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
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.

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502-895-8167
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
Children Being Cared for by Kin Both Formally and Informally\(^1\)

In Kinship Care Due to Removal from Home

In Kentucky Kinship Care Program\(^2\)

Kentucky Kids in Relative Foster Care\(^3\)

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.
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 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
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
The Kentucky General Assembly meets for 60 days in even years for session and to create a 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?

Step 1: Bill is introduced in the State Senate or House.

Step 2: Committee on Committees sends bill to a committee.

Step 3: Bill is reported from committee or left to die.

Step 4: Bill is given first reading and placed on calendar.

Step 5: Bill is given second reading and sent to Rules Committee.

Step 6: Rules Committee places on order of day for a vote or recommit bill to committee.

Step 7: If passed, bill goes to other Chamber to undergo same process.

Step 8: If passed by both House and Senate, bill goes to the Governor for his signature.

Step 9: Bill is either, signed by Governor, becomes law without signature or vetoed.

Step 10: If vetoed, bill goes back to chambers. If veto is overridden by a constitutional majority in both House & Senate, it becomes law.

Legislation Fails

Kentucky Revised Statutes

Legislation Fails
Ways to Take Action on Behalf of Kids & Families
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.
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
Email or write a letter to your legislators to share your story and opinion on an issue.

Tips for Writing Your Legislator

• 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

- 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.”

Call your legislators to communicate a brief opinion.
What gets measured, gets changed.

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

Find both at kyyouth.org.
Stay Informed

• 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 and facebook.com/KentuckyYouthAdvocates.
  • Use hashtags #kyga18 and #BlueprintKY
• Kentucky General Assembly Bill Tracker

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

• Blueprint for Kentucky’s Children 2018 agenda is at kyyouth.org!
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!