



Shannon Moody

Innovative Strategies for Effective Advocacy



Kentucky Youth Advocates believes all children deserve to be safe, healthy, and secure. As THE independent voice for Kentucky's children, we work to ensure policymakers create investments and policies that are good for children.

www.kyyouth.org

502-895-8167



Work with legislators, the Governor, and other elected officials to change and enact policies to benefit kids and families



Help families through our case advocacy program. We serve as their guide when they don't know where to turn



Conduct research and education that informs and recommends solutions to help kids succeed



Mobilize advocates to take action on behalf of kids and families through rallies, advocacy training, partnerships, and action alerts



Present the "state of kids" to communities to help people know how children are faring and how to address problems



Engage youth by training the next generation of leaders to advocate for themselves and their communities



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Kinship Families Coalition of Kentucky

Our Mission

To promote policies and facilitate connections to increase supports for and with kinship families in Kentucky.

Our Vision

Kentucky's grandparents, relatives and other caregivers have all the necessary supports to ensure that children in their care can thrive into adulthood.



Kinship Families
COALITION OF KENTUCKY

Kinship Care

Kentucky has many types of kinship care – both formal and informal



- **Informal kinship care.** Children who live with relatives or close family friends who have varying types of custody depending on arrangements made within those families
- **Kinship care.** Children who were placed with relatives or close family friends as a result of an investigation and removal—custody of the child is maintained by the relative or DCBS
- **Relative foster care.** Children placed with relatives who have become certified as foster parents—custody of the child is maintained by DCBS

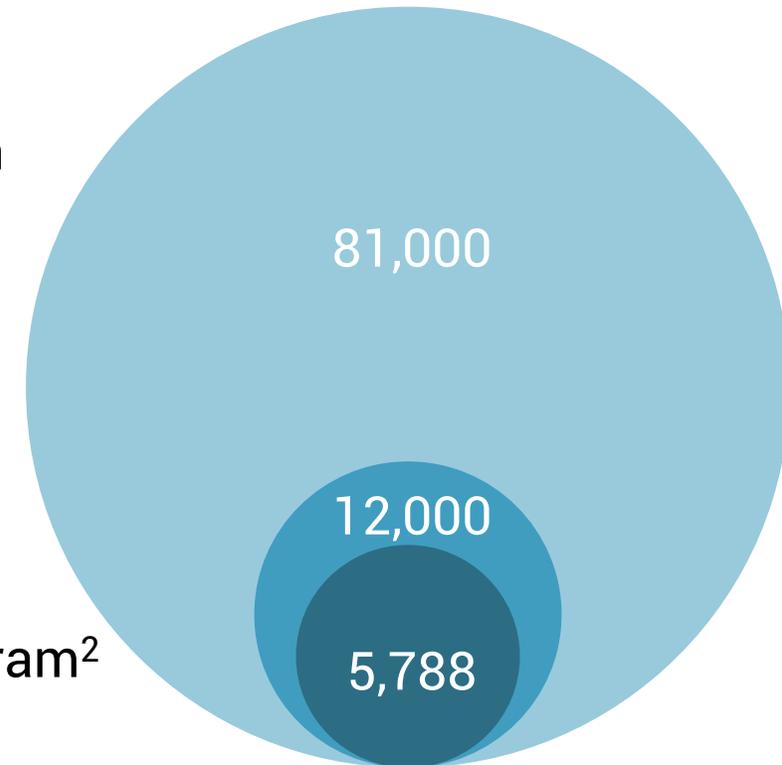


Kinship Families
COALITION OF KENTUCKY

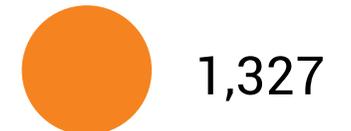
Kinship Care

Kentucky Kids in the Care of Relatives

- Children Being Cared for by Kin Both Formally and Informally¹
- In Kinship Care Due to Removal from Home
- In Kentucky Kinship Care Program²



Kentucky Kids in Relative Foster Care³



Sources: 1. 2009-2017 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). Estimates represent a three-year average. 2. Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services 3. Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services, CY 2016

Kinship Care

Updates that may
effect you....



The Kentucky Kinship Care Program

- The Kentucky Kinship Care Program provides \$300 a month per child for kinship caregivers who take in children who have experienced abuse and neglect and placed by the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS).
- **No new kinship families have been able to enroll in this program** since a moratorium was put in place in April 2013.



Kinship Families
COALITION OF KENTUCKY

Kinship Care

Updates that may
effect you....

6th Circuit Court Ruling.

- An October 2017 federal court ruling by the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in the case *D.O. v. Glisson* requires that Kentucky must pay relatives who serve as foster parents in the same manner it pays adults who are licensed as foster parents if the CHFS Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) places the child with the relative, has conducted a home study and background checks, and if CHFS either retains custody of the child or has transferred the child from CHFS' custody to the temporary custody of the relative or fictive kin. The ruling also includes fictive kin – close family friends – who provide foster care for children removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect. Payment amounts vary depending on a child's needs but average about \$750 a month per child.

