
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2133 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, PASHINSKI, CONKLIN, BOBACK, BULLOCK,
ENGLISH, HAHN, HEFFLEY, MENTZER, MOUL, RADER, READSHAW,
ROZZI, SCHLOSSBERG, SIMMONS, SOLOMON, STAATS, STEPHENS,
TOEPEL, TOOHIL, WARD, WARREN, WHEELAND, YOUNGBLOOD AND
M. QUINN, MARCH 9, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, MARCH 9, 2018

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Kinship Caregiver Navigator Program in the
2 Department of Human Services; and providing for kinship
3 caregiver navigator website and for kinship caregiver
4 navigators.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Kinship
9 Caregiver Navigator Program Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Area agency on aging." The single local agency designated
15 within a planning and service area by the Department of Aging to
16 develop and administer the delivery of a comprehensive and
17 coordinated plan of social services and activities for older

1 adults.

2 "Child." An individual under 18 years of age.

3 "Contractor." An organization that is awarded a contract by
4 the department to establish the Kinship Caregiver Navigator
5 Program.

6 "County agency." A county children and youth social service
7 agency under the act of June 24, 1937 (P.L.2017, No.396), known
8 as the County Institution District Law, and supervised by the
9 department under Article IX of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,
10 No.21), known as the Human Services Code.

11 "Department." The Department of Human Services of the
12 Commonwealth.

13 "Kinship caregiver." An individual who:

14 (1) is at least 21 years of age;

15 (2) lives with and is responsible for the care of a
16 child; and

17 (3) is related within the fifth degree of consanguinity
18 or affinity to the parent or stepparent of the child.

19 "Kinship caregiver navigator." An individual who has been
20 trained by the department to understand the various State agency
21 systems serving kinship caregivers and assist in accessing
22 Federal, State and local services and supports available to
23 kinship caregivers.

24 "Program." The Kinship Caregiver Navigator Program
25 established by this act.

26 "Website." The kinship caregiver navigator website created
27 and maintained by the contractor.

28 Section 3. Kinship Caregiver Navigator Program.

29 (a) Establishment.--

30 (1) The Kinship Caregiver Navigator Program is

1 established in the department.

2 (2) The department shall develop a proposal and solicit
3 a contractor to administer the program. Any person determined
4 eligible by the department may submit a proposal. The
5 department shall enter into a contract with the person whose
6 proposal has been selected to administer the program.

7 (b) Minimum criteria.--The contractor shall, at a minimum:

8 (1) Create and maintain a website pursuant to section 4.

9 (2) Create and maintain a kinship caregiver toll-free
10 telephone number or hotline to provide supportive listening
11 and guidance to kinship caregivers or persons who intend to
12 become kinship caregivers.

13 (3) Develop and provide training for individuals to
14 serve as kinship caregiver navigators.

15 (4) Educate the public on services and supports
16 available to kinship caregivers, including developing and
17 administering a Statewide marketing campaign. The contractor
18 may coordinate with other State and county agencies, area
19 agencies on aging, local education agencies and community
20 organizations to assist in disseminating information.

21 Section 4. Kinship caregiver navigator website.

22 (a) General rule.--The contractor shall develop a kinship
23 caregiver navigator website that provides information on support
24 and services available to current kinship caregivers and
25 prospective kinship caregivers.

26 (b) Required information.--The website shall include
27 information, including, but not limited to, the following:

28 (1) Federal and State programs.

29 (2) Support groups for kinship caregivers and children
30 in the kinship caregiver's care.

1 (3) Respite services for kinship caregivers.

2 (4) Financial aid.

3 (5) Relevant legal resources and assistance.

4 (6) Education and supportive services for children.

5 (7) Training for current and prospective kinship
6 caregivers.

7 (8) The toll-free telephone number established under
8 section 3(b)(2).

9 (c) Live chat feature.--The website may include a live chat
10 feature.

11 (d) Feedback and suggestions.--The website shall include a
12 section for individuals to provide feedback and make
13 suggestions.

14 Section 5. Kinship caregiver navigators.

15 A kinship caregiver navigator shall:

16 (1) Assist kinship caregivers with finding information
17 for relevant Federal and State benefits, local supports and
18 services.

19 (2) Mediate with State agency staff or service providers
20 and, when necessary, assist in establishing relationships
21 between kinship caregivers and relevant Federal and State
22 agency staff.

23 (3) Work with the local area agency on aging and county
24 agency to identify and provide outreach to kinship caregivers
25 in need of additional services.

26 (4) Refer kinship caregivers to the appropriate county
27 agency contact.

28 Section 6. Effective date.

29 This act shall take effect in 180 days.