

What does it mean to be a Kin First Agency?

FREE Live Virtual Course

October 18th from 1 pm–4:15 pm EDT
December 6th from 1 pm–4:15 pm EST

3 ASWB CE Credits Available for a \$20
fee at time of registration

Presented by:



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Choose from

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A significant body of research illuminates the ways in which kinship care benefits children and youth and increases positive child welfare outcomes. Building on that knowledge base, the term “Kin First” has been coined to identify policy and practice approaches that recognize the value of kinship relationships and prioritize kin as the preferred option if out-of-home placement is necessary. This session will highlight key research findings and review policy examples and practice strategies to prioritize kinship care and respond to the unique strengths and needs of kinship caregivers. Participants will leave with practical examples of tactics they can pursue in their own agencies and systems.

This intermediate-level course is appropriate for child welfare administrators, managers, supervisors, caseworkers, and others supporting youth in kinship care.

Participants will be able to:

- Describe at least 3 benefits to children of kinship care as compared to non-relative foster care.
- Describe at least 3 policy strategies to prioritize kinship care as the preferred option when children need out-of-home placement.
- Identify at least 3 examples of practices and supports to assist with the unique needs of kinship caregivers.



Continuing Education Credits

The Institute for Human Services, #1802, is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. States and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. The Institute for Human Services maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: 03/25/2022–03/25/2023.

This training is approved for 3 ASWB CE credits.

Note: This course is offered in Zoom. A few days prior to the session you will receive connectivity instructions via email. **You must attend the whole session, remain on camera, complete an evaluation and pay the fee to receive CE credit for this course.**

Questions? Email training@ihs-trainet.com or contact our office at 614-251-6000 Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. EDT. If you need additional accessibility supports, please contact us in advance of the training to make necessary arrangements. **[View our Grievance and Refund Policy.](#)**

About the Trainer:



Maureen Heffernan, MSSA, LISW-S is an independent child welfare consultant and trainer. She has worked across the United States assisting child welfare jurisdictions to achieve better and more equitable outcomes for vulnerable children, youth, and their families. Her focus areas include youth permanency, family search and engagement, kinship care, foster care, and the recruitment, development, and support of foster and adoptive families. She has extensive work experience in public and private child welfare settings, is a trainer in the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program and an Adjunct Instructor at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.