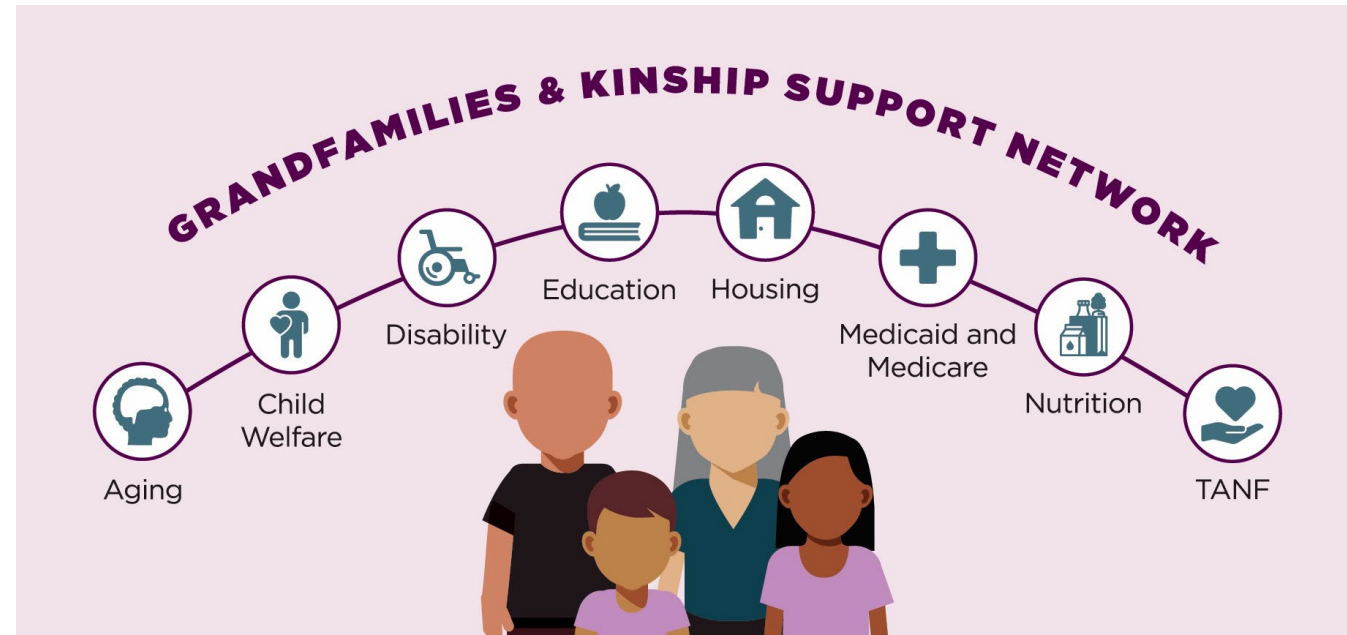


Assessing Kin Caregiver Needs to Provide Responsive Services and Support

October 30, 2024

- We will begin at the top of the hour
- Please type in the **chat** box - your name, state, tribe (if applicable), and role
- Type questions in the **chat** box at any point during our time together
- We will provide a separate meeting link for a 30-minute Q and A with panelists starting in one hour, at 3 ET
- All participants will receive a link to the slides and recording by the end of the week

- 5-year (2021-2026) cooperative agreement with Administration for Community Living
- Purpose is to provide technical assistance to the array of tribal, state, and territorial government agencies, as well as non-profit organizations that serve kinship families
- Not designed to serve the families directly – working to improve systems for families



How We Help



Learning Collaboratives and Information Dissemination

The Network hosts [webinars](#) and facilitates learning collaboratives.



Individual Assistance

We respond to [individual requests for help](#) from government agencies, kinship navigators, and community-based nonprofits.



A Centralized Hub

The Network is elevating exemplary kinship/grandfamily practices and programs from around the country on its accessible website, www.GKSNetwork.org.



