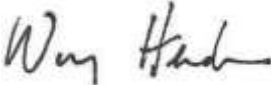


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator  
DCF Area Administrators  
Child Placing Agency Directors  
Child Welfare Agency Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Group Home Providers  
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors  
Private Child Placing Agencies  
Residential Care Center Providers  
Shelter Care Providers  
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson   
Administrator

Re: Kinship Navigator Resources

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memo is to provide updates on newly available resources in the Wisconsin Kinship Navigator Program.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Bi-Partisan Budget Act of 2018, which included the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018, allocated \$20 million for FFY2018 and FFY2019 for states to develop, enhance, and/or evaluate Kinship Navigator Programming. Wisconsin applied for this funding and received \$351,436 in FFY2018 and \$326,546 in FFY2019. The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) began development of the Wisconsin Kinship Navigator Program in October 2018, with assistance from a Relative Caregiver Stakeholder Group and various public and private agency partners. As part of the Kinship Navigator Program, DCF has developed resources specifically tailored to relative caregivers, and their unique caregiving situations, in Wisconsin.

## **INFORMATION SUMMARY**

### **Kinship Navigator Portal:**

The Kinship Navigator Portal (<http://dcf.wi.gov/kinship/navigator>) can be used by *any* relative caregiver throughout the state to identify services and resources available to them based on their specific caregiving situation. Caregivers are asked to answer a series of questions specific to their situation, and based on the responses, they are provided with information about their eligibility for various programs.

### *Wisconsin KinFACTS Guides*

To provide additional information on topic areas that have been identified by relative stakeholders, DCF has created KinFACTS Guides that provide answers to frequently asked questions. The KinFACTS Guides can be found on the Kinship Navigator Portal in topics areas such as:

- Child Support
- Child Care Options
- Education

- Health Care Coverage
- Legal Resources
- Permanency Options

This portal is available and accessible to relative caregivers, regardless of their involvement in the child welfare system. Local agencies are encouraged to share this resource broadly with relative caregivers and with agencies that serve relative caregivers in some capacity.

DCF plans to continue to enhance this portal to ensure that relative caregivers have access to information to assist them in meeting both the needs of children in their home and their own needs as relative caregivers.

### **Kinship Navigator Web-Based Trainings:**

Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System (WCWPDS) and DCF partnered to create web-based trainings for both relative caregivers and caseworkers that serve them. The relative caregiver training focuses on the message that many families are in similar circumstances and introduces available services and supports. The caseworker training provides a framework for and exposure to the complex and unique circumstances of relative caregivers, including perspectives directly from caregivers, and approaches to supporting relative caregivers. Both trainings guide the participant to the new [DCF Kinship Navigator Portal](#).

Kinship Navigator Training for Relatives can be found under web-based courses, topics for relative caregivers:

<https://wcpds.wisc.edu/web-based-courses/kinship-navigator-training-for-relative-caregivers/>

Kinship Navigator Training for Caseworkers can be found under web-based courses, topics for caseworkers:

<https://wcpds.wisc.edu/web-based-courses/kinship-navigator-training-for-caseworkers/>

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT:                      Program & Policy Analyst – Adv.  
Bureau of Permanence and Out-of-Home Care  
Out-of-Home Care Section  
(608) 422-6751

MEMO WEB SITE:                      <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachment Links:

**Kinship Navigator Portal**  
<http://dcf.wi.gov/kinship/navigator>

**Relative Caregiver Web-Based Training**  
<https://wcpds.wisc.edu/web-based-courses/kinship-navigator-training-for-relative-caregivers/>

**Caseworker Web-Based Training**  
<https://wcpds.wisc.edu/web-based-courses/kinship-navigator-training-for-caseworkers/>

Attachment:

**Kinship Navigator Portal Flyer**