

# KINSHIP CARE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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**The Annie E. Casey Foundation**  
*Helping vulnerable kids & families succeed*



# Stepping Up for Kids: what government and communities should do to support kinship families



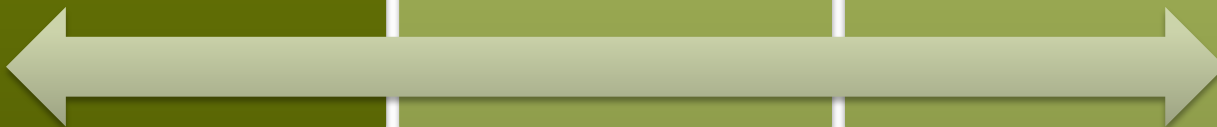
Increase Financial  
Stability for Kinship  
Communities



Strengthen Kinship  
Families Involved in the  
Child Welfare System



Enhance Other  
Community-based and  
Government  
Responses for Kinship  
Families



# 1. INCREASE FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR KINSHIP FAMILIES

- Ensure kinship families have access to benefits for which they are eligible
  - Access to TANF, SNAP, Social Security, Medicaid, EITC, etc.
  - Importance of Kinship Navigator Programs
- Design TANF-funded programs that meet the unique needs of kinship care families
  - TANF grant levels that better reflect cost of raising children
  - Increase asset limits, remove work requirements, waive time limits
  - Better coordinate TANF and child welfare programs

## 2. STRENGTHEN KINSHIP FAMILIES INVOLVED IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

- Align public child welfare agency and court practices with philosophy of placing children with kin
- Ensure any decision to divert children to live with kin as alternative to state custody is guided by sound policy and practice
- Reform foster home licensing requirements
- Add subsidized guardianship as permanency option for all children in foster care

### 3. ENHANCE OTHER COMMUNITY-BASED AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSES FOR KINSHIP FAMILIES

- Community and government systems must come together to develop coordinated network of services for kinship families:
  - Stable housing
  - Affordable legal representation
  - Access to health care
  - School enrollment
  - Community-based support



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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ADDITIONAL COPIES OF **STEPPING UP FOR KIDS** @

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