The First-Ever National Technical Assistance Center for those who Serve Kinship/Grandfamilies

Stay Connected & Access Support

Sign up for our monthly newsletter with kinship resources, funding opportunities, and other news:



For the latest updates, follow the Network on LinkedIn!





The Network is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$9,950,000 with 95 percentage funded by ACL/HHS and \$523,684 and 5 percentage funded by non-government sources. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.



Washington State Kinship Caregiver Assessment Tool

[Washington State Kinship Website](#)

Washington State Kinship Navigator Training Manual

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/AL TSA/hcs/documents/kinship/Washington%20State%20Kinship%20Training0Manual.pdf>

History of Assessment Development

KCOC subcommittee

- Caregivers
- Navigators
- Tribal Navigators
- Research Evaluation Team
- State Agency Partners

Needs Assessment: Demographic

- **Caregiver name**, birthdate, gender, race, ethnicity, address, phone, employment status, household income
- **Child name**, birthdate, gender, race, ethnicity, relationship to caregiver, and defining whether formal or informal arrangement. (formal child welfare system or outside of formal child welfare system), reason child came into your care
- Several questions about child physical and behavioral health
- Several questions about how the child is doing in school



Needs Assessment: Topic Content

- Financial support for necessities (rent, utilities, care repairs, etc.)
- Financial education support (taxes, retirement, budgeting, etc.)
- Help finding/maintaining housing (section 8, tribal housing, shelter & transitional housing, eviction process, housing repairs, etc.)
- Support obtaining durable goods (bedding, furniture, clothing, etc.)
- Help getting enough food daily for your family (food bank, WIC, school lunch program, food stamps, EBT, SNAP, etc.)
- Getting & keeping public assistance (Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, TANF, etc.)
- Help with transportation (bus pass, gas card, rides to/from appointments, etc.)
- School related supports (school enrollment, special education services, IEP/504 plan, tutoring, etc.)
- Help assessing primary care, other medical care or resources (for self, for child, for others in the home)
- Help accessing dental care services (for self, for children, for others in the home)
- Childcare support
- Respite
- Referral to aging & disability resource center

Needs Assessment: Topic Content Cont.

- Personal & emotional support about your circumstances, someone to talk to.
- Someone to talk to regarding your kinship child.
- Behavioral health/counseling for self
- Behavioral health/counseling for child
- Kinship care support groups/networking
- Training for kinship caregivers (parenting classes, etc.)
- Language services (ESL, Interpreter, translations services, etc.)
- Access to legal services and advice
- In-home family services (home visiting programs, Family Preservation, etc.)
- Other

Needs Assessment: Goal Section

GOAL SETTING

Please enter the date goal set for each goal. Identify the category of each goal using the table above. The Essential Tasks section is available to give more detailed description of the goal. When a goal is completed, be sure to check the box in the goal status field and enter the date completed.										
For three-month follow-up: Review goals set at baseline. If goals have been completed indicate this in goal status. If goals are still in progress, provide notes on next steps. If new goals are created, enter new goals.										
Date Goal 1 Set: ____/____/____				Category:						
Task 1:										
Describe Essential Tasks:										
What you'll do:										
What others will do:										
How important is it for you to work on the goal you identified above?										
Not Important	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Very Important
How confident are you that you will be successful in reaching the goal you identified above?										
Not Important	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Very Important
Next Steps/Follow up										
Date Goal Completed				____/____/____						
Goal Status:				<input type="checkbox"/> Goal completed <input type="checkbox"/> Goal no longer relevant <input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker no longer has children				<input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker no longer wants services <input type="checkbox"/> Lost contact with caregiver <input type="checkbox"/> End of service period		
Client Signature				Options Counselor Signature						

Case Management

- Supporting goals with linking to resources
- Follow ups at 3 & 6 months (reviewing progress with goals)

