

# KINSHIP NAVIGATOR GRANTS: CHILD WELFARE/TANF COLLABORATION

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# Kinship Care

- Kinship Care is the full time care, nurturing and protection of children by relatives, members of their tribes, godparents, step-parents, or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child.
- The Kinship Navigator Program assists relative caregivers in accessing government benefits, mental health, health, and legal services for the caregiver and the children they are raising.

# Kinship Navigator (KN) Grants

- In 2009, the Children's Bureau (CB) awarded 6 KN grants.
- In 2012, CB awarded 7 KN grants aimed to support Child Welfare and TANF Collaboration to assist kinship children who might be at risk of entering the child welfare system.
- Grantees increased awareness of the TANF child only grants as one public benefit available to kinship families. Kinship Navigators assisted kinship caregivers in applying for and receiving TANF.

# Children's Bureau Grantees

2009 KN Grantee	2009 KN Grantee
Aspiranet, Inc., Los Angeles, CA <a href="http://www.aspiranet.org/">http://www.aspiranet.org/</a>	Arizona Children's Association <a href="http://www.arizonaschildren.org/">http://www.arizonaschildren.org/</a>
The Children's Home Society of New Jersey <a href="https://www.chsofnj.org/">https://www.chsofnj.org/</a>	Catholic Charities of Rochester, NY <a href="http://www.nysnavigator.org/">http://www.nysnavigator.org/</a>
Edgewood Center for Children and Families, San Francisco, CA <a href="http://www.edgewood.org/">www.edgewood.org/</a>	The Children's Home Inc, Tampa, FL <a href="https://www.childrenshome.org/">https://www.childrenshome.org/</a>
Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association, St. Paul, MN <a href="http://www.lssmn.org/raising-relative-children/mkca/">http://www.lssmn.org/raising-relative-children/mkca/</a>	Community Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Los Angeles, CA <a href="http://www.cocosouthla.org">www.cocosouthla.org</a>
Public Children Services Association of Ohio, Columbus, OH <a href="http://www.pcsao.org/">http://www.pcsao.org/</a>	Home for Black Children, Detroit, MI <a href="http://www.homes4blackchildren.org">http://www.homes4blackchildren.org</a>
YMCA of San Diego Country, CA <a href="http://ymca.org/">http://ymca.org/</a>	North Oklahoma Country Mental Health Center <a href="http://www.northcare.com">www.northcare.com</a>
Untitled Ways of California- 211-iFoster Collaborative, CA <a href="http://www.ifoster.org">www.ifoster.org</a>	

# Grantee's Examples of TANF Collaboration

## **Children's Home Inc, Tampa, FL**

- Peer to Peer Navigators
- Home Visit with laptops to assist caregiver with the online application for TANF grant
- Interdisciplinary Team Intervention

## **Homes for Black Children , Detroit, MI**

- Collaborated with TANF worker in the Detroit Public Schools to educate kinship caregivers about foster parent licensure and health and wellness activities for families.

