong system navigation can increase the stability in the kinship care placement.<sup>48</sup> While there seems to be kinship-specific navigation, according to the data, peer-to-peer navigation is a gap in service, with this service being indicated in less than 15 percent of the data across data points. Research highlights the importance of peer-to-peer navigators, suggesting that kinship caregivers benefit from the experience of their peers.<sup>49</sup>

The utilization of community resources, as well as a strong understanding of what those community resources are, was a gap identified for kinship care. According to the data, community collaborative partnerships were identified in an average above 50 percent across data points and coordinated services with those collaborative partners was identified in an average above 45 percent across data points. However, providers noted in the focus group sessions that community partners were important to the success of kinship care arrangements. The literature supports this sentiment as well, suggesting that having strong community partners reduces the duplicity in services and widens the support net around kinship care families.<sup>50</sup>

### *Funding*

While most of the providers noted that funding existed, particularly for the formal kinship care arrangements, almost all of the providers suggested funding was not sufficient. This has also been documented in the literature, suggesting that kinship care families tend to be low-socio-economic status in addition to receiving a lower financial stipend.<sup>51</sup> This disparity in funding for kinship caregivers in particular was discussed during the focus group sessions, and providers suggested that kinship caregivers provide a valuable service to the child welfare system but receive fewer benefits for their service compared to foster parents. Limited financial supports are also prevalent in informal kinship care arrangements, and after cases close, the financial support often diminishes or expires. During the focus group sessions providers noted this was a prevalent gap in service as many kinship caregivers need ongoing aftercare support, particularly if the case closes to permanent guardianship.



## CONCLUSION

Kinship care placements are a critical support for the child welfare system, particularly in regards to the well-being of children. These placements create a sense of family and tradition for children that can potentially reduce the trauma experienced during out-of-home care. However, these placements can be a burden for the caregivers, particularly when communities do not provide enough support systems, such as peripheral behavioral support services for kinship children, financial support for kinship care families, peer support for kinship caregivers, and system navigation for kinship caregivers within the community. The current study aimed to provide an inventory of the kinship care services throughout the state of Florida. Using the 18 CBC lead agencies, the research team examined the kinship care supports in each agency. According to the data, approximately 39 percent of agencies offer more than 31 of the 42 best-practice services noted in the literature. Additionally, half of the agencies offer more than 65 percent of the services for kinship caregivers and more than half of the agencies offer 85 percent of the services for programmatic support, indicating kinship care families and kinship caregivers are provided essential supports to care for children placed in kinship care.

While there are a number of services offered across the state, providers from the CBC lead agencies noted several services, that if provided, would enhance kinship care in their service area including: respite care, increased support for kinship caregivers, navigation support, and funding. While there were a few agencies that provided respite care for kinship caregivers ( $n = 5$ ), this need was the most prevalent among providers in both the provider survey and focus group sessions. Increased support for kinship caregivers spanned multiple topics including peer support networks, childcare, wraparound, and aftercare services. Providers suggested that these increased supports for kinship caregivers would enhance the stability of the kinship care placement. Navigation and funding were noted by providers as being essential to the success of the kinship placement as well.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

This study identified the available kinship care services based on the 42 best-practice kinship care services available identified in the literature; however, this study does not provide an evaluation of the effectiveness of any of the kinship programs. Therefore, the research team recommends that an evaluation of the kinship programs available throughout the state be conducted, particularly given the importance that the FFPSA places on promising, supported, or well-supported evidence.<sup>52</sup> This is especially relevant given there have not been any kinship navigator programs, at the time of this report, that have achieved the FFPSA best-practice standard.

The Department should consider creating funding opportunities for CBC lead agencies to conduct external evaluations of current kinship navigator programs. The funding could be competitive and only available to agencies with kinship programs that meet certain criteria, such as incorporating state and federal kinship navigator program requirements. This would offer Florida an opportunity to have one or more of its own models meeting the criteria of the FFPSA clearinghouse.

