

---

# Promising Practice Fact Sheet – Child-Only TANF/Kinship Care Kinship Care Navigator Program – Georgia

---

## Program

**Description:** The Kinship Care Navigator Program was initiated on July 1, 2005 to increase the pool of kinship “navigators” trained to help caregiver “navigate” the social services system. Modeled after the federally-funded Senior Community Services Employment Program, It was piloted originally in Atlanta and then extended to rural areas. However, it proved unsustainable in rural sites. Working in partnership with the state’s Department of Family and Children Services, the Division of Aging Services within the state’s Department of Human Resources contracted with Jewish Family Career Services to implement the program. The program lost its funding July 1, 2009.

**Target Population:** Relative caregivers aged 55 and older.

**Goals:** To increase the pool of individuals trained to help other caregivers navigate the social services system and provide employment opportunities for older caregivers.

**Caseload Data:** 25 grandparents participated in the Kinship Care Navigator Program, of whom 7 were permanently hired.

**Cost:** Annually funded at \$70,000 with Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds. This budget included wages for 10 navigator trainees, marketing, computer training classes, employment workshops, and travel. The contractor was able to implement the program with existing staff.

**Evidence:** None

**Eligibility:** Relative caregivers aged 55 and older.

## Services Overview:

- Grandparents were placed into subsidized public sector employment sites, such as the Public Health Department, Division of Family and Children’s Services, and Child Support offices to gain work experience.
- The expectation was that they would become fully trained in computer functions and public resources and after 6 months be fully trained advocates known as “Kinship Navigators”, ready to be hired by the sites where they were placed.

**Findings:** None

## Implications for Policymakers and Program Developers to Consider:

- This underfunded program was a creative way to achieve both its goals – increasing the pool of trained kinship navigators and expanding employment opportunities for older caregivers.
- In Georgia, the state agencies for aging, TANF, and child welfare coordinate in serving kinship families.
- Also funded during the same time period as this Kinship Care Navigator Program (but no longer funded) was a Kinship Care Legal Services Program which provided pro-bono legal assistance in 42 out Georgia’s 159 counties. The program included the training of volunteer attorneys on issues of interest to kinship caregivers.

**Contact:**

Leslie Sessley, Kinship Care Coordinator, Georgia Department of Aging Services, 404-354-3667.