



KINSHIP CAREGIVER PROGRAM

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Hillside's Kinship Caregiver program provides intensive support services to kinship families with legal custody or an informal care arrangement of youth in the home. The program's design is based on the unique needs of kinship families with a goal to support and strengthen families, promote permanency and ensure the well-being of kinship children. This program serves families with informal or legal custody of a child(ren) between the ages of 0-18, free of charge. Services are provided by experienced kinship parents and other kinship professionals. We understand the challenges that may be experienced among grandparents, relatives or any non-parent caregiver, and the struggles they may face to connect with needed resources.

Participating families will be connected to a Permanency Specialist who will provide **one to one** support to help caregivers identify tools to manage challenging youth behaviors, navigate legal, school and mental health systems, secure community resources and connect with other kinship families through support groups and recreational activities.

Services include:

- Information and assistance with referrals to community based services
- 24/7 access to phone-based Hillside crisis management services
- Individual advocacy and one to one case management support
- Monthly caregiver and youth support groups
- Family-focused social/recreational activities
- Caregiver education groups and trauma-informed trainings
- Parenting A Second Time Around (PASTA) workshops

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Kinship families who have legal or informal custody of a child or children in their home are eligible for free services. Families must reside in Monroe or Erie Counties.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Program Manager:** Beth Harrington, 315-459-1606 or bharring@hillside.com

FACILITY

Based on the needs of participating families, Permanency Specialists will meet with families in the community, in their homes and at Hillside office locations. We make every effort to coordinate convenient times and places to meet with caregivers and youth. Support groups, workshops and family activities are offered virtually, at easily accessible community venues or Hillside locations.

SUPPORTED BY: This program is funded by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).

OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF: This program is available to eligible residents of Monroe and Erie counties.