




KINSHIP SUPPORTS

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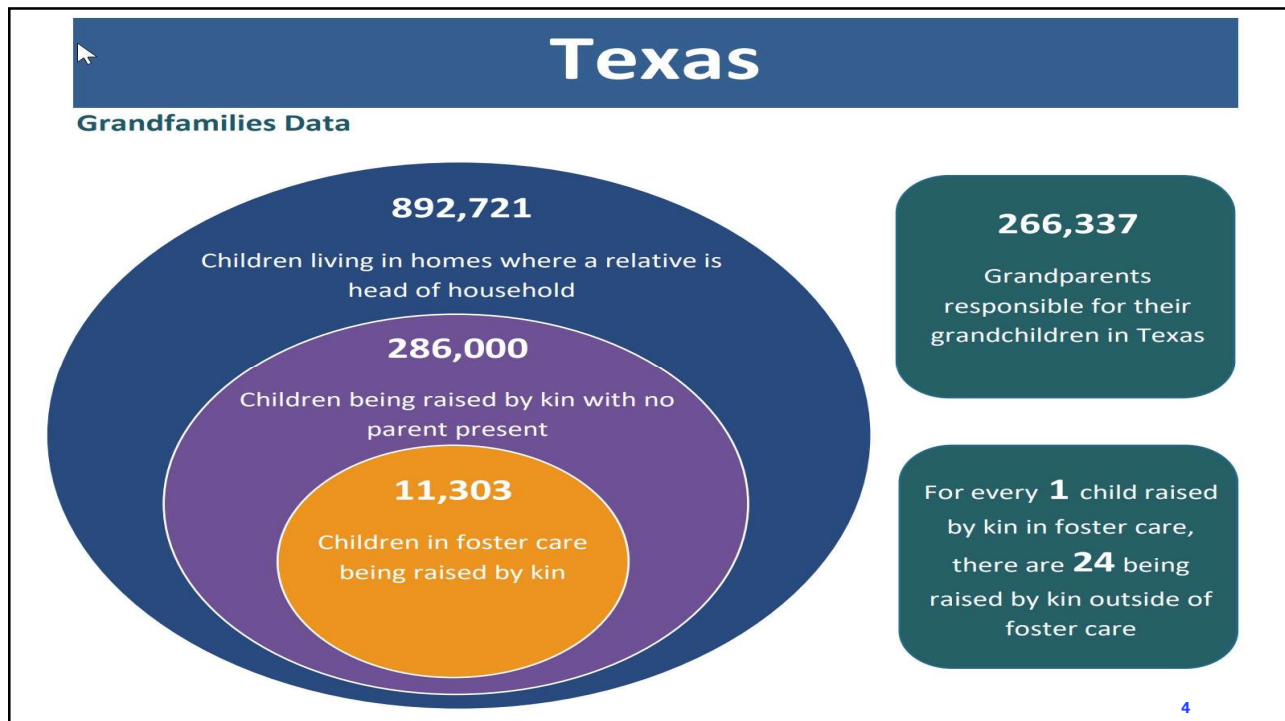
Who am I?

- My Story
- The stories of the many kinship caregivers we serve at the Kinship Navigator Program (KNP)

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- Nationally: There are about 18 children being raised by a relative caregiver informally for every child in a formal kinship foster care placement.
- In Texas: There are about 24 children being raised by a relative caregiver informally for every child in formal foster care placement.

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Why so many informal families?

<p>Many caregivers are never eligible to become licensed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary informal placement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including those with DFPS involvement, in lieu of foster care • Parent Child Safety Plan in place of a formal removal • Not meeting the licensure criteria 	<p>Of those who are able to become licensed- many decline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of lack of good communication • Because of lack of help finding a good Kin-friendly agency • Because of FEAR and wanting to remove themselves from DFPS
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What is the Kinship Navigator Program?

What?

