



OUTREACH PLAN FOR STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Kincare Coalition 2023 Proposed Policy Agenda Overview

YOU CAN HELP!

Examples from our caregivers and stories about people in their district will help grow awareness of our supports!

1. Look up your Senator and Member of Assembly using these websites.
 - a. <https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator>
 - b. <https://www.nyassembly.gov/mem/search/>
2. Set up a call or meeting with them when they are in their district office – not while they are in Albany.
3. Use the talking points below to start the conversation:

Increase Funding

The Coalition requests increased funding in the NYS Budget of \$2,559,250 for the Kinship System of Care.

- \$320,500 for the Kinship Navigator (\$220,500 + \$100,000 in Executive Budget)
- \$338,750 for local programs (in Executive Budget) + \$1.9 million or \$950,000 from each house

Kinship Care Month

Since 2014, New York State has marked September as Kinship Care Month. We request the same designation in 2023 to honor those who are working to raise stronger kids and build a better future for New York's families.

Kinship Legal Network

Indigent kinship caregivers do not have a guaranteed right to counsel when they seek custody or guardianship in family court. Some judges assign counsel, but many do not. We're advocating for \$8 million in funding for the Office of Children and Family Services to provide much-needed legal representation to non-parent caregivers who are navigating the family court and welfare systems

Revise Non-Parent Grant Calculation

(A. 2488 – Hevesi) We want to address the way TANF income is calculated for a Non-Parent Grant. Unearned income of siblings and caregivers residing in the household is currently included when determining eligibility and amount of assistance. This reduces the grant for the entire household, and results in fewer resources for the child in need.

THEN ...

4. **Tell them a brief story about how your program helped a Kinship Family – just hit the high points!**
 - a. What was the problem?
 - b. What steps helped solve the problem?
 - c. What role did your program play?
 - d. What was the outcome?
5. Follow up with handouts about your program, System of Care and our Budget Request.

Please let us know when you have completed your calls or meetings!