Kinship Care

Updates that may
effect you....



6th Circuit Court Ruling (continued)

- **Individuals are encouraged to email CHFS at: DCBSChildProtection@ky.gov if they think they might qualify. Please include your name, phone number, child(ren) name(s) and date of birth for each child. Email correspondence is the most efficient way to start the process of determining eligibility.**
- **If email is not an option, families and caregivers who think they may be eligible for the relative or fictive kin payment can contact the CHFS Kinship Support Hotline at 877-565-5608.**



Kinship Families
COALITION OF KENTUCKY

Kinship Care

Updates that may
effect you....



Financial resources available to families caring for relative children

Relative Placement Support Benefit – Relatives may be eligible to receive a monetary benefit based on each child's immediate needs. The social worker who placed the child(ren) in your home will discuss this benefit with you.

Child Care Assistance – Please contact your social worker to learn more about qualifying for the Child Care Assistance Program.

To learn more about these benefits contact the Kinship Support Hotline at 877-565-5608, or by email at DCBSChildProtection@ky.gov



Kinship Care

Updates that may
effect you....

**Other resources possibly available to families caring for
relative children**

Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP)
--“Child-only” KTAP.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP,
formerly known as food stamps)

Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP,
part of the Kentucky Medicaid Program)

**For more information on these programs, contact the
Division of Family Support at 855-306-8959.**





Advocacy & Understanding the Process

Advocacy is...

- Providing data or research on an issue or policy
- Sharing experiences that can help inform a legislator
- Building relationships with policymakers
- Asking your legislators to support legislation as their constituent
- Spreading the word with your networks about policies that are good for kids

Who are Kentucky's decision makers?

You can find out who
your legislators are at
www.lrc.ky.gov or at
kyyouth.org



The Governor and Cabinet Members

- Each play a major role in policy by influencing legislation and establishing administrative regulations

The Kentucky State Legislature

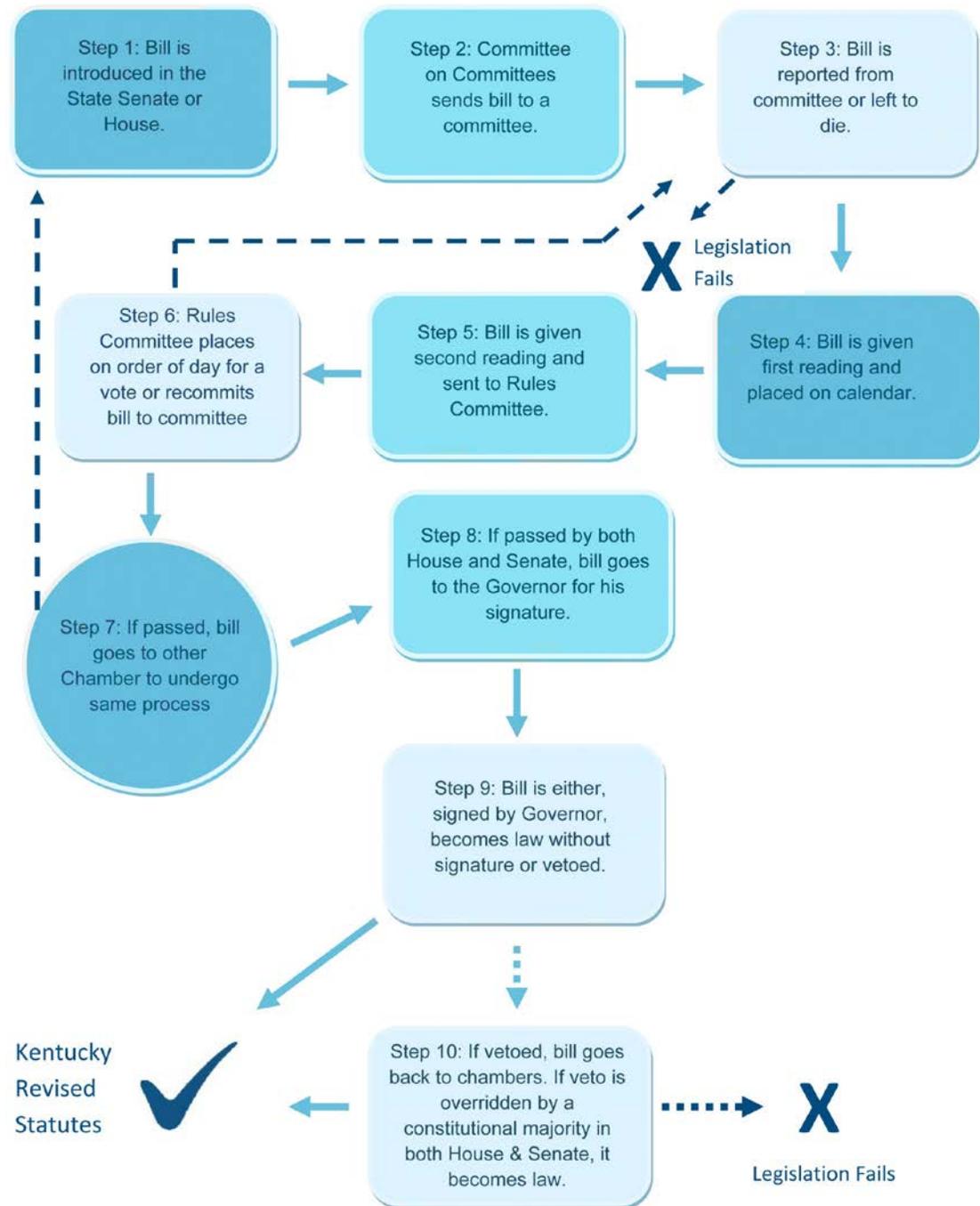
- Made of part-time legislators
- House
 - 100 members
 - Elected every 2 years
- Senate
 - 38 members
 - Elected every 4 years

