

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: **2021 FFY Relative Caregiver Support Groups Funding Opportunity**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to inform county agencies, private child placing agencies, tribal agencies and community non-profit agencies of a grant opportunity to support relative caregivers through developing new Relative Caregiver Support Groups or for financial assistance in maintaining already established Relative Caregiver Support Groups.

BACKGROUND

The federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was passed and signed into law (P.L. 115-123) as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018. Among other provisions, the FFPSA amended title IV-E of the Social Security Act to allow title IV-E agencies the option to receive title IV-E funding for kinship navigator programs that meet certain criteria, including operating in accordance with promising, supported or well-supported practices. Congress set aside \$20 million in funding appropriated under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act and made portions of those monies available to states through a new grant opportunity. These funds are to be used to develop, enhance, or evaluate Kinship Navigator programs. A full summary of the Act published by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is available at the following link: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/im1802>.

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) submitted an application to ACF in April 2020 and was awarded \$322,408 to develop and enhance current Kinship Navigator programming. DCF will use the funding in collaboration with a Relative Caregiver Group and other state agencies to further develop resources available to relative caregivers. Resources will include information and referral guides regarding frequently asked questions and initial steps to access services; caregiver education through a web-based training curriculum and development of a Wisconsin Relative Caregiver Summit; development of a web-based caseworker training curriculum; community outreach and communication; and creation and/or maintenance of caregiver support groups.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

The federal ACF awarded DCF \$322,408 under the FFPSA to be used between October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 (FFY 2021). Part of this funding will be allocated to support county agencies, private child placing agencies, tribal agencies, and community non-profit agencies in the development of new Relative Caregiver Support Groups and the financial maintenance of already established groups to support relative caregivers.

Qualifying expenses under this grant to support development of new Relative Caregiver Support Groups may include:

- Staff costs associated with preparation for new groups;
- Costs associated with outreach activities for new groups; and
- Costs associated with print materials and mailings for new groups.

Qualifying expenses under this grant to support maintenance of already established Relative Caregiver Support Groups may include:

- Staff costs associated with preparation for groups, and presentation at groups;
- Staff costs associated with childcare needs for relative caregivers attending each group;
- Costs associated with venue rental fees for each group meeting;
- Costs associated with food and beverage for each group meeting; not to exceed allowable costs for state rate meals per individual attending group;
 - Breakfast: \$8.00/individual
 - Lunch: \$10.00/individual
 - Dinner: \$20.00/individual
- Costs associated with print materials for groups; and
- Costs associated with outreach activities and mailings for each group meeting.

The grant program allows county agencies, private child placing agencies, tribal agencies, and community nonprofit agencies to apply for a grant with the Department of Children and Families to reimburse for qualifying expenses. Agencies shall apply for the grant on form DCF-F-5314-E, Application for Start-up and/or Maintenance Funding for Relative Caregiver Support Groups and shall submit this application electronically to the Department. Completed applications are to be submitted to Out-of-Home Care at DCFDSPKinshipNavigator@wisconsin.gov. The deadline for submission of the application is September 25, 2020.

The grant application shall include an agency plan that addresses all of the following:

1. How the agency will use the grant funding to support relative caregivers. This summary shall include specific information regarding what the agency will implement, as allowed under each qualifying category.
2. The associated cost for activities related to development or maintenance of Relative Caregiver Support Groups. The associated costs shall be specific to the activity the agency is engaging in.
3. Measures for how the agency will track and assess the effectiveness of the groups and how the agency will maintain relative caregiver support following the completion of the funding availability on September 30, 2021.

Within 90 days of the conclusion of the grant program, the agency shall submit an exit summary to the Department that includes all the following:

1. How the agency used the grant funding to improve support for relative caregivers;
2. The total associated cost to the agency for activities to improve support for relative caregivers; and
3. The effectiveness of the activities as measured by the agency.

Agencies that are awarded this grant must agree to document expenses in SPARC within 3 months of each expenditure, or on a quarterly basis.

Reimbursement provided to agencies through the grant program shall be reimbursed as funds allow for Federal fiscal year 2021. Agencies that receive the grant shall allocate the funding they receive within Federal fiscal year 2021.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Kinship Care Specialist
Bureau of Permanence and Out-of-Home Care
608-422-6921

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

ATTACHMENT LINK: [DCF-F-5314-E: Application for Start-up and/or Maintenance Funding for Relative Caregiver Support Groups](#)