



Kinship Care in Pennsylvania

When grandparents, other relatives (such as aunts and uncles), or family friends care for children because their parents are unable to care for them, it is called kinship care. It is difficult to know exactly how many children are in kinship care because many of them are not involved with the child welfare system.

During a recent presentation at PFSA's Child Abuse Prevention Symposium, Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network reported that there are at least 68,000 children being raised by kin in Pennsylvania, with 235,515 grandparents being responsible for their grandchildren.

Whether the arrangement is created formally through child protective services or informally within a family, kinship care benefits children because it reduces the trauma of family separation and provides cultural and community ties. It also reduces the need for reentry into foster care and improves permanency through a higher rate of guardianship, custody, and adoption by kinship care providers.

According to www.grandfamilies.org, children in kinship homes also have better behavioral and mental health outcomes. In fact, studies have shown that children in kinship care have fewer behavioral problems three years after placement than children placed into traditional foster care. Relatives are more likely than nonrelatives to support

the child through difficult times and less likely to request the removal of difficult children. Children tend to feel better about the placement and are less likely to run away.

More work can and should be done to support kinship care providers, especially grandparents raising grandchildren.

Interested in becoming a kinship caregiver or want to learn more? Check out **this fact sheet** from www.childwelfare.gov to get you started. Additional resources can be found through **PA Kinship Navigator** or by reaching out to your local county children and youth services.



Save the Date!

April 2, 2024

Flag Planting | 9:00 a.m.
3rd & State Street | Harrisburg

Awards Ceremony | 10:30 a.m.
Capitol Main Rotunda | Harrisburg



As we begin to wind down the calendar year, PFSA is inviting community agencies to consider joining our **Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Network!** This is a diverse network of child protective and family-serving organizations that positively impact children and families throughout Pennsylvania.

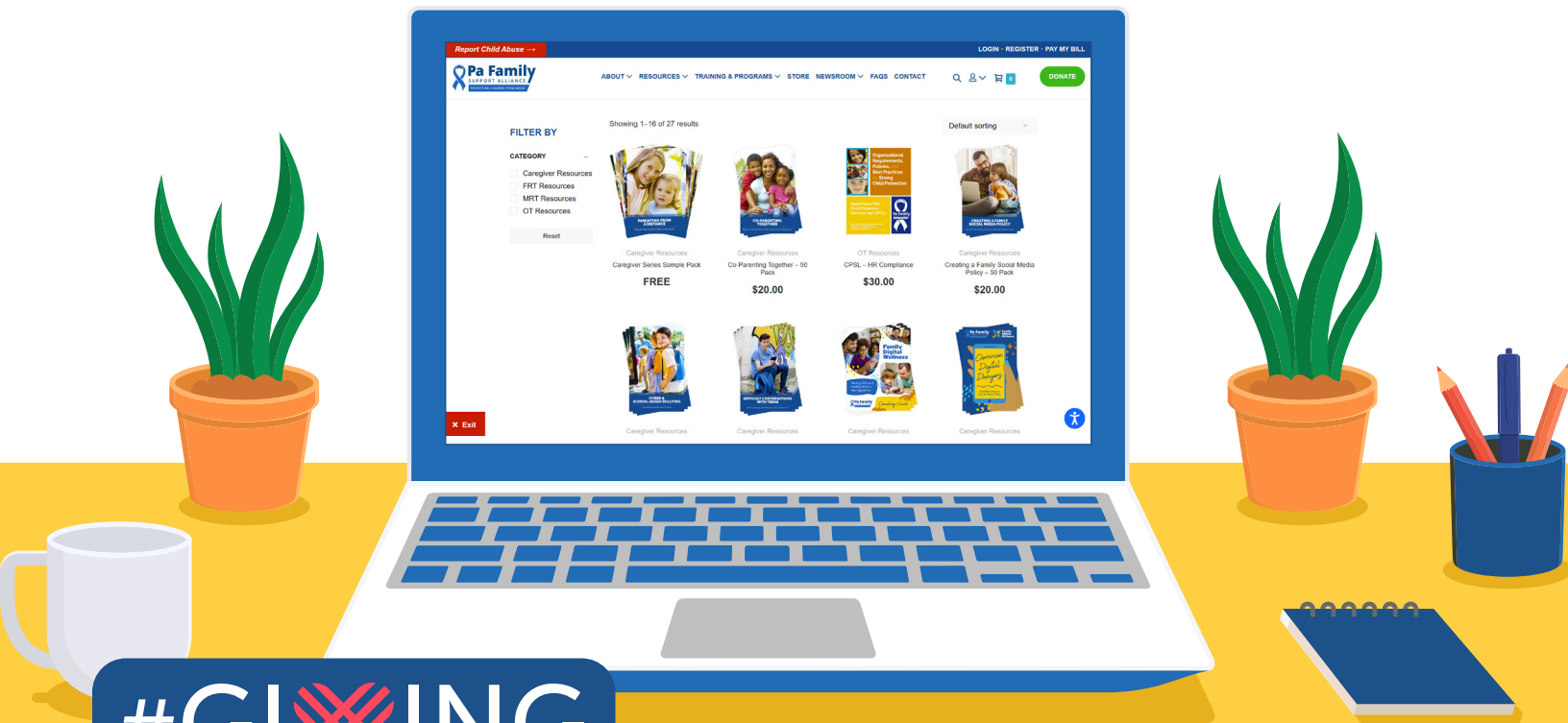
All CBCAP Network members receive benefits from PFSA, such as parenting and caregiver resources, educational materials, professional development opportunities for staff, discounts on training and materials, and much more.