Fidelity Tool

Appendix A. Fidelity Tool

For this form the “Full Needs Assessment” includes the following sections: demographics, child/youth section, caregiver health, needs assessment, and goal setting. Please note, I&A / I&R services include support groups.					
GetCare number:			County identity:		
<input type="checkbox"/> New case management caregiver			<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver received case management previously		
Date baseline assessment was completed: _____					
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Provided overview of kinship navigator program			Offered an intake appointment		
Baseline assessment					
a. Full ‘Needs Assessment’ completed			Date it was completed:		
b. Enter baseline assessment into GetCare			Date it was completed:		
c. Kin Family received KCSP services			Date it was completed:		
d. Kin Family received other tangible services with non-federal funds			Date it was completed:		
Three-month					
a. Three-month Follow-up form			Follow-up attempted 3 times <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
b. *Kin Child Left Caregiver’s Home form			Date 3 month was completed/attempted:		
c. Emailed Fidelity form and/or Kin Child Left Caregiver’s Home form to ALISA			Date 3 month was completed:		
If client reached or continues with goals by the three-month appointment, client chose:					
<input type="checkbox"/> I & A/I &R services (service as usual and case management closed)		<input type="checkbox"/> Set new goals OR continue with previous goals (case management cont.)		<input type="checkbox"/> Terminate all navigator services	
If Case Management Closed at 3 Months: Satisfaction survey sent once a year					
Six-month					
a. Full ‘Needs Assessment’ completed			Follow-up attempted 3 times <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
b. *Kin Child Left Caregiver’s Home form			Date 6 month was completed/attempted:		
c. Satisfaction survey sent to caregiver (only required once a year)			Date it was sent/arranged:		
d. Emailed Fidelity form and/or Kin Child Left Caregiver’s Home form to ALISA					
At six-month appointment client chose:					
<input type="checkbox"/> I & A/I &R services (service as usual and case management closed)		<input type="checkbox"/> New case management services		<input type="checkbox"/> Terminate all navigator services	
Additional notes: (add anything that is not captured in the full assessment or notes on the case, including any attempt dates or how attempts to contact were made by e-mail, letter, phone call, or the status of the case)					

Contact:

Rosalyn Alber, Kinship
& Lifespan Respite
Program Manager



Rosalyn.alber@dshs.wa.gov



PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE
NƏX^wSŁÁY'ƏM' MEANING "STRONG PEOPLE"



PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE KINSHIP NAVIGATOR

PGST KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM WAS
ESTABLISHED IN 2016

Our Kinship Navigator helps determine the immediate needs of families. We have found that our tribal kin families are often unfamiliar and overwhelmed by the public and private resource system.

PGST works with kinship placements to establish self-sufficiency and the long-term stability necessary to keep children out of foster care.

In cases where the children are placed through the child welfare system, we work with the kinship placements to provide support, resources and stability.

INCORPORATING CULTURAL WITH KINSHIP SUPPORT

- PGST offers a number of cultural activities, during which we have a speaker to talk with the kinship providers about challenges they face and finding solutions.
- This creates a support system with our service providers, the kinship placements and address's the needs of the families to promote stability and success with the families.
- We have done cedar weaving, wool weaving, drum and rattle making as some of the activities. The children in kinship placement also participate solutions. This creates a support system with our service providers, the kinship placements and address's the needs of the families to promote stability and success with the families.
- We have done cedar weaving, wool weaving, drum and rattle making as some of the activities. The children in kinship placement also participate.



KINSHIP AT PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM

- Our first Kinship Navigator was an enrolled tribal elder, Donna Jones. She helped develop the program and provided services to the community until she retired in 2022.
- Star Hagen, is our new Kinship Navigator and is a Port Gamble S'Klallam tribal member. She has worked for the tribe for over 20 years and within her position as Navigator for two years.





CAMPUS SETTING

- Through our kinship navigator program, we have been able to help families that we would not have been able to help using other resources, the flexibility of the program is a benefit to the tribal community and the families we serve.
- Our office is located in the Children & Family Services building, which allows a wrap around service approach with other service providers, such as ICW, TANF, Child Support, Together for Children, (Maternal Home Visiting), SNAP, and other support services.