## Appendix A – Full List of Services by Type of Service

### Complete List of the 42 Best-Practice Kinship Care Services

Services Offered to Kinship Caregivers	Services Offered to Kinship Children	Programmatic Support Services	Other Services
19 Total Services	5 Total Services	13 Total Services	5 Total Services
Culturally tailored services	Engage youth in leadership development	Community collaborative partnerships	Data sharing agreements with collaborative partners
Kinship-specific case planning	Educational assistance	Interdisciplinary meetings with collaborative partners	Targeted services for special populations
Kinship-specific case management	Mental health services	Coordinated services with collaborative partners	Specialized software applications
Referrals for kinship-specific services	Dental care services	A dedicated kinship navigator or kinship worker	Specially designed website that serves as the single point of access for kinship services/information
Advocacy for kinship caregivers	Medical care services	Family finder's component	Engagement and relationship building
Assist kinship caregivers with self-referrals		Consulting kinship caregivers and families during the development of information resources and referrals	
Substance use workshops or services		Family driven approach to services	
In-home family services for kinship caregivers		Kinship-specific system navigation	
Mental health services for kinship caregivers		Kinship-specific legal assistance	
Dental care services for kinship caregivers		Routinely monitor gaps in services	
Medical care services for kinship caregivers		Routinely modify community resources for kinship caregivers	
Dedicated helpline for kinship caregivers		Kinship-specific intake and needs assessments	
Respite care for kinship caregivers		Provide information about available kinship-specific services	
Parenting education for kinship caregivers			
Childcare support for kinship caregivers			
Follow-up with kinship caregivers			
Peer-to-peer navigators			
Peer support (e.g. support groups for kinship caregivers)			
Kinship-specific crisis case planning			

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Agency Information

Lead Agency

Circuit/Region

Does lead agency provide kinship care?

Yes

No

Is kinship care subcontracted?

Yes

No

On a scale of 1 to 10, how closely do the kinship practices/components align with a Kinship Navigator Program?

1 – No kinship practice/components

5 – Moderate alignment to a Kinship Navigator Program

10– Kinship Navigator Program

Rating

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

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Reviewer recommends the kinship providers participate in a

- ☐ Focus Group
- ☐ Conference Call

Scale Scores under 5, what areas need to be improved to prepare the agency to implement a Kinship

Name of subcontracted kinship care provider

Counties served by kinship program

A program manual was provided?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Number of documents provided

List of documents

How closely do the documents align with the following standards? Rate them on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 not at all; 10 completely).

Federal Mandate: a kinship navigator program to assist kinship caregivers in learning about, finding, and using programs and services to meet the needs of the children they are raising and their own needs, and to promote effective partnerships among public and private agencies to ensure kinship caregiver families are served

Rating  ☐ Not Applicable

Comments:

State statute: The purpose of a kinship navigator program is to help relative caregivers and fictive kin in the child welfare system to navigate the broad range of services available to them and the children from public, private, community, and faith-based organizations

Rating  ☐ Not Applicable

Comments:

The kinship services are sensitive to the social and cultural diversity of the community.

- ☐ Yes  
☐ Not addressed  
☐ Unsure

Comments:

Are the program's goals (i.e., desired outcomes) clearly delineated?

☐ Yes

☐ No

How closely do the program's goals align with Kinship Navigator Programs based on the federal mandate or state statute?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	6	7	8	9	10	Not Applicable
Ranking	<input type="text"/>											<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

### **Kinship Services**

Which of the following services are offered to kinship caregivers in your agency?

	Yes	No
Services that are culturally tailored to meet the variable needs of kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kinship specific case planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



	Yes	No
Kinship specific case management		
Referrals for kinship specific services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advocacy for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assist kinship caregivers with self-referrals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance use workshops or services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In-home family services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental health services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dental Care services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical Care services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialized services for specialized populations (i.e., immigrants)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dedicated helpline for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Respite care for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parenting education for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child Care Support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Follow-up with kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which of the following services are offered to children in kinship care in your agency?