# Child Welfare Collaboration

## **New York State Kinship Navigator Program**

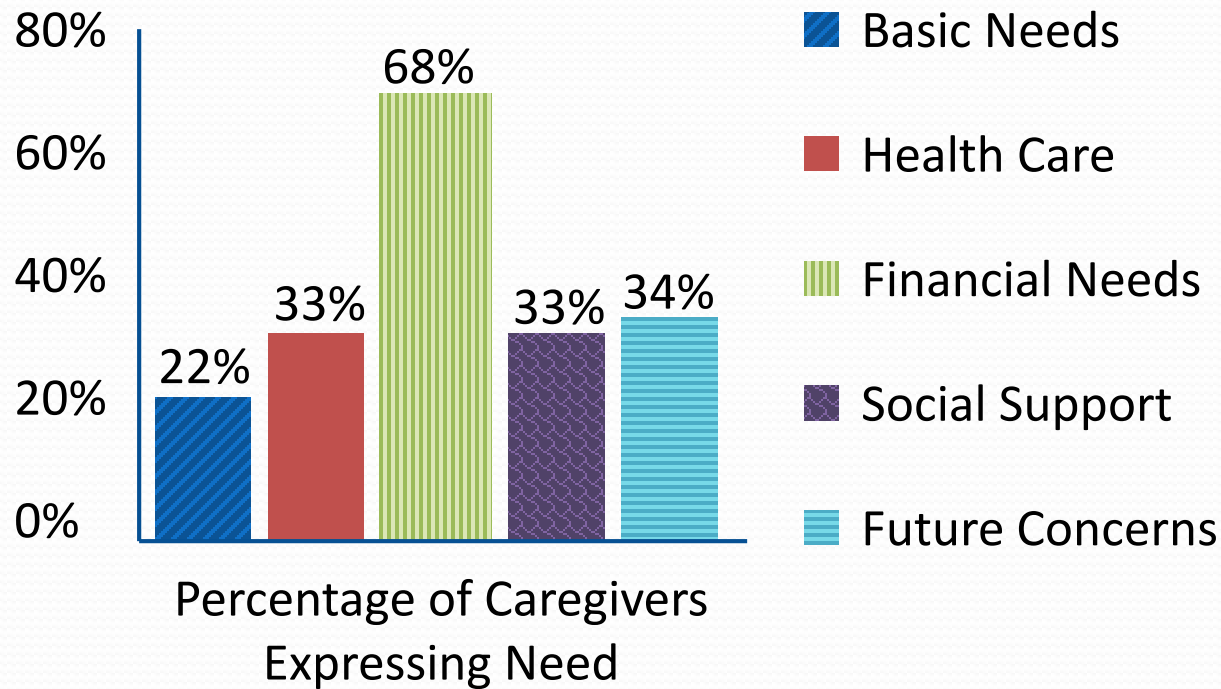
- TANF agencies referred kinship families to the Navigator. KN contacted caregivers within 48 hours. 1,250 caregivers completed intake. 280 kinship families referrals from TANF agencies.
- 1,150 families given educational factsheets. 1,100 families referred to TANF. 75 families referred to legal assistance.
- Trained Child Welfare workers on TANF child only grant eligibility rules.

## **United Ways of California-211-iFoster.org**

- An online resource portal to connect kinship families with needed community services and private business resources.
- Employs former foster youth as ambassadors to conduct community outreach.

# Needs of Kinship Care Families

NY Grantee: 206 Caregivers (68% of 303) said financial need was the greatest need.



# Improvement in Family Needs

## **United Way of CA-211-IFoster Grant:**

90% of caregivers reported after 6 months

- a statistically significant decrease in the following areas: (a) help getting furniture, clothes, and toys; (b) legal assistance; (c) belonging to caregiver groups or clubs; (d) dental care for family. (Measured by the Family Needs Scale)
- improvements in self-reported health and well-being. (Measured by the Short Form 12 tool). Sample 141 caregivers.

## **Community Coalition of South Los Angeles:**

- Caregivers receiving project services reported fewer overall needs in the following areas: financial, food and shelter, vocation, child care, transportation, communication, etc. (Measured by Family Needs Scale)
- Increased knowledge, access, and use of services
- Parent/life stress levels decreased