OUTREACH

- We advertise in the tribal memo/newspaper, email and our tribal website. We provide information about any activities, support services, cultural events and classes.
- Star will personal outreach to family. working with staff on referrals to do any prevention needed to avoid court action and keep the children with family.
- We do this by having staffing's with our ICW staff, the Foster Care Coordinator and our other services providers located at the tribe as well as our outside partners.



A day at the pumpkin patch.

Our Mission...

The mission of the Kinship Navigator Program is to recognize our responsibility to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our Children. Providing necessary services to our Kinship Families.



Family togetherness.

What is Kinship Care

Kinship Care is full time care and protection of a child(ren) by relatives. The Kinship Caregivers can be Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Siblings, Cousins, or any person recognized by the child(ren)'s family to have a significant relationship with the child(ren). Kinship Care can be a formal placement of the child(ren) or an informal placement of the child(ren).

"This program has helped me care for my niece & nephews in so many ways. Through guidance, encouragement, goods & services. Our family was able to flourish. I feel incredibly blessed to have an amazing support system."

Formal Placement

Formal Placement is when the child(ren) is removed from the parents/guardians by a Court Order and is placed out of the home through a State or Tribal Child Welfare Program.

Informal Placement

Informal Placement is a mutual agreement between the parent and an identified relative without court involvement or involvement of a Child Welfare Program.



Culturally healing.

Purpose

The Kinship Navigator Program provides outreach and support services. Some of the services we provide are:

- Assisting with SSI, school, and court paperwork.
- Navigate and refer to services within the Tribe, as well as outside the Tribe.
- Parenting classes for groups or individuals.
- Cultural Classes for Kinship Families
- Review needs request of Kinship Families.



No matter their age, they always know where home is.

Resources and Services

The Kinship Navigator is knowledgeable of Federal, Tribal, State, and local resources and services that serve Kinship Caregivers and their families including the following...

- Alcohol and substance abuse services
- Childcare service
- Indian Child Welfare
- Community/Tribal Health Clinic
- Housing Options
- Mental Health Programs
- Respite Care
- TANF

Who We Are

About Us

Our Program is custom tailored from Our Community for Our Community. We are One People.

Kinship Placement is widely recognized as the preferable placement of a child, and it is favorable over placing a child into the foster care system. Children placed with family members such as grandparents, aunts, and uncles are more likely to carry on family traditions than children placed with foster families. Children in kinship home maintain their cultural traditions and are more likely to build relationships that will continue throughout the child's lifetime.

The program was granted in 2016.

Contact Us

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Email: starla@pgst.nsn.us
Address: 31912 Little Boston Rd NE
Kingston, WA 98346



KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM
31912 Little Boston Rd NE
Kingston, WA 98346



Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Children & Family Services



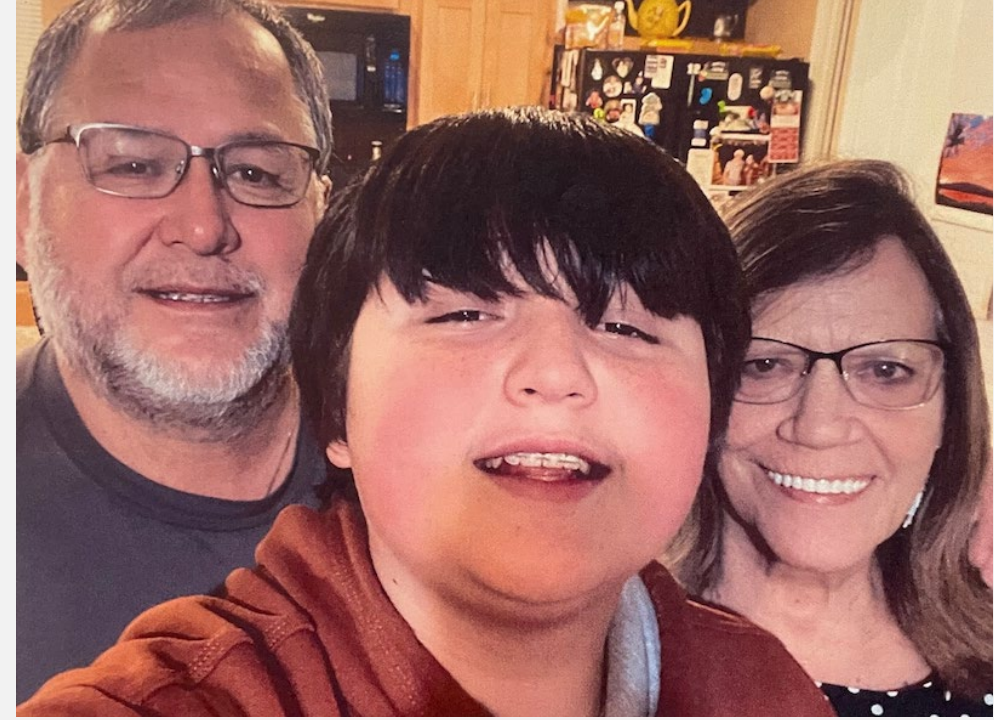
LIFESPAN RESPITE PROGRAM

Specific Objectives of the Program:

- Development of available caregiver services and eligibility criteria, provided through trainings and outreach.
- Participation in trainings about respite services and tribal history.
- Caregiver outreach and education to tribal caregivers and their families.
- Assistance to eligible caregivers to apply for and access lifespan respite voucher services to support caregiver healthy aging.

NEED FOR RESPITE CARE FOR ELDERS AND YOUTH

- PGST strives to support families in caring your children/youth and elders.
- Many families struggle with caring for an elder who may have memory issues or increased care needs.
- This is also true for caring for children placed in a home, or a child with special needs, where the caregiver needs a respite break for self-care.
- This grant gave us the ability to train family members as respite care providers



TRAINING AND REQUIREMENT'S

- Respite Providers were trained using the trainers recommended by the state
- We trained a total of 8 individuals to provide respite care for their families and community members.
- We did experience some problems with the training and worked with our state partners to address this and move forward in a positive way.
- The respite providers were required to complete background checks in addition to the training.



SUPPORT

- The Lifespan Respite Grant allowed family and community members to provide much needed respite care for elders and youth in the tribal community, giving the full-time care providers a much-needed respite and some self care time.



THANK
YOU

Star Hagen – Kinship Navigator Starla@pgst.nsn.us

(360)297-

Cheryl Miller – Director of Children & Family Service

cmiller@pgst.nsn.us

(360)297-9665

Joylina Gonzalez – Program Manager of Child Welfare
Department

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(360)297-9672

Kinship Caregiver Assessment

October 30, 2024

Presented by: Asad Bandeali (he/him)



Agenda

- Who is Bloom?
- What is the Kinship Caregiver Assessment?
- Examples of the work
- Learn more

 BLOOM WORKS

**BETTER SERVICES START WITH
PUTTING ~~TECHNOLOGY~~ FIRST.**

^ PEOPLE

Meet the team



Asad Bandeali

(he/him)

UX Researcher



Anissa Pérez

(she/her)

Senior UX Researcher



Sonya Silva

(she/her)

Senior UX Researcher



Manu Kabahizi

(he/him)

Engagement Manager



Hannah Herrington

(she/her)

Senior Product and
Delivery Manager



Madeleine Choné

(she/her)

Product and Delivery
Manager



Katrina Lanahan

(she/her)

Senior UX Researcher



Holly Harridan

(she/they)

Senior UX Researcher



Angel Zhou

(she/they)

