



May 2020

Dear {!Contact.FirstName},

The month of May started off with an exciting virtual gathering of nearly 40 people representing kinship families and service providers for the second meeting of the Michigan Kinship Care Coalition (MKCC). The Coalition discussed how to best support families in the current environment and adopted the following values' statement:

The Coalition's work is driven by:

- Inclusion of the voices and leadership of kinship families;
- Collaboration with a diverse group of stakeholders from across the state;
- Maximizing partnerships to achieve high-quality, coordinated systems of support; and,
- Commitment to advocating for improved outcomes.

The next Michigan Kinship Care Coalition quarterly meeting is Monday, August 10th from 1-3pm. There are currently five committees within the Coalition: Policy and Advocacy, Public Awareness and Education, Information Sharing, Caregiver and Service Provider Trainings and Mobilizing the Field. These committees will meet in the coming weeks. If you're interested in joining the Coalition or a committee, please email Alicia Guevara Warren at [guevara3@msu.edu](mailto:guevara3@msu.edu).

Please note: The Kinship Care Resource Center remains open and available to assist caregivers and service providers by phone and email. Please do not hesitate to reach out at 800-535-1218 or or [kinship@msu.edu](mailto:kinship@msu.edu).

### **New in Washtenaw County: Educational Technology Support**

The Kinship Care Resource Center is pleased to announce that with the support and partnership of the Area Agency on Aging Region 1-B, funds are available to provide the following educational supports for eligible kinship families, where caregivers are 55 or older and residents of Washtenaw County:

### **Essential Workers: Child Care Resources**

Are you an essential worker in need of childcare? You can sign-up to find available childcare on this [website](#) by completing the Essential Worker Child Care Intake.

Also, the Respite Care program through the Kinship Care Resource Center might

- Online educational programming fees;
- Workbooks or other supplies for schooling at home; and,
- Chromebooks, tablets, or laptops.

If you believe that you, or a family you know, might be eligible contact us at 1-800-535-1218.

Please share this information with kinship families in Washtenaw County.

be able to help cover some of the cost of childcare for eligible essential workers. The Respite Care program is a resource for full-time, kinship caregivers age 55 and older who reside in Clinton, Eaton, Ingham and Washtenaw counties.

Please contact the Kinship Care Resource Center at 1-800-535-1218 or [kinship@msu.edu](mailto:kinship@msu.edu) to see if you are eligible.

In Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties, the program is funded by the Federal Older Americans Act grant provided to the Tri-County Office on Aging. The Area Agency on Aging Region 1-B provides funding support for Washtenaw County.

### Caregiver Parenting Resource: Stay-at-Home Activities

[Kids for Peace](#) has developed a list of activities to support parents, caregivers and children while schools are closed and stay-at-home orders are in place. The activities are meant to inspire fun with our families. [Check it out!](#)

### Federal Policy Update

*CARES Act: Grandfamilies summary*  
Generations United has developed a summary of the CARES Act as it relates to grandfamilies, state and local government agencies that may serve grandfamilies, and nonprofits that are working to support grandfamilies. [Read the summary.](#)

*Older American Act Reauthorized*  
The Older Americans Act was originally passed by Congress in 1965 to address the lack of services for older and aging adults. The most recent version of the law was passed in March as the Support Older Americans Act of 2020. The act reauthorizes activities and programs under the Older Americans Act through 2024. It also removes the cap on using National Family Caregiver Support Program by expanding the amount of funds available to serve grandfamilies. It also includes language to make improvements to a

### Survey: How is your family doing with online learning?

The [Education Trust-Midwest](#) is [surveying](#) Michigan parents to better understand what is working, what is not working, and what parents and students need when it comes to distance and online learning.

The information shared by parents will help inform Michigan educators and policymakers, and is critical to understanding how school closures are impacting student learning at home.

To ensure that the needs of kinship families are considered, please take a few minutes to [complete the survey](#) and share the link with your network.

### Kinship Care in the News

George Mason University released a new study on kinship care, "[Compounding Complexity: Examining Multiple Factors Leading to Challenges Within Grandfamilies.](#)" The goal of the research project was to help service providers understand the experiences of kinship families and better address their challenges, particularly as the number of children living with grandparents continues to increase. [Read the press release](#) for more information.

multigenerational grants program. [Read the statement from Generations United.](#)

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