

Kinship Navigator

Organization: Kinnect

Program: 30 Days to Family® Ohio

Reports to: Program Director

Job Location: one (1) opening in southern Ohio

Salary: \$40,000

Benefits: Medical, Retirement

Position Summary

Provide support to the 30 Days to Family® Specialists and Kinship/Foster families in an area of four (4) to six (6) Ohio counties. This will be accomplished by partnering with the county agencies to surmount barriers to offer real time kinship support to ensure placements, develop a network of supports for kinship families, and enhance county recruitment efforts. Throughout the process, the Family Support Specialist will be in frequent contact and collaboration with county partners, Family Specialists, Kinship families and potential resource parents. As the need arises, the Support Specialist will assist in guiding families through licensure and providing them with additional information that will help them provide the best care children in county custody.

Essential Functions

- Provide support to the Family Specialist and family in these five areas of concentration
- Material and financial support
- Mental health and crisis support
- Resource/support groups
- Navigation of systems (TANF, KPI, Food Assistance, Child Care and Housing)
- Support, follow up and training * Develop a network of sustainable Kinship supports in the same five concentration areas listed above.
- Has knowledge of and ability to educate families about the unique issues surrounding foster care, adoption and guardianship, child development, loss, grief, attachment, and trauma.
- Has proven ability to partner with the family in their home environment.
- Collaborates with partner counties to enhance existing recruitment, licensure and retention processes.
- Follows up with families via phone and/or email to find out if they have additional questions or if they are in need of any additional support through the licensing process.
- Evaluates assimilation of program philosophy and practice within the county agency

Department Specific / Non-essential Functions:

- Answer and respond to phone calls and emails from county partners, 30 Days to Family® Specialists and families.
- Keep work calendar current and maintain records.
- Participate in agency meetings, functions, and activities as required.
- Complete assigned office tasks.
- Complete ongoing education as approved by or assigned by supervisor.
- Other duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

- At least a bachelor's degree in social work, drug and alcohol education, counseling, psychology, or criminal justice.
- 5+ years child welfare experience, including licensing resource families.

Skills/Competencies:

- Ability to work outside of a "business as usual" model, including:
 - A "relentless" attitude for supporting and barrier busting
 - A solution-focused approach * Sound knowledge base of the public child welfare system and the resource home licensing systems in Ohio
 - Ability to navigate the state's' child welfare systems
 - Excellent verbal skills in order to communicate in a clear, concise and respectful manner to resource families and county partners
 - Computer skills to enter and retrieve information
 - Excellent written skills
 - Ability to complete monthly and quarterly reports, and meeting minutes
 - Sound organizational skills in order to maintain up-to-date information about projects and families
 - Ability to be a team player
 - Ability to self-initiate and work independently
- Additional skills/competencies necessary to carry out services to the service population's culture and socioeconomic characteristics:
- Obtain a cultural awareness that results in a clear understanding of the worldview that directs individual interactions with people of other backgrounds.
 - Ability to identify needs unique to various diverse populations including those of different gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic group, race, and physical or mental capacity and address those needs with community resource referrals.
 - Locate appropriate resources to communicate with limited-English-proficient individuals or those with hearing impairment.
 - Assist other professionals and team members in understanding the unique needs/characteristics of diverse populations.

Position Scope:

Develop a support network for kinship families.

Increase newly licensed families.

Working Conditions

In office and remote work to meet families when and where it is convenient for them, including nights and weekends.

Job Type: Full-time

Salary: \$40,000.00 /year