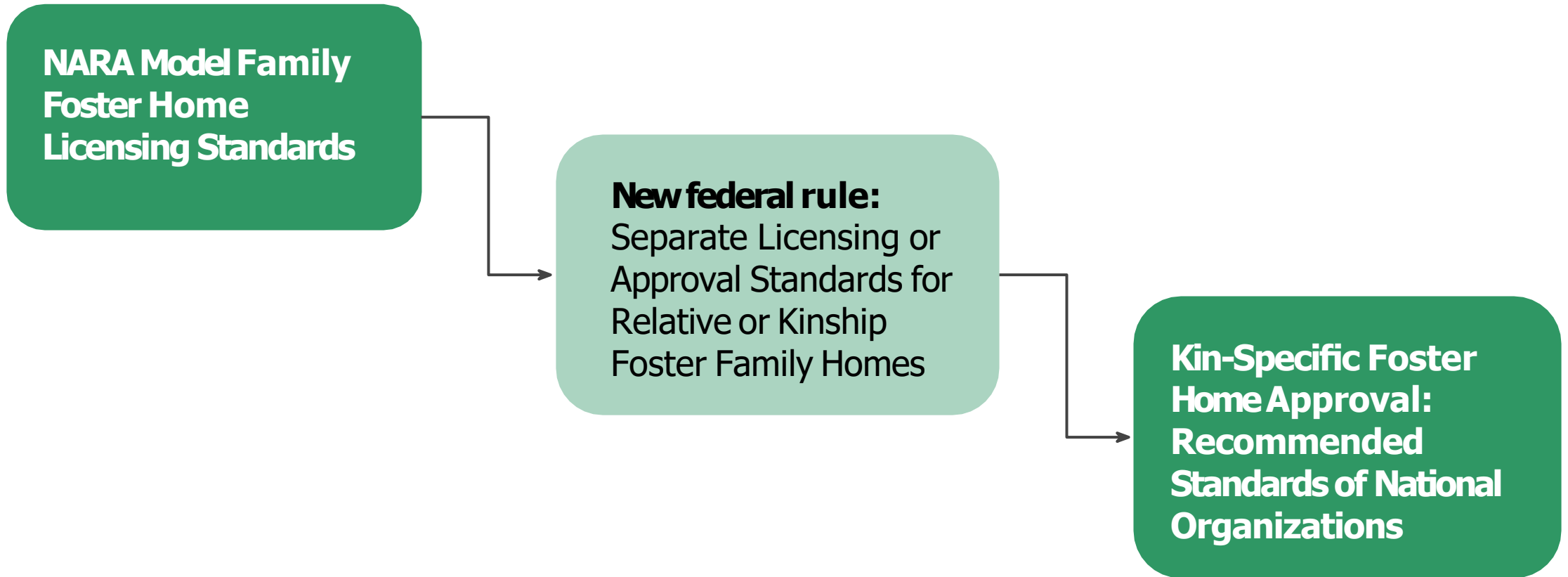
Senior Product and
Delivery Manager

What is the Kinship Caregiver Assessment?

A tool to assess and approve kin caregiver homes for placement. There are 2 parts to the assessment:

