



Wilder
Research



Minnesota Kinship Navigator Project

*Family Connections Discretionary Grants
ACF-OGM SF-PPR, Attachment B,
Performance Narrative*



**Reporting period: October 2011 – March 2012
(contains cumulative data from October 2009 –
March 2012)**

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cumulative data from October 2009 – March 2012)**

Grantee name:

Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association

Grantee number:

93605

Submitted by:

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Summary

The Minnesota Kinship Navigator Project addresses the needs of relative caregivers to support successful caregiving outside the formal child welfare system. Services offered include: information and referral, support groups, one-to-one services by trained caregivers, general advocacy and public awareness, and training and education for caregivers and professionals.

Goals of the Minnesota Kinship Navigator Project are to enhance the safety, well-being, and stability of children at risk of formal non-relative placement by supporting kinship care and (when possible) family reunification.

Although the project is led by the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association (located in the Twin Cities), the Minnesota Kinship Navigator Project utilizes a network of regional centers located across Minnesota to serve kinship families. These regional centers, called RAPs (Relatives as Parents) are located within local non-profit organizations, and include:

- AEOA-ROCK RAP Program (Northeast Minnesota)
- Mahube Community Council, Inc. Child Care Resource & Referral, *Relatives As Parents* Program (Northwest Minnesota)
- Child Care Choices RAP Program (Central and Southwest Minnesota)
- Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Area Agency on Aging RAP Program (serving six northern American Indian reservations)
- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (serving all regions of Minnesota)

Over a year ago, the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association (MKCA) developed and implemented a new service delivery model to improve the quality and intensity of services and increase the number of caregivers served. This model, described in detail in Section B06 of the April-September 2010 semi-annual report, allows MKCA to establish new partnerships with additional agencies serving kinship families. Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association has entered into contract with two agencies:

- Inter-Tribal Elder Services, which facilitates a support group targeting American Indian kinship families, located in Minneapolis
- Grandparents Shaping Our Community, which facilitates a support group targeting African American kinship families, located in Minneapolis

B-01: Major activities and accomplishments during this reporting period

Over the past six months, the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association has undergone several significant changes in order to narrow the focus of their work and increase efficiencies in service delivery. Between October 2011 and March 2012, key accomplishments included:

- ***Expansion of Warmline.*** Since October 2011, MKCA has seen a steady increase in the number of callers to the Warmline. In order to meet the needs of callers, MKCA recruited interns and volunteers and developed a set of training materials to assure a standard, high level of service from those who answer the phones. Everyone coming on board is required to complete a 20-30 hour training with the Kinship Navigator Coordinator, Janet Salo.
- ***Revised legal information.*** MKCA has also benefitted from the services of three legal interns, is revising the Legal Steps manual, and is developing an online legal flowchart that can be accessed and completed by a relative caregiver. An intern studying computer science helped to make this tool available electronically.
- ***Continued informational meetings.*** In October, 2011 MKCA held its fourth in a series of Perspectives Breakfasts. The topic was "Creative County Approaches to Child Welfare," which focused on an approach being used in Minnesota to effectively serve families involved with the child protection system (known as "Sign of Safety").
- ***Expansion of the Caregiver Support Specialist Program.*** The Caregiver Support Specialist Program continued to expand over the past six months, with the number of caregivers served with this 1-to-1 support increasing to 28. Monthly meetings were held with Caregiver Support Specialists to debrief each caregiver's situation and to explore what was working and not working about a "mentor" service to relative caregivers.
- ***Continued program evaluation.*** Using a list of caregivers in the MKCA database, Wilder Research and MKCA worked together to conduct a web survey with 131 relative caregivers of the 692 who had email addresses available and were served over the prior year. Information from the survey helped MKCA to understand what services were of help to caregivers and gather some initial feedback about outcomes. MKCA used the information to think about conducting follow-up calls to identify milestones and to discover if there were other needs they could help address. Through the help of interns and volunteers, the project has been able to provide phone follow-up and support to over 75 caregivers. Results of the Milestone tracking form are reported in Section B-05.

Participants served

Between October 2011 and March 2012, the Minnesota Kinship Navigator Project served **514** caregivers through the five regional partners and the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association. Of these, **309** were new contacts (intakes) between October 2011 and March 2012. In addition to caregivers, the project provided information and referral to **80** other persons and professionals who had questions related to relative caregiving.

To date the project has conducted intakes with **1,238** caregivers and **366** other persons and professionals who had questions related to relative caregiving.

A full description of participants is included in Section B-05 “Evaluation Activities.”

One-to-one services provided

The Minnesota Kinship Caregiver Association and its regional partners provide direct one-to-one support for kinship caregivers and professionals primarily through a telephone Warmline. On average, staff spent **29** minutes on the phone per caregiver – showing the length of time it takes to address questions and concerns.

As needed, staff are also available by email and for in-person visits. Figure 1 shows the number of contacts made by type of contact. This figure does not include contacts made with non-caregivers/professionals.

1. Type of contact with caregivers, October 2011 – March 2012

N=552	Number	Percent
Phone	362	66%
In-person	31	6%
Email	149	27%
Other (Web, Facebook)	20	4%

Program staff kept records of the reasons for each caregiver contact, as well as the services and referrals they offer the caregiver (Figures 2 and 3).

2. Reason for contact, October 2011 – March 2012

N=552	Number	Percent
(Check all that apply)		
Questions about custody, adoption, or guardianship	305	55%
Financial support/eligibility for benefits	106	19%
Emotional support	176	32%
Other basic needs	17	3%
Other legal support	45	8%
Mental health/behavior of child	19	3%
Education needs of child	7	1%
Child care	7	1%
Physical health of caregiver	13	2%
Physical health of child	12	2%
Other ^a	210	38%

^a "Other" includes contacts made to clients from program staff to follow up, requests for the Legal Steps manual, newsletter requests, etc.

3. Services and referrals, October 2011 – March 2012

N=552	Number	Percent
Services provided directly by program staff or volunteers (Check all that apply)		
Resource referral	197	36%
Emotional support	245	44%
Legal Steps resource manual/DVD	249	45%
Support group referral	31	6%
Legal advocacy	19	3%
Developed a care plan	57	10%
Conducted a formal assessment	64	12%
Mentor program referral	6	1%
Training referral	1	<1%
Other ^a	69	13%

Referrals made to outside programs or services

(Check all that apply)

Legal referral	58	11%
Financial support/MFIP(TANF)	14	3%
Other RAP/project partner	18	3%
Basic needs	5	<1%
Respite	1	<1%
Medical Assistance	6	1%
Mediation	2	<1%
Mental health/counseling	10	2%
County social services	25	5%
Child care	2	<1%
Education Services	4	1%
Medical referral	5	1%
Other ^b	40	7%

^a "Other" includes sending newsletters, Delegation of Parental Authority (DOPA) form, and other information.

^b "Other" includes Reservation services, other government services, and community group referrals.

Support group activities

In addition to one-to-one services, the program offers regular support groups throughout Minnesota. Support groups are provided by the Relatives as Parents Regional partners and their subcontractors, Intertribal Elder Services, and the Grandparents Shaping our Community group of North Minneapolis. They are facilitated by program staff or trained volunteers. During this reporting period, 15 groups met a total of 51 times.

4. Support group activity

Period covered	Number of support groups	Number of meetings held	Number of unduplicated caregivers participating
October 2011 – March 