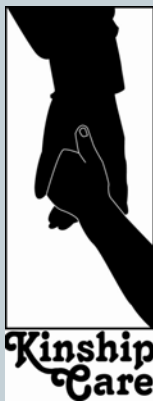


# Hardin County



KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

## Hardin County Navigator



### **Lisa Richards, Kinship Navigator**

As a long term resident of Hardin County, Ms Richards has been able to engage families and negotiate for multiple services. Families who might otherwise fall through the cracks are being served by this program.



## Local Resources

The Kinship Navigator depends on her working relationship with a variety of community service providers to meet the needs of families.

### Partners include:

- Family and Children First Council
- Kenton City Schools
- Hardin County Health Department
- Hardin County Bar Association
- Local Merchants
- Council On Aging
- Juvenile Court
- Coleman Counseling Services
- Job and Family Services
- Board of DD

## Sample of Services Provided



- Referral to community services as available
- Financial assistance for legal services
- Utilities
- Home repairs
- Vehicle repairs
- Recreation (ie. pool passes, Fair passes, etc.)
- Food, clothing, and other incidentals
- Provided six computers to Kinship Families
- Monthly support group



## Challenges:

Hardin County has not had an active Kinship Navigator prior to this grant. The initial challenge was to identify kinship caregivers throughout the county, engage them in services, and advocate for their needs.

### Other challenges include:

- Accessing services
- Gaining trust of caregivers
- Increasing attendance at meetings
- Overcoming economic barriers
- Tailoring services to individual needs
- Increased number of children needing out-of-home placement due to drug addiction

## Successes



- Good input and referrals from LAG
- Coordinated LAG with Family and Children First Council to minimize meetings
- Caregiver group growing through word of mouth
- Developed partnership with local businesses
- Increased public awareness
- Stability for families that leads to permanency for children
- Navigator has gained trust and formed working relationships with Caregivers

## Successes (cont.)

- Effectively working with Juvenile Court on Kinship placements
- Providing upfront services to avoid emergencies
- Increased information and referral
- Promoting family activities

### Focus on the Future

To continue to serve Kinship Caregivers in Hardin County.

- Maintain kinship placements when parents are unable or unwilling to care for their children.
- Provide support and advocacy for Kinship Caregivers in order to maintain permanency and safety for children.
- Increase number of Caregivers receiving services.
- Have Caregivers take ownership of continued Kinship services.