	Yes	No
Engage youth in leadership development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental Health services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dental Care services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical Care services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which of the following program components are offered to support kinship caregivers in your agency?

	Yes	No
A dedicated kinship navigator or kinship worker	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer-to-peer navigators	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer support (e.g., support groups for kin caregivers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family Finders Component, which systematically locates and engages relatives of children currently living in out-of-home care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kinship caregivers and families are consulted during the development of information, resources, and referrals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engagement and Relationship building with kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family driven approach to services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kinship specific intake and needs assessments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide information about available kinship specific services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
System navigation specific to kinship caregivers (e.g. TANF, food stamps, kinship caregiver subsidy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Crisis case planning specific to kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Routinely modify community resources for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Routinely monitor gaps in services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide legal assistance specific to kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialized software applications (e.g., e-applications)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specially designed website that serves as the single point of access for kinship services/information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which of the following partnership services are developed to support kinship practices in your agency?

	Yes	No
Community collaborative partnerships	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interdisciplinary meetings with collaborative partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coordinated services with collaborative partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data sharing agreements with collaborative partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Yes

No

Comments:

Based on best practice standards, do the kinship services offered meet the definition of a Kinship Navigator Program?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ Partially  
☐ No

Comments:

Does the agency identify community collaborative partners specifically for Kinship Caregiver Services?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ Unclear  
☐ No

Who are the community partners?

What are the services offered by the community collaborative partner?

Is there a dedicated provider within the partner agency for kin families?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ Information Not Provided  
☐ No

Comments:

Does the CBC and/or contracted service provider post information about kinship services on its website home page or prominently display a link to kinship services?

- ☐ On home page  
☐ Link on home page  
☐ Nothing on home page

Comments (e.g., the information on the website and documents is similar):

On a scale of 1 to 10, how closely do the kinship practices/components align with a Kinship Navigator Program?

1 – No kinship practice/components

5 – Moderate alignment to a Kinship Navigator Program

10– Kinship Navigator Program

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

Rating

Scale scores 5 to 10, how ready is the agency to implement a Kinship Navigator Program?

Scale Scores under 5, what areas need to be improved to prepare the agency to implement a Kinship

Reviewer recommends the kinship providers participate in a

- ☐ Focus Group
- ☐ Conference Call

Final Comments:

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## Appendix C – Leadership Survey

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### Default Question Block\_Consent

Please review the [Kinship project survey consent form](#). After you review the consent form please indicate your statement of consent, which certifies you understand the costs and benefits of participating in this study:

- ☐ Yes, I understand the costs and benefits of participating
- ☐ No, I do not understand the costs and benefits of participating (Please contact Dr. Yelick ([ayelick@fsu.edu](mailto:ayelick@fsu.edu)) for clarification, Note: You will be exited from the survey)

Please indicate below whether you agree or you do not agree to participate in this study. By clicking "yes, I agree to complete this survey", certify that you:

- *Currently work as a child welfare professional*

-OR-

- *Currently provide services to kin caregivers (formal or informal)*

-AND-

- *Consent to be in the study*

- ☐ Yes, I agree to complete this survey
- ☐ No, I do not agree to complete this survey and would like to exit now

### Block 5: Main Survey

Does your agency have formalized kinship services (e.g., written policies/procedures, informational handouts, description of kinship services on your website, etc.)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Are there informal kinship services in your agency (i.e., services that are provided without formalized policies/procedures)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

### Block 6: Services

Which of the following services are offered to kinship caregivers in your agency?