- FFPSA Pilot Program through PEI for organizations that already had FAYS programming
- Providing in-home Resource Navigation, Service Planning, and Case Management Services to kinship caregivers
- Support groups and Caregiver Advisory Committees

When?

- There was a planning grant year in FY21 - building a strength based program
- Just beginning our 3rd year of implementation for FY24 which began September 1
- Each caregiver is served for 3 months - 1 year

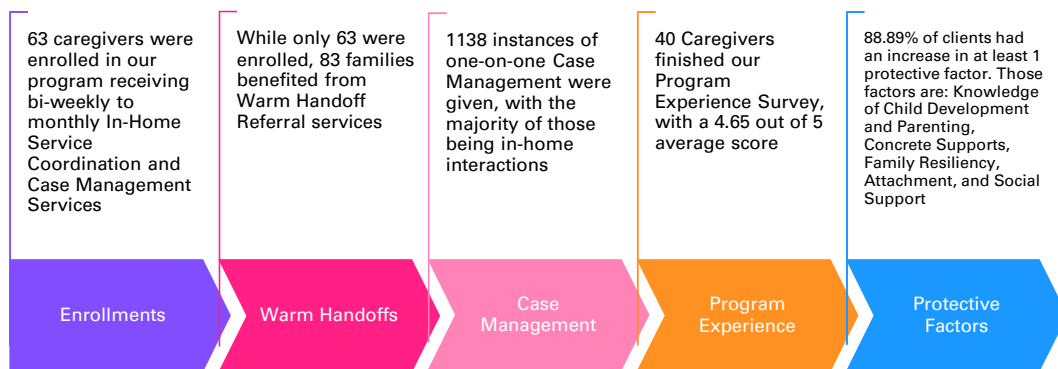
Where?

- In 4 agencies across Texas:
 - ACH in Fort Worth
 - DePelchin in Houston
 - New Horizons in Abilene
 - Catholic Charities in Lubbock

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How Kinship Navigator Made a Difference In 3B for FY23



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Suzie's daughter struggles with drug addiction. One weekend the daughter brought Suzie's 4 grandchildren, ages 2-17, to visit Suzie and never returned. Suzie found herself as the full-time caregiver for all 4 grandchildren, while Suzie herself lives on a fixed Social Security income. Suzie encountered obstacles she never knew existed when caring for kinship children. She needed to enroll her grandchildren in school but was unable to because they did not have the appropriate legal paperwork. Fortunately, Suzie found the Kinship Navigator program through an online search.

The Kinship Navigator helped Suzie file a report for the abandonment of her grandchildren, and get the children into school through the district's McKinney Vento Liaison. The Kinship Navigator was able to help her apply for state Medicaid, SNAP benefits, and TANF, and provide one-on-one help in the licensure process. Suzie met with a specialist in her home once to twice a month, helping to apply for benefits, and helping Suzie to set and achieve goals. One of Suzie's goals was to get her older grandchildren into counseling. This was a difficult task because Suzie had no legal paperwork naming her as the children's guardian at first. Over time, Suzie and her Kinship Navigator specialists were able to contact Suzie's daughter and have a Power of Attorney form notarized, giving Suzie the ability to schedule doctor checkups and counseling sessions for the children. Suzie was denied licensure due to the size of her home, but the navigator was able to help her apply for a housing voucher.

When Suzie came to the Kinship Navigator program she was lost and hopeless. Now, with the help of her Kinship Navigator Specialist, she is working towards helping her grandchildren connect and thrive through creating positive childhood experiences and was able to formally adopt her grandchildren 2 days after moving into their new apartment.

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What Do Kinship Caregivers Need?

- A better understanding of what they are committing to
 - With friendly, easy-to-understand language
 - This is true of licensure, adoption, and Parent Child Safety Plans
- Legal documentation to care for the children they are given
 - And an understanding of what legal rights they do and do not have
- Help thinking through a backup plan
- A lot of support and help - hand holding
 - Kin friendly agencies

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