If you are looking to join a network committed to preventing child abuse, supporting families, and working toward a brighter future, consider PFSA's CBCAP Network.

To learn more about the CBCAP Network, the benefits, or how to sign up, contact PFSA's Prevention Services Manager, Justin Donofrio, at jdonofrio@pafsa.org.

Visit Our Online Store!

PFSA has educational resources available in our online store. You can find informative materials covering a wide range of topics designed to assist caregivers, parents, and professionals in an effort to protect children. Please visit [our website](#) to learn more!



#GIVING TUESDAY

On November 28, PFSA is proud to participate in #GivingTuesday.

This day of giving invites you to give back and create change in your community. Together, we can continue to make a difference by keeping PA safe for all children! We are grateful to you and for you! Your support on **#GivingTuesday**, and every day, allows us to fulfill our mission to **#ProtectPAKids**. You can donate through our website at pafsa.org/donate.



UPCOMING PFSA TRAININGS

Families in Recovery New Facilitator Training

This research-based program is a great resource for parents, guardians, and caretakers recovering from substance use disorder. The program aims to teach healthy coping and parenting skills while balancing the needs of recovery.

New facilitators of the Families in Recovery (FiR) program will be fully prepared to implement the program and provide training after attending a two-day comprehensive session consisting of content, education, and application instruction of the curriculum. FiR facilitators come together to share program implementation experience, ideas, and insights following initial training.

All organizations interested in implementing the Families in Recovery program are required to enter an agreement contract with PFSA and participate in the evaluation requirements of the program. FiR contracts include ongoing technical assistance, program development, facilitator calls, and assistance with data collection procedures.

Dates: January 23 & 24, 2024 (*virtual*)

Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
(*half-hour lunch break*)

Cost: Email Justin Donofrio, Prevention Services Manager, at jdonofrio@pafsa.org for the paperwork or to ask any questions.

Stay up to date on ways to help stop child abuse, learn more about our staff, and gain knowledge on prevention topics by reading at pafsa.org/blog.

Mandated Reporter Training

PFSA has several options for mandated reporter training for staff and volunteers. Certificates are provided to the participants, and, upon request, we will upload confirmation of your training to the Departments of State or Education for CE fulfillments under Act 31 and/or Act 48. CLEs are also available for attorneys.

LIVE IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL

Cost: Free

How to register: Find and register for a virtual session here: pafsa.org/mandated-reporter-training

INDIVIDUAL ONLINE, ON-DEMAND

Cost: \$30

Take anytime: pafsa.org/on-demand-online-training

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

This is an opportunity for organizations to develop their own quality, cost-efficient, in-house training program for employees on child abuse recognition and reporting.

Dates: January 17 & 18, 2024 (*virtual*)
April 16 & 17, 2024 (*virtual*)

Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
(*half-hour lunch break*)

Cost: \$1,000 per trainer, entering into a three-year contract with PFSA. Email Haven Evans, Director of Programs, at hevans@pafsa.org for the paperwork or to ask any questions.