	Yes	No
Services that are culturally tailored to meet the variable needs of kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kinship specific case planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kinship specific case management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Referrals for kinship specific services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advocacy for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assist kinship caregivers with self-referrals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance use workshops or services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In-home family services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental health services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dental Care services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical Care services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialized services for specialized populations (i.e., immigrants)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dedicated helpline for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Respite care for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parenting education for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child Care Support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Follow-up with kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which of the following services are offered to children in kinship care in your agency?

	Yes	No
Engage youth in leadership development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental Health services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dental Care services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical Care services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which of the following program components are offered to support kinship caregivers in your agency?

	Yes	No
A dedicated kinship navigator or kinship worker	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer-to-peer navigators	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer support (e.g., support groups for kin caregivers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family Finders Component, which systematically locates and engages relatives of children currently living in out-of-home care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kinship caregivers and families are consulted during the development of information, resources, and referrals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engagement and Relationship building with kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family driven approach to services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kinship specific intake and needs assessments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



	Yes	No
Provide information about available kinship specific services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
System navigation specific to kinship caregivers (e.g. TANF, food stamps, kinship caregiver subsidy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Crisis case planning specific to kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Routinely modify community resources for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Routinely monitor gaps in services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide legal assistance specific to kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialized software applications (e.g., e-applications)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specially designed website that serves as the single point of access for kinship services/information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which of the following partnership services are developed to support kinship practices in your agency?

	Yes	No
Community collaborative partnerships	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interdisciplinary meetings with collaborative partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coordinated services with collaborative partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data sharing agreements with collaborative partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What other services does your agency offer to kinship caregivers?

#### Block 6: Contact List

As part of the Kinship Services Inventory, we would like use surveys and focus groups to gain the perspective of foster care direct service and community collaborative partners working with kinship caregivers. Please help us contact the right people in your circuit/region by provide the name, agency, role, and email of at least five people.

	Contact 1 Information	Contact 2 Information	Contact 3 Information	Contact 4 Information	Contact 5 Information	Contact 6 Information	Contact 7 Information
Name	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Agency	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Role/Title	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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### Default Question Block: Consent

Please review the [Kinship project survey consent form](#). After you review the consent form please indicate your statement of consent, which certifies you understand the costs and benefits of participating in this study:

- ☐ Yes, I understand the costs and benefits of participating
- ☐ No, I do not understand the costs and benefits of participating (Please contact Dr. Yelick (ayelick@fsu.edu) for clarification, Note: You will be exited from the survey)

Please indicate below whether you agree or you do not agree to participate in this study. By clicking "yes, I agree to complete this survey", you certify that you:

- *Currently work as a child welfare professional*

-OR-

- *Currently provide services to kin caregivers (formal or informal)*

-AND-

- *Consent to be in the study*

- ☐ Yes, I agree to complete this survey
- ☐ No, I do not agree to complete this survey and would like to exit now

### Block 2: Service Areas

Please indicate which region you currently work in:

- ☐ Northwest
- ☐ Northeast
- ☐ Central
- ☐ SunCoast
- ☐ Southeast
- ☐ Southern

Please indicate which county(ies) you currently work in:

- ☐ Bay
- ☐ Calhoun
- ☐ Escambia
- ☐ Franklin
- ☐ Gadsden
- ☐ Gulf
- ☐ Holmes
- ☐ Jackson
- ☐ Jefferson
- ☐ Leon
- ☐ Liberty
- ☐ Okaloosa
- ☐ Santa Rosa
- ☐ Wakulla
- ☐ Walton
- ☐ Washington

Please indicate which county(ies) you currently work in:

- ☐ Alachua
- ☐ Baker
- ☐ Bradford
- ☐ Clay

- ☐ Columbia
- ☐ Dixie
- ☐ Duval
- ☐ Flagler
- ☐ Gilchrist
- ☐ Hamilton
- ☐ Lafayette
- ☐ Levy
- ☐ Madison
- ☐ Nassau
- ☐ Putnam
- ☐ St. Johns
- ☐ Suwannee
- ☐ Taylor
- ☐ Union
- ☐ Volusia