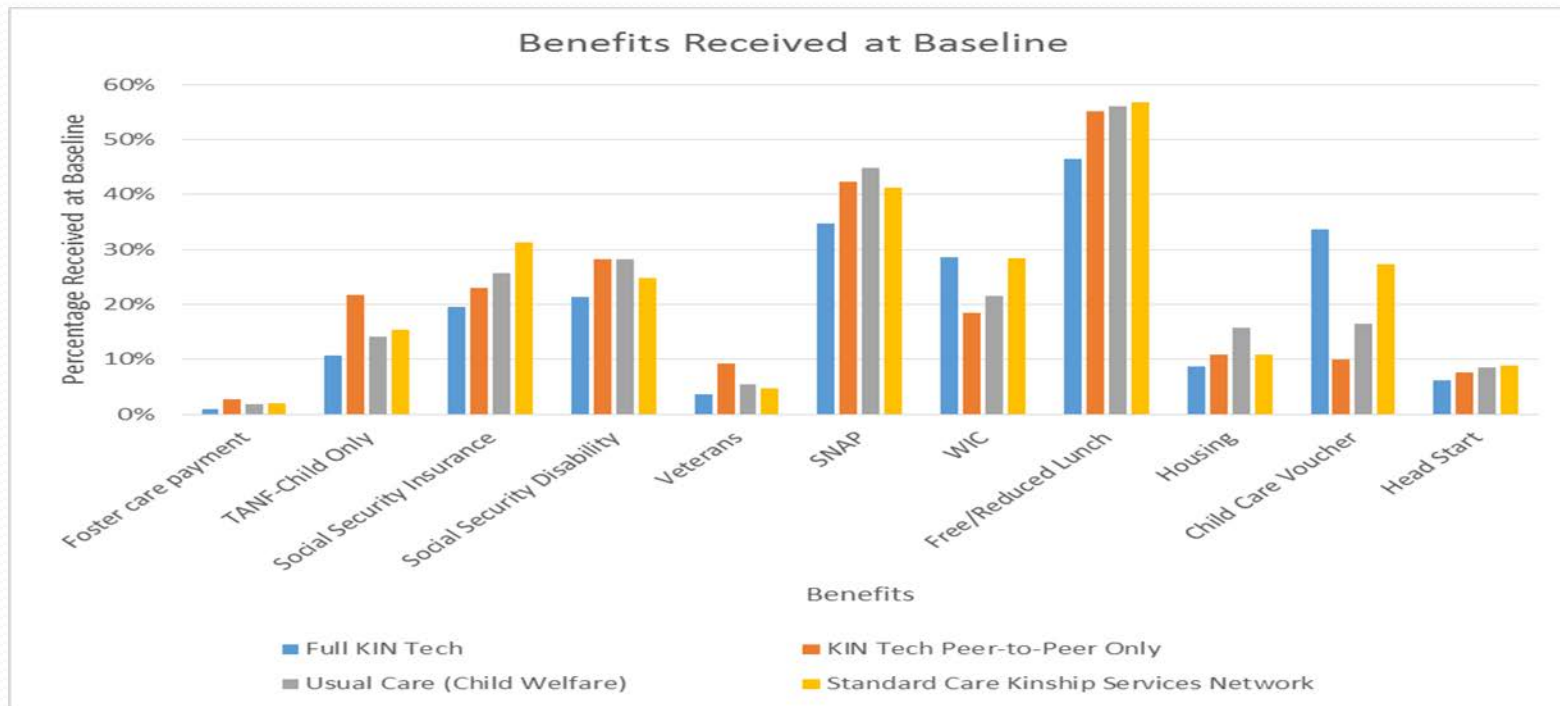


# Benefits at Baseline

Less than one percent (<1%) or 15 caregivers receive foster care payments. (Figure 1.) (N=1551)

Up to 325 caregivers (21%) receive TANF Child Only. (Figure 1.)

