

**Community Grants Program  
Grant Report**



1594 Esmeralda Avenue  
Minden, Nevada 89423

[www.douglascountynv.gov](http://www.douglascountynv.gov)  
775-782-9821

Agency Name:	Foster Kinship		
Contact:	Ali Caliendo	Title:	Executive Director
Phone:	702-546-9988	Email:	Ali@fosterkinship.org
Project Name:	Kinship Navigator Program		
Grant Funding Amount:	\$2,200		
Project Completion Date:	6/30/22		

Describe how the funds were used to serve Douglas County residents.

Foster Kinship provided case management services- helped kinship caregivers in Douglas County receive financial support, gain legal capacity, and provided tangible items including vouchers for basic need items like diapers and food. We also held multiple support groups to help caregivers realize they are not alone. Finally, we made several critical connections with other social service agencies in Douglas County, and look forward to ongoing partnership in terms of mutual referrals to better serve kinship families in the future.

Describe how the organization measured the success of the program/project. Provide qualitative and quantitative measures.

Foster Kinship measures outcomes through our family resource scale pre and post test as well as if families achieve their case plan goals in four area: legal, financial, community connection, and caregiver support.

**LEGAL CAPACITY (LC) GOALS AND OUTCOMES:** Appropriate legal capacity allows caregivers to make decisions such as medical care, education, and safety of the child and provides more access to services. The goal is for kinship families will establish appropriate legal relationships with the children in their homes to increase family stability. To assess the progress towards legal capacity, participants will be evaluated based on changes in the custody status of at least one of their kinship children since initial intake. Family Advocates will complete an intake form and will determine if a change in legal status is desired by the kinship family. For kinship families desiring a change in legal status, the model goal is for at least 80% of kinship caregivers to gain/increase legal capacity for at least one of their kinship children upon program completion. We anticipate that for the remaining 20%, some children will be reunified with their parents or placed with other relatives, or discontinue in the program.

**FINANCIAL STABILITY (FS) GOALS AND OUTCOMES:** Kinship families need additional financial support to help provide for the needs of the kinship children in the home. Families will experience an increase in knowledge and access to available financial resources to help meet their family's needs. To assess this, participants will be evaluated on the change in a number of financial and community resources utilized since initial intake. Family Advocates will determine if the kinship family is eligible for any financial assistance programs not previously utilized. Upon exiting the Kinship Navigator Program, it is expected that at least 80% of kinship caregivers who qualify for



additional financial support will have received additional financial benefits for their kinship children. We anticipate that for the remaining 20%, some caregivers will refuse financial assistance for which they are eligible, and some children will be reunified with their parents, placed with other relatives, or discontinue in the program.

**PARENTING AND CHILD COMMUNITY CONNECTION (CC) GOALS AND OUTCOMES:** Family Advocates will complete an intake form to determine the number of internal resources and external community resources utilized at the time of intake. Family Advocates also assess information about the child's physical, medical, and mental health needs. Upon exiting the Kinship Navigator Program, 100% of kinship caregivers will have received a personalized list of community resources to match their identified needs. By case end, it is expected that at least 90% of caregivers will have increased their utilization of supportive services. We anticipate that for the remaining 10%, some children will be reunified with their parents, placed with other relatives, or discontinue with the program.

**CAREGIVER EMOTIONAL SUPPORT (ES) GOALS AND OUTCOMES:** Kinship families will experience an increase in the number of formal and informal supports to increase the caregivers' capacity to meet the well-being needs of the children. To assess this, participants are evaluated on the expansion of their network of support through participation in family events, support groups, or educational classes since initial intake. Upon exiting the Kinship Navigator Program, it is expected that at least 90% of kinship caregivers will have connected to someone who understands their unique experiences through participation in at least one of the program activities. We anticipate that for the remaining 10%, some caregivers will refuse to participate in supportive events, and some children will be reunified with their parents, placed with other relatives, or discontinue with the program.

**Pre/Post Assessment:**

Foster Kinship utilizes the Family Resource Scale [FRS], which measures the adequacy of different resources in households with children (Dunst & Leet, 1987). The FRS assesses whether or not the kinship family has adequate resources (time, money, energy, and so on) to meet the needs of the family as a whole as well as the needs of the individual family members. The conceptual framework predicts that inadequacy of resources will negatively affect personal well-being and parental commitment (Dunst & Leet, 1987). The Family Resource Scale is completed at intake and upon case closure to measure the change upon receiving Kinship Navigator Program services.

Foster Kinship served 28 individuals during the grant period. 100% of caregivers served met their community connection and caregiver support goals. 87% met their legal goal and 83% met their financial goal. All families had improved scores on their family resource scale posttest. Families who did not achieve their financial goal were concerned about the child support enforcement

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requirement of some public benefits. We are using this information to advocate for policy changes at DWSS.

**Feedback from caregivers:**

Communicate and explain everything to me. Put me in touch with the social worker to apply for my granddaughters Medicaid, and my grandchildren cash aid which helps considerably. Rose listened to me and the situation I'm in, and was very respectful, caring, and considerate. She printed out the forms I needed for court and was overall very very nice.

Everything was amazing and everyone was so helpful.

From the first steps to the last, you were there to help in every way and knowledgeable in what I needed to do.

**Provide any changes or challenges to the original project plan and how it affected the project.**

We just wish we had more time! Near the end of the grant we made some really wonderful partnerships in the community and some of the partners said they have so many kinship families they would refer, especially once school starts. We wish we had more time to have really developed the program in Douglas County and more formally establish these referral processes! It takes time to build trust and we understand that families need time to feel comfortable sharing such private and confidential information with a "new" agency. We hope to continue our partnership in the future! Thank you!