- Caregiver discussion questions
- Physical home safety questions

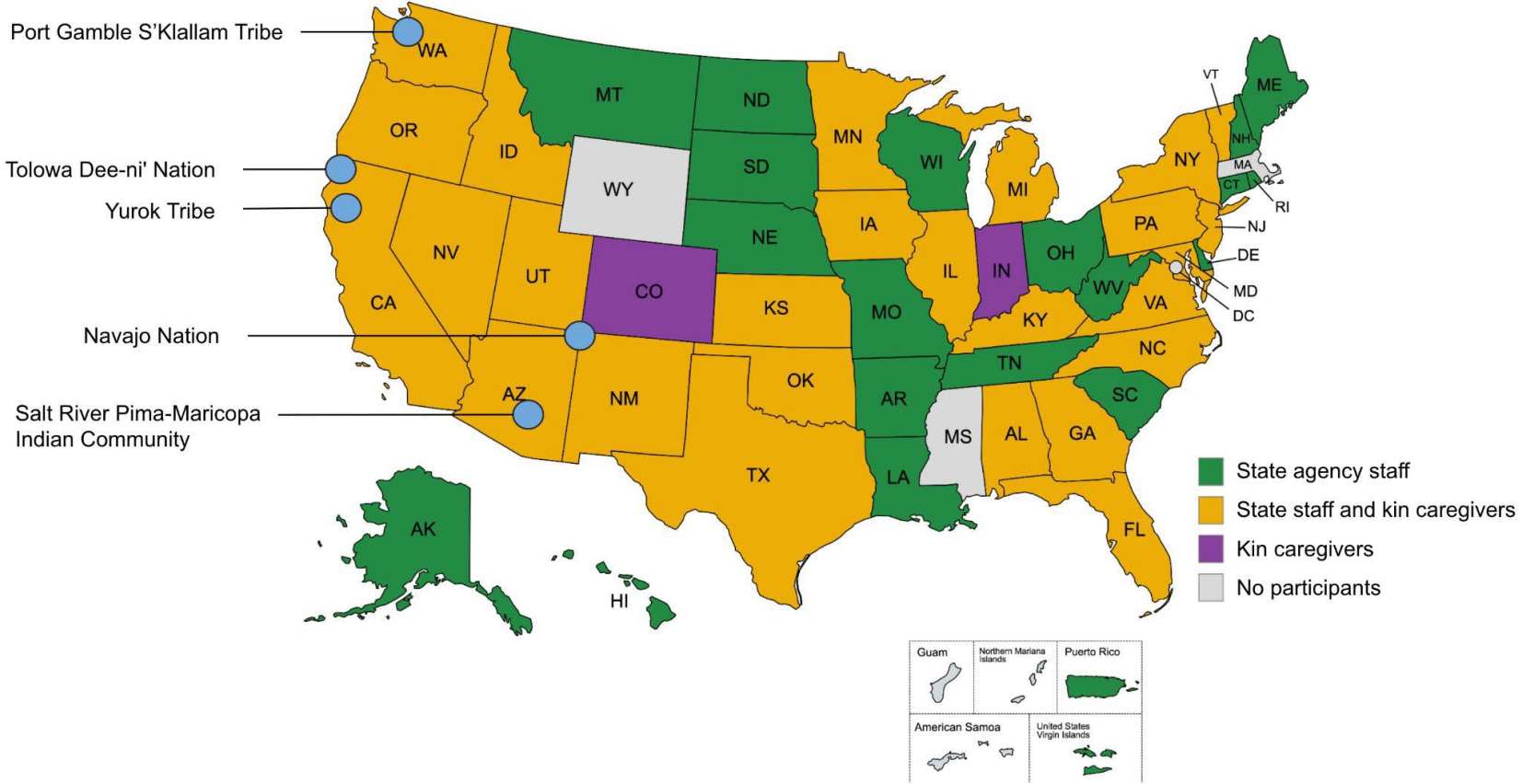
How did this work come about?



Goals

- Support and strengthen families to keep children with their kin
 - Prepare a kin caregiver's home and family for the placement of children
 - Identify help needed to ensure a kin caregiver's ability to care for the children, meet their needs, and keep them safe
-

Who we spoke to



Templates designed for child welfare agencies

- ✓ Kinship Caregiver Assessment form
- ✓ Agency Training Guide
- ✓ Assessment “Question Bank”

Caregiver’s communication needs



Paperwork completion

? Annotation

Explain that asking for help in various formats is normal and expected. If agencies require caregivers to complete paperwork digitally, provide assistance or access to a device for caregivers who may not be able to use or afford a device on their own.

How do you generally prefer to fill out paperwork?

Write down all that apply.

Here are some examples:

- On paper
- Digitally (on a cell phone, tablet, computer, or laptop)
- Have someone help read and write out answers for me
- No preference
- Other (write in the blank space)

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin gray border, intended for users to write their preferred method of completing paperwork.