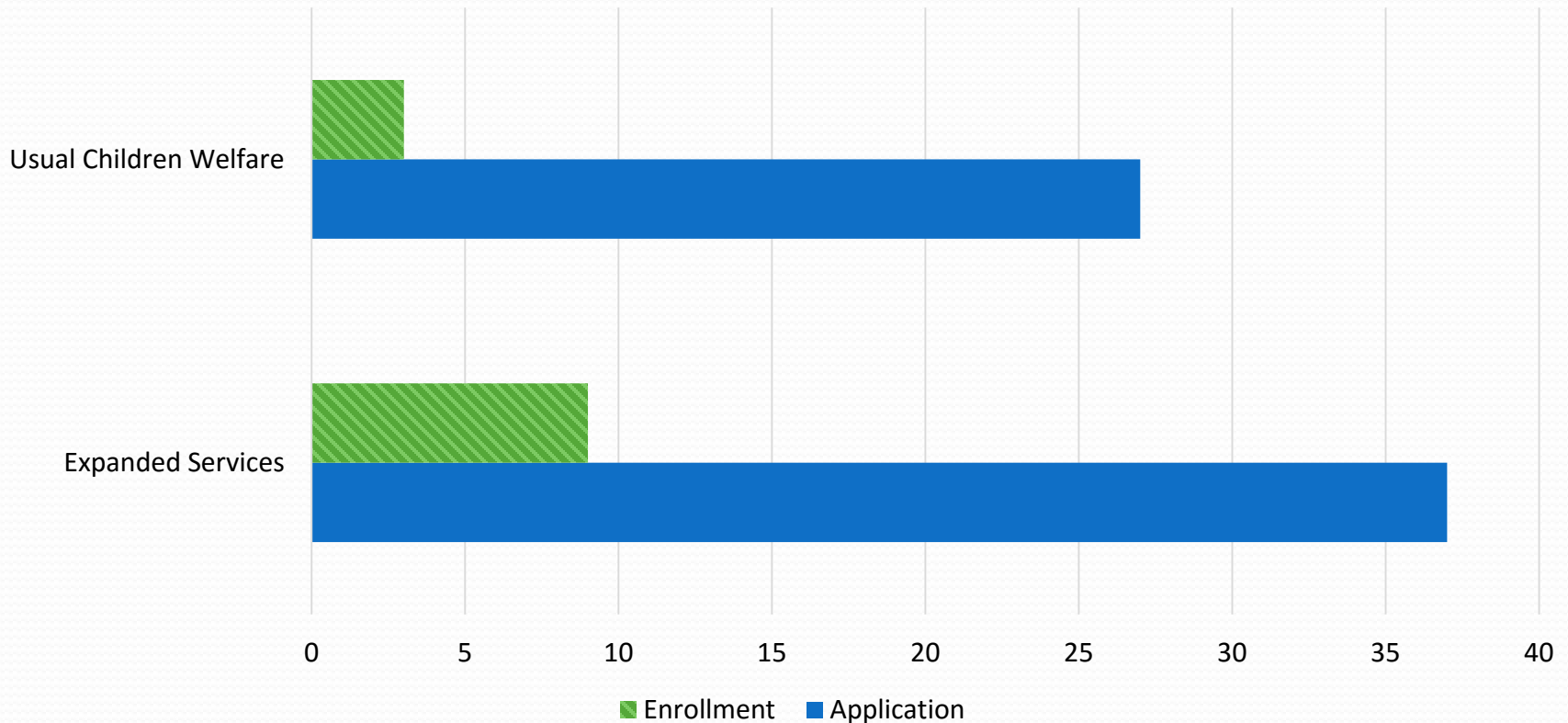
FL grantee: [https://www.childrenshome.org/userfiles/files/Kinship\\_DCF%20Summit2015.pdf](https://www.childrenshome.org/userfiles/files/Kinship_DCF%20Summit2015.pdf)



