

# NATIONAL LEARNING COHORT OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS



A National Peer Learning Cohort hosted by the National Family Support Network and Generations United's Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network

Applications due by:  
**February 28**

Selections  
announced:  
**March 6**

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO APPLY\*\*](#)



National Learning Cohort  
Opportunity for Family  
Resource Centers

This six-month national peer learning opportunity invites a small, select group of Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to strengthen kinship engagement strategies through peer learning, practical application, and shared problem-solving with colleagues from across the country.

There will be two focused learning cohorts—one focused on implementing **school-based kinship strategies** and the other focused on **engaging male kin caregivers**. Participating FRCs will test and refine real-world approaches, learn directly from peers, and contribute insights that help shape emerging national practice in kinship engagement, all within a structure designed to be realistic and respectful of staff capacity.

Participation is intentionally designed to support applied learning, peer connection, and meaningful practice improvement, grounded in the day-to-day realities of Family Resource Center work.

## Community-Rooted Solutions for Supporting Families

Family Resource Centers play a critical role in supporting kinship caregivers across diverse community settings, including schools and other trusted local access points. The National Family Support Network (NFSN) and the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (Network), a National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families are hosting two national peer learning cohorts focused on strengthening kinship engagement.

**Only Five (5) Family Resource Centers nationwide will be selected for each cohort.**

### ***Why This Is a Unique Opportunity***

Selected FRCs will have the opportunity to:

- ✓ Join a national peer learning community focused on advancing kinship engagement through FRCs
- ✓ Learn directly from FRCs implementing promising strategies across diverse community contexts
- ✓ Test and refine practical, real-time approaches within existing capacity
- ✓ Access FRC and kinship resources that can help your FRC address kin caregiver needs
- ✓ Contribute insights that will inform future tools, models, and national field learning



## About the Two Learning Cohorts

NFSN and the Network will host two topic-based, national peer learning cohorts, each bringing together five Family Resource Centers committed to strengthening kinship engagement through applied, practice-based learning.

Applicants should be actively engaged in serving kinship families or prepared to implement targeted strategies during the cohort period. We are especially interested in learning from FRCs that are testing, refining, or launching school-based kinship approaches or intentional strategies to engage male kin caregivers.

These cohorts are designed for sites ready to move from ideas to action, reflect with peers, and contribute insights that can inform broader field learning.

### Cohort 1: School-Based FRCs & Kinship Engagement

This cohort will focus on how FRCs embedded in or closely partnered with schools can more intentionally identify, engage, and support kinship families.

Together, cohort participants will explore:

- Identifying kin caregivers within school communities
- Strengthening coordination between FRCs, schools, and community partners
- Adapting school-based services and outreach to better respond to kinship family needs
- Navigating systems, boundaries, and opportunities unique to school-based settings

This cohort is well suited for FRCs that:

- Are school-based and currently serve kinship families or have a clear, near-term implementation plan to expand kinship engagement in school settings
- Have leadership support to test and refine approaches during the six-month cohort

### Cohort 2: Engaging Male Kin Caregivers through FRCs

This cohort will focus on strengthening FRC strategies for engaging and supporting male kin caregivers, including grandfathers, uncles, older brothers, and other male relatives and fictive kin caregivers.

Together, cohort participants will explore:

- Considering outreach and engagement strategies that resonate with male kin caregivers
- Creating welcoming, inclusive spaces that reflect diverse caregiving roles
- Addressing barriers to participation and sustained engagement
- Elevating the voices and experiences of male kin caregivers within FRC programming

This cohort is well suited for FRCs that:

- Are already engaging male kin caregivers or are prepared to intentionally pilot new engagement strategies
- Have leadership support to test and refine approaches during the six-month cohort



A Unique Opportunity for Selected FRCs



### Cohort Meeting Dates & Times: School-Based FRCs & Kinship Engagement

All sessions are 60-minute virtual meetings.

Dates are fixed as listed below:

**2:00-3:00 pm ET**

*1:00-2:00 pm CT; 12:00-1:00 pm MT; 11:00 am-12:00 pm PT; 10:00-11:00 am Alaska time)*

- Thursday, March 26
- Thursday, April 23
- Thursday, May 28
- Thursday, June 25
- Thursday, July 30
- Thursday, August 27



### Cohort Meeting Dates & Times: Engaging Male Kin Caregivers through FRCs

All sessions are 60-minute virtual meetings.

Dates are fixed as listed below:

**4:00-5:00 pm ET**

*4:00-5:00 pm ET (3:00-4:00 pm CT; 2:00-3:00 pm MT; 1:00-2:00 pm PT; 12:00-1:00 pm Alaska time)*

- Thursday, March 26
- Thursday, April 23
- Thursday, May 28
- Thursday, June 25
- Thursday, July 30
- Thursday, August 27



## Cohort Structure & Commitment

### Monthly Time Commitment

- One 60-minute virtual learning session per month, with active engagement in discussion and shared reflection on practice
- Approximately one additional hour per month for light preparation and reflection
- Total commitment, about 2 hours per month
- Total commitment over six months, approximately 12 hours

### Commitment Beyond the Cohort

- While the formal cohort runs for six months, participation reflects a longer-term commitment to strengthening kinship-informed practice within the Family Resource Center.
- Teams are encouraged to view the cohort as a launch point for continued learning, reflection, and integration of kinship-responsive approaches into ongoing work.
- The expectation is not perfection, but sustained attention and intentional practice beyond the cohort period.

### Each participating FRC team includes:

- One staff member, and
- One kinship caregiver with lived experience

### Sessions focus on:

- Peer-led learning and shared practice examples
- Testing small changes within existing capacity
- Reflection, adaptation, and concrete next steps

### Application & Selection Process

- Applications submitted via a Google Form
- Applicants must be Family Resource Centers
- Applicants must select only one cohort
- Applicants do not need to be affiliated with a state Family Resource Center Network or be part of an NFSN Member Network to apply.

### Selection will prioritize:

- Geographic and population diversity across U.S. regions
- Demonstrated kinship engagement or a clear plan to strengthen practice

**Applications due by:  
February 28**

**Selections  
announced:  
March 6**

**[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)**



State and Regional Family Resource Center Networks are strongly encouraged to share this opportunity with eligible sites.



### Timeframe

**Six (6) -month commitment,  
March through August**



### Stipend Support

- A \$75 per hour stipend is available for the participating kin caregiver
- Supported through Network funding
- Stipends are not available for staff participation



- Applications open: by February 13
- Applications due: by February 28
- Selections announced: by March 6
- Cohort kickoff: March 26
- Cohort concludes: August 27