If you prefer to fill out paperwork digitally, do you have access to a device to fill out the required paperwork?

N/A Yes No, I need a _____

Screenshot from the Agency Training Guide

Guiding principles

- Center equity
 - Trauma informed care practices
 - Promote transparency and problem solving
 - Design for simplicity
 - Not only forms, also a guide
 - Specific, yet flexible
-



What are your preferred methods of communication?

If you prefer phone calls, texts, or email, tell us the best phone numbers and email addresses to reach you.

Here are some examples:

- Phone call
- Text message / SMS
- Email
- Scheduled video calls
- No preference
- Other (write in the blank space)



How do you generally prefer to fill out paperwork?

Write down all that apply.

Here are some examples:

- On paper
- Digitally (on a cell phone, tablet, computer, or laptop)
- Have someone help read and write out answers for me
- No preference
- Other (write in the blank space)

Transportation

Will you be able to transport the children to medical appointments, activities, etc.?

If you use public transportation, can access someone else's car, or have a plan for others to support, say "Yes."


Yes No Unsure N/A Not now, but maybe in the future

As a follow-up to the previous question, what would help you with the children's transportation needs?



Here are some examples:

- Car seat
- Car seat installation
- Bus or train token/card
- Mileage reimbursement
- Medicaid transportation info
- Other (write in the blank space)



Transportation



? Annotation

Explore the caregiver's ability and willingness to transport the children to medical appointments and other activities. Not having a driver's license or car insurance are not reasons to disqualify a potential kin caregiver as long as there is a plan in place to transport the children.

Will you be able to transport the children to medical appointments, activities, etc.?


If you use public transportation, can access someone else's car, or have a plan for others to support, say "Yes."

Yes No Unsure N/A Not now, but maybe in the future

Heating/Cooling

Annotation

This standard covers the spectrum of air temperature needs and may vary based on a particular family's needs, as well as geographic region.



Does the home have heating and/or cooling that is appropriate for the geographic region?

This may include:

- Ceiling and floor fans, portable or window A/C units, swamp coolers
- Using open doors or windows to create cross-ventilation
- Kerosene and propane heaters, space heaters
- Wood-burning stoves

Yes

No

Insects and rodents



? Annotation

This standard is specific to infestation only. Some insects in the home are expected. Kin caregivers in multi-unit buildings noted that they cannot always eliminate insect issues coming through a shared wall, and that they would control insects to the best of their ability.

Option for temporary housing: Kin caregivers appreciated the opportunity to have time to fix the issue and not be automatically disqualified.

Is the home free of insect and rodent infestation?

Yes

No

If no, what's needed to support the family?

Here are some examples:

- Pest traps
- Home repair
- Arrange for pest management
- Temporary housing while getting rid of pests
- Other (write in blank space)

Sleeping Arrangements

“Does the home have a safe sleeping space with bedding for each child? Typically, each child should have the

For children under 12 months: Sleep space must be safe for infants, with appropriately sized bedding, and free of items like pillows and stuffed animals. Bedding options are a bassinet, crib, pack and play, Native American baby b

For children over 12 months (based on age and development): Options are a bed, bunk bed, sleeper sofa, or futon. couch may be used temporarily until children have a permanent bed. Toddlers may continue to sleep in a crib or p

Guiding principles

- Center equity
 - Trauma informed care practices
 - Promote transparency and problem solving
 - Design for simplicity
 - Not only forms, also a guide
 - Specific, yet flexible
-

Want to learn more?

1. [National kin model standards](#)
2. [Child welfare playbook](#)
3. [Kinship Caregiver Assessment Materials](#)
 - a. Kinship caregiver assessment form
 - b. Agency training guide
 - c. Question Bank

Links in chat to the materials discussed and keep an eye out for a follow-up email!

Thanks!

bloom-kinship@bloomworks.digital