

THE CHALLENGE

Communities and systems don't consistently have awareness of the unique needs of kinship caregivers and adoptive parents or the capacity to appropriately and equitably serve them

There are insufficient human services and material resources to meet the needs of kinship caregivers and adoptive parents

Stigma for seeking resources, services, and supports prevents families from asking for and receiving what they need

Discrimination, racism, and systemic inequities create additional barriers for people marginalized by systems based on race, gender, class, sexual orientation, geography, religion, and other aspects of a person's identity when engaging with public and private resources, services and supports

Insufficient dissemination of information to kinship caregivers and adoptive parents about existing resources their family could benefit from and programs they may be eligible for and lack of inclusive and equitable resources

Kinship caregivers and adoptive parents are adapting to new roles and expectations while coping with trauma, changing family dynamics, and systemic inequities or may simply need additional resources, services, and supports to meet the needs of their children, themselves, and their families

THE CHANGE

OhioKAN partners with families and systems to:

Develop collaborative strategies to address awareness and capacity gaps for serving kinship & adoptive families within systems like education, health, mental health, housing, legal, and judicial while naming and confronting racism, discrimination, and systemic inequities

OhioKAN co-creates solutions with families through:

- *Individualized information and referrals, to meet all kinship & adoptive families' needs*
- *Family driven, equity-oriented, trauma responsive navigation services, benefits coordination, and advocacy to address the unique and diverse situations families experience*
- *Access to material resource to care for their children, themselves, and their families*

Families Build Confidence and Connections

- *Build awareness of and access to the resources, services, and supports they identify to improve caregiver, child, and family outcomes.*
- *Understand all their options and feel confident, supported, and committed to providing a stable home*
- *Connect and build community with other kinship & adoptive families, and they have the continuous support they need*

Communities and Systems Build Capacity

- *Develop awareness of kinship & adoptive families' experiences and build inclusive and equitable strategies and capacity to better support them*
- *Promote awareness of available and accessible connections and resources to meet the needs of all kinship & adoptive families across Ohio*
- *Increase their service array and develop sustainable solutions to support all kinship & adoptive families*

Navigation services are provided in an equitable and culturally responsive way

Roadmap to Support Families

Roadmap to Support Communities

Inform families about publicly available statewide and local resources

Promote community awareness of OhioKAN and reduce stigma for seeking equitable and inclusive support

Connect eligible families with referrals to programs and services

Children experience positive outcomes

Local human service systems are more aware of and responsive to K&A families

Establish community partnerships to ensure the effective implementation of OhioKAN

Collaborate with families seeking more engagement to offer individual advocacy and support

Caregivers feel supported and able to care for their families in ways that are important to them

A robust, tailored, equity-oriented and continuously improving service array is available and accessible across Ohio

Build community level awareness and develop connections with places families already are



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Outreach to diverse communities of eligible K&A families

Eligible families are aware of OhioKAN services and understand services are available to them as many times as they need until the child becomes an adult

Interested eligible K&A families are engaged in OhioKAN services

K&A families are engaged in a conversation using motivational interviewing practices to understand their needs, preferences, values, and beliefs

K&A families choose the level of service they receive

Based on their needs and preferences, K&A families are linked to the resources, services, and supports that are available and accessible to them and OhioKAN documents and elevates gaps in inclusive and equitable resources

K&A families receive follow-up from their navigator to ensure connection to referrals and address any barriers or additional needs

K&A families co-design a right-sized, tailored, trauma-informed, equity-oriented, and culturally appropriate support plan

Families choose which resources, services and supports are included and prioritized which may include:

- Additional referrals
- Warm transfers
- Concrete supports
- Benefits coordination
- In-person services available

K&A Families access resources, services, and supports aligned with their self-identified needs, preferences, cultures, values, norms, and beliefs

Kinship caregivers & adoptive parents feel satisfied with navigation services and feel heard, understood, and supported in meeting the needs of their children, themselves, and their families

Kinship caregivers & adoptive parents increase awareness, skills, and confidence in navigating available and accessible resources, services, and supports

Children's physical/material needs are met

Children feel loved, cared for, and connected to trusted people they can turn to for comfort and support

Children experience safety and stability in their living situations

Children are involved in affirming activities that support their health and development

Children enjoy positive age-appropriate experiences and opportunities

Children feel confident and thrive in ways that are important to them and their families

Roadmap to Support Communities



Promote community awareness of OhioKAN and reduce stigma for seeking equitable and inclusive support

Promote broad community awareness of OhioKAN with varied outreach efforts regionally and statewide

Educate public system partners about the unique needs of K&A families and how they can best be served and supported

Stand against violence and hate of any kind brought on to communities of color and other populations marginalized by systems

Establish community partnerships to ensure the effective implementation of OhioKAN

Partner with established community-based providers to deliver navigation services

Engage individuals with lived experience, people of color, and other populations marginalized by systems as partners when identifying challenges and shaping solutions that will affect their lives and communities.

Convene a multidisciplinary group of advisors and individuals with lived experience to assess, prioritize, and create action plans at both the state and regional level

Build community level awareness and develop connections with places families already are

Connect purposefully with child welfare agencies and county-level groups to strengthen practice

Partner with local family-serving organizations who bring intersectional identities and represent diverse constituencies.

Continually search for and participate in local community and cultural events, fairs, festivals and other places where families gather

Local human service systems are more aware of and responsive to K&A families

Assess and monitor the extent to which the available services and supports meet K&A families' needs

Analyze historical factors and inequities when considering the distribution of resources and policy development

Partner in designing solutions to address the historical, community and cultural barriers that may impact families' access to resources, services, and supports.

A robust, tailored, equity-oriented and continuously improving service array is available and accessible across Ohio

Share and continuously improve best practices in serving K&A families with public agencies and community-based providers across the state

Develop and analyze program practices to identify and confront manifestations of discrimination and exclusion

Support the development and increased, awareness and accessibility of needed resources, services, and supports in ways that promote equitable outcomes and support transformational change

C A R E S

Children & Families

We value Ohio's children and families and are determined to keep their stability and well-being as our primary drivers.

Accountability

We value integrity and transparency. We do what we say and say what we do. We regularly reflect on our practice to ensure we are always learning how we can respond in the most appropriate and consistent ways.

Respect

We value the diversity of families and hold the belief that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and thoughtfulness.

Engagement

We value the voices of all kinship and adoptive families and will partner with them knowing their perspective is the foundation on which we will build. We intentionally advocate alongside people of color and others marginalized by systems to shape solutions affecting their lives.

Strengths

We value every family's strengths and believe everyone can contribute to their solutions. We believe families and honor them as the experts on their situation.