



April 2020

Dear {!Contact.FirstName},

During these difficult times, the spread of COVID-19, or coronavirus disease 2019, is a significant concern. On February 3rd, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services activated the Community Health Emergency Coordination Center and is working closely with local health and medical providers. On March 10th, Governor Whitmer declared a state of emergency after two cases were confirmed in Michigan. Starting March 16th, all schools were closed. And, now, Michigan has over 30,000 confirmed coronavirus cases and is under a Stay Home, Stay Safe order.

It's important that we have accurate and up-to-date information to help mitigate the spread of the disease. The State of Michigan has a [website](#) with information for residents and communities, along with resources for service providers. You can also subscribe to news updates from this website. Another website to check out is the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), which has [specific information for older adults](#) who are at higher risk for COVID-19. Generations United also created a [fact sheet specifically for grand families and multigenerational families](#).

The Kinship Care Resource Center remains open and available to assist caregivers and service providers by phone and email. Please do not hesitate to reach out at 800-535-1218 or kinship@msu.edu.

Legislative Update: Kinship Navigator and Advisory Council Bills Pass the House

On March 10th, with overwhelming bipartisan support, the Michigan House of Representatives passed [House Bill 5443](#) and [House Bill 5444](#) sponsored by state Representatives Kathy Crawford (R-Novi) and Frank Liberati (D-Allen Park) to create a Kinship Care Advisory Council and Kinship Navigator program. The bills have been sent to the Senate Committee

Essential Workers: Childcare Resources

Are you an essential worker in need of childcare? You can sign-up to find available childcare on this [website](#) by completing the Essential Worker Child Care Intake.

Also, through our Respite Care program, the Kinship Care Resource Center might be able to help cover some of the cost of childcare for eligible essential workers. The program is a resource for full-time,

on Families, Seniors, and Veterans where there will be a similar legislative process.

Support for Unlicensed Relatives

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced the availability of Unlicensed Relative Funds, which are intended to help with safety concerns in a home. If you are either a current relative caregiver who is not licensed for foster care or a relative being considered for placement of a relative through the foster care systems and concerns were identified during a foster care safety screen or home study, then you may be eligible for assistance. These funds can pay for things, like:

- Egress windows;
- Home repair/structural concerns;
- Mold remediation;
- Well and septic;
- Appliances and appliance repair;
- Car seats;
- Cribs and beds;
- Plumbing; or,
- Extermination service.

Families should work with their caseworkers to apply for funds.

Caregiver Parenting Resource – Teens & Sleep

We all know how important sleep is for growing children to stay awake, pay attention and do well in school. A [recent MSU study](#) found that a good night's sleep can do even more good for teens than we thought. The researchers found that getting enough sleep helped teenagers manage stress. The results showed that teens who had adequate sleep were able to problem-solve more effectively, seek out peer support and cope with discrimination related to ethnic or racial bias.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has resources for parents with children of all ages to help establish good bedtime routines, address sleep problems and practice safe sleep. [Check it out!](#)

kinship caregivers age 55 and older who reside in Clinton, Eaton, Ingham and Washtenaw counties.

Please contact the Kinship Care Resource Center at 1-800-535-1218 or kinship@msu.edu to see if you are eligible.

In Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties, the program is funded by the Federal Older Americans Act grant provided to the Tri-County Office on Aging.

The Area Agency on Aging Region 1-B provides funding support for Washtenaw County, a new service area beginning on January 1, 2020.

Project Connect: Calling Grandmothers Raising Kids Ages 12-18

Project Connect is a nationwide effort to improve the health and well-being of grandmothers who are raising their grandchildren between the ages of 12-18. Participation in the study is to help learn how online programs can help provide information and skills. There are incentives for participating, like a tablet, monetary payments and raffle drawings.

For more information, please see the attached brochure. Caregivers and service providers can also contact Project Connect at 855-260-2433 or kusprojectconnect@gmail.com.

Kinship Care in the News

Bridge Magazine featured kinship

Calling All Kinship Support Groups!

To increase caregiver access to kinship support group meetings, the [Kinship Care Resource Center website](#) includes a [calendar and contact information](#) for support group meetings across the state.

If your meeting or contact information needs to be updated or if your group information is missing, please send an email to kinship@msu.edu.

caregivers' experiences and the legislative action that aims to help:

- [For weary Michigan seniors, a retirement in name only.](#)
- [More Michigan grandparents are raising grandkids. Two bills may help them.](#)

[GRAND Magazine](#) is a free, online magazine with a mission to provide grandparents of all ages and in all stages of life, information and inspiration. The website includes a section with articles and information dedicated to [Grandparent Rights](#) and [Raising Grandchildren](#).

1-800-535-1218

kinship@msu.edu

www.kinship.msu.edu



Email kinship@msu.edu to subscribe to Kinnections



Funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services