How are decisions made?

Kentucky General Assembly and state budget process

- The **Kentucky General Assembly** meets for 60 days in even years for session and to create 2-year state budget and meets for 30 days in odd years for session.
- The **state budget process** has already begun. All three branches of government must submit their proposals early in the legislative session, and negotiations and revisions continue throughout the session.

How does a bill become a law?





Ways to Take Action on Behalf of Kids & Families

Legislator Lookup

Learn who your legislators are so you know who to call, write, follow on social media, and meet with!

Use our legislator lookup tool at kyyouth.org/advocacy.

Action Alerts

Because kids can't vote, they rely on the adults in their life to vote and speak up on their behalf.

Kids count on their leaders to prioritize them, and on you to let the leaders know what they need to succeed.

View action alerts at kyyouth.org.

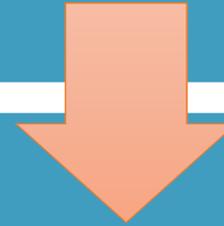
Tips for Meeting with Your Legislator

Meet with your legislators to discuss issues in more detail.



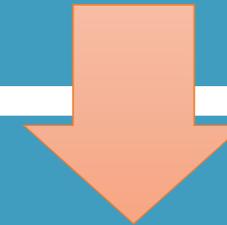
Before –

Make an appointment and do your homework



During –

Be friendly and professional



After –

Thank you note and follow up

Tips for Writing Your Legislator

Email or write a letter to your legislators to share your story and opinion on an issue.



- Address the letter or email with the legislator's title—Senator or Representative.
- If you have a personal story about the issue, share it.
- If you are writing in support/opposition to a bill, try to include both the bill's title and number.
- Include only one issue per letter.
- Be sure to include your name and address so they know you are their constituent.

Tips for Calling Your Legislator

Call your legislators to communicate a brief opinion.

- Inform the operator that you are a constituent and would like to convey your opinion on an issue.
- They will ask your basic information, including your name and address.
- Convey your opinion on the specific issue. For example, "As a constituent, I want Senator Doe to vote YES on Senate Bill X."
- If you are asked a question you cannot answer, simply say "I do not know."

KIDS COUNT

What gets measured,
gets changed.



NEW 2017 *County Data Book* and **NEW** Kentucky KIDS COUNT Data Dashboard!

Find both at kyyouth.org.

Stay Informed

Visit kyyouth.org to stay up-to-date on the status of bill that would impact Kentucky kids.



- Know the research and data.
- Sign up for Kentucky Youth Advocates email listserv.
- Read Kentucky Youth Advocates blog.
- Utilize social media
 - Follow KYA at [@kyyouth](https://twitter.com/kyyouth) and facebook.com/KentuckyYouthAdvocates.
 - Use hashtags [#kyga18](https://twitter.com/kyga18) and [#BlueprintKY](https://twitter.com/BlueprintKY)
- Kentucky General Assembly Bill Tracker



Blueprint Item	Summary	Status	Learn More
Senate Bill 137 Allow Adults to Whom a Child Has Disclosed Abuse to Testify in Court 	SB 137 would keep kids safer from abuse by allowing a trustworthy adult to whom a child age 12 years or younger has disclosed abuse to testify in court about that disclosure.	SB 137 is sponsored by Senator Whitney Westerfield and has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee . 	View the fact sheet on allowing adults to whom a child has disclosed abuse to testify in court HERE . SB 137 is a Face It policy priority. 

- **Blueprint for Kentucky's Children 2018 agenda is at kyyouth.org!**



Kinship Care

What can you do?

- Call your Kentucky State Senator, share your story, ask for them to **keep kinship care in the budget**
- Call your Kentucky State Senator and ask them to vote “yes” on **House Bill 1** as it provides the option for supports for kinship caregivers

**Be a
megaphone
for kids!**

**Kentucky kids are
counting on you to speak
up on their behalf!**



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