Please indicate which county(ies) you currently work in:

- ☐ Brevard
- ☐ Citrus
- ☐ Hardee
- ☐ Hernando
- ☐ Highlands
- ☐ Lake
- ☐ Marion
- ☐ Orange
- ☐ Osceola
- ☐ Polk
- ☐ Seminole
- ☐ Sumter

Please indicate which county(ies) you currently work in:

- ☐ Charlotte
- ☐ Collier
- ☐ DeSoto
- ☐ Glades
- ☐ Hendry
- ☐ Hillsborough
- ☐ Lee
- ☐ Manatee
- ☐ Pasco
- ☐ Pinellas
- ☐ Sarasota

Please indicate which county(ies) you currently work in:

- ☐ Broward
- ☐ Indian River
- ☐ Martin
- ☐ Okeechobee
- ☐ Palm Beach
- ☐ St. Lucie

Please indicate which county(ies) you currently work in:

- ☐ Miami-Dade
- ☐ Monroe

**Block 3: Respondent  
Information**

The first two questions ask for your name and email address. We would like this information in order to invite you to participate in a group discussion regarding kinship practices in your service area. The discussion is expected to last approximately two hours at the end of which you will be eligible to receive a \$25 gift card. If you are interested in participating in the discussion, please provide your name and email address. Otherwise, feel free to skip those questions.

Please provide your name:

Please provide your email address:

Please provide the full name of the agency where you currently work:

Please provide your specific job title:

**Block**  
**4**

How often do you work with kin caregivers?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐

☐ All of the time

**Block 5:**  
**Services**

Which of the following services are offered to kinship caregivers in your agency?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Services that are culturally tailored to meet the variable needs of kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kinship specific case planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kinship specific case management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Referrals for kinship specific services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advocacy for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assist kinship caregivers with self-referrals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance use workshops or services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In-home family services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental health services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dental Care services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical Care services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialized services for specialized populations (i.e., immigrants)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dedicated helpline for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Respite care for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parenting education for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child Care Support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Follow-up with kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which of the following services are offered to children in kinship care in your agency?



	Yes	No	Unsure
Engage youth in leadership development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental Health services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dental Care services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical Care services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which of the following program components are offered to support kinship caregivers in your agency?

	Yes	No	Unsure
A dedicated kinship navigator or kinship worker	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer-to-peer navigators	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer support (e.g., support groups for kin caregivers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family Finders Component, which systematically locates and engages relatives of children currently living in out-of-home care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kinship caregivers and families are consulted during the development of information, resources, and referrals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engagement and Relationship building with kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family driven approach to services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kinship specific intake and needs assessments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide information about available kinship specific services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
System navigation specific to kinship caregivers (e.g. TANF, food stamps, kinship caregiver subsidy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Crisis case planning specific to kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Routinely modify community resources for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Routinely monitor gaps in services for kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide legal assistance specific to kinship caregivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialized software applications (e.g., e-applications)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Yes	No	Unsure
Specially designed website that serves as the single point of access for kinship services/information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which of the following partnership services are developed to support kinship practices in your agency?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Community collaborative partnerships	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interdisciplinary meetings with collaborative partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coordinated services with collaborative partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data sharing agreements with collaborative partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What other services does your agency offer to kinship caregivers?

### Block 6: Respondent Opinions

Rate how beneficial your agency's kinship services are to kinship families?

- ☐ Extremely beneficial
- ☐ Moderately beneficial
- ☐ Slightly beneficial
- ☐ Neither beneficial nor unhelpful
- ☐ Slightly unhelpful
- ☐ Moderately unhelpful
- ☐ Extremely unhelpful

How would you rate your experience working with kinship families?

Experience working with kinship families

Poor 0 2 3 Average 5 7 Excellent 8 10

Thinking about kinship caregivers in your agency, what resources are needed to improve kinship care?

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