# TANF Enrollment at 1yr Follow Up

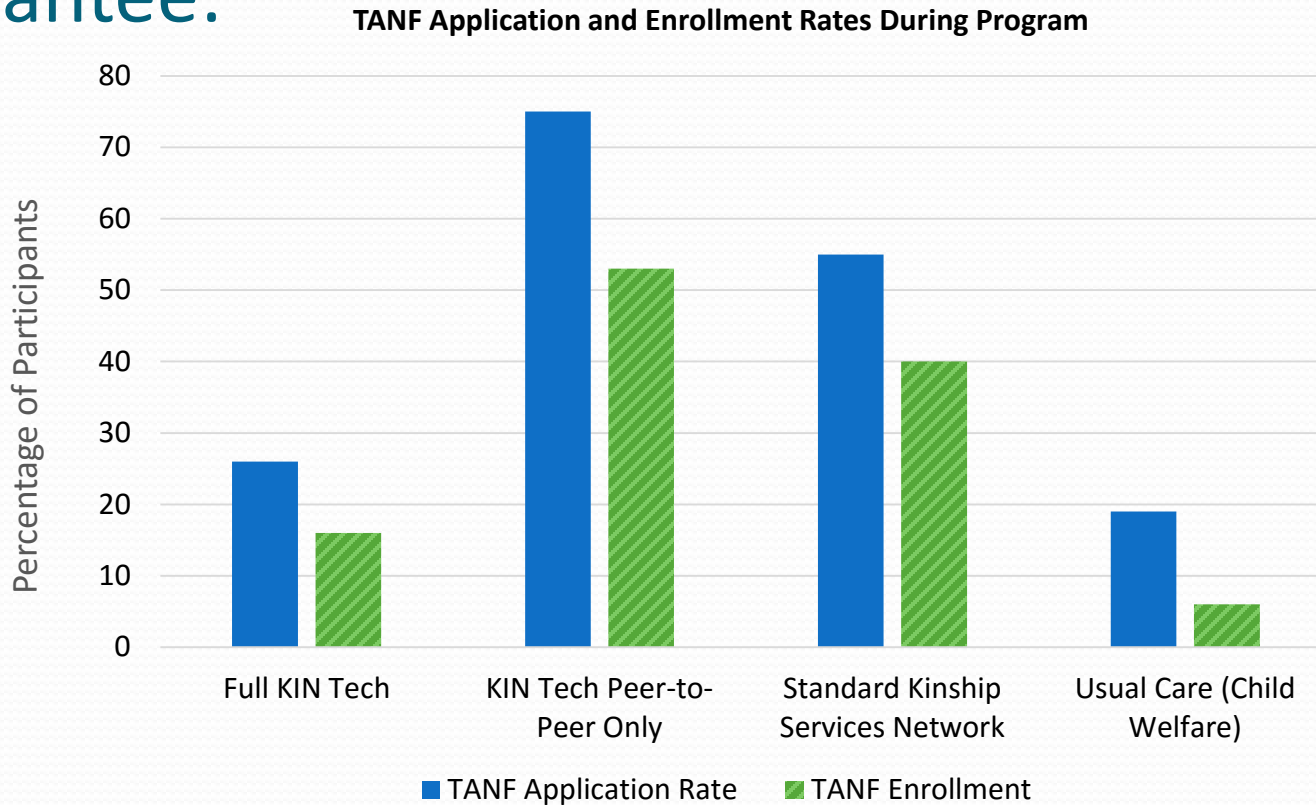
FL Grantee: Children's Home Inc

TANF Enrollment and Application (n=200)



# TANF Application and Enrollment Rates

## FL Grantee:



- Peer-to-Peer navigators had the highest TANF application rate (75%) and enrollment rates (53%). (Figure 2.) (n=49)  
Usual care child welfare services had the lowest TANF application (19%) and enrollment rates (6%). (Figure 2.) (n=21)

# Barriers to Applying for TANF

Issue	Grantee Practice Solution
Confusion with eligibility requirements	Kinship Navigator provide reliable, easy to read info about TANF eligibility
Lack of Computer Access/Difficulty applying online	Peer KN visited caregivers home with a laptop and assisted them in completing application.
In CA and FL: Some caregivers did not meet eligibility because the caregivers was not within the 5 <sup>th</sup> degree of relationship.	KN grantees encouraged their states to use a more inclusive relative definition like the states of VT and CO. VT's legislation says Family is one or more dependent children living with one or both parents or a relative or a caretaker of such children. VT Stat. Ann. Title 33, 1103 (26) <a href="http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/33/011/01101">http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/33/011/01101</a> Reference: Generations United (2014) TANF Policy Practice Brief <a href="http://www.grandfamilies.org">www.grandfamilies.org</a>
In CA and FL: some caregivers did not want to provide the biological parent's info for Child Support purposes.	In NY. Info was provided to the caregiver about a good cause exemption waiver.

# Good Cause Exemption

- **TANF Policy** Per 454(29) of the SSA, the State has the option to define a good cause exemption taking into account the best interests of the child, and applied in each case, by the State agency administering such program. The state's Child Support Plan pre-print, section 3.16 is supposed to indicate whether the IV-D agency (i.e. Child Support Enforcement) or the IV-A agency (i.e., TANF) makes good cause determinations for applicants and recipients of TANF-funded assistance. Reference 45 CFR 264.30(b)  
<https://www.ssa.gov/OP Home/ssact/title04/0454.htm>
- **NYS TANF Agency Informational Letter**  
On Sept 24, 2008 the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance sent this Informational Letter to local social services districts that non-parent caregivers have the right to claim good cause for failure to cooperate with child support enforcement and to provide clarification on when "special considerations related to emotional harm" should be applied in non-parent caregiver situations. It is also to emphasize to districts that non-parent caregivers can seek a domestic violence waiver if complying with child support requirements would result in physical or emotional harm to themselves or the child.  
<http://otda.ny.gov/policy/directives/2008/INF/08-INF-16.pdf>
- NYS Kinship Navigator Fact Sheets: [http://www.nysnavigator.org/pg/legal-resources/documents/GoodCauseExemption\\_000.pdf](http://www.nysnavigator.org/pg/legal-resources/documents/GoodCauseExemption_000.pdf)

# Recommendation for TANF Child Welfare Collaboration

- Create a single statewide Helpline (phone, online) for Kinship Caregivers seeking support (single point of entry to resources and navigators)
- Invest in training and guidance of CW/TANF re: TANF eligibility for Kinship Situations
- Child welfare workers and TANF workers should collaborate on kinship cases to ensure their access to needed financial, supportive, and child care services

# CWLA Publications

- Child Welfare Journal Vol. 92, No. 6 (Nov-Dec 2013).  
Special Issue - Outcomes from the Family Connection Discretionary Grant Cluster
- Feldman L & Fertig. A, (2013) Measuring the Impact of Enhanced Kinship Navigator Services for Informal Kinship Caregivers Using an Experimental Design
- G. Wallace, L. Hernandez, & J. Treinen (Eds.) (2014), Kinship Navigators: Profiles of Fostering Connections Projects from 2012 to 2015. Washington, DC: Child Welfare League of America Press.

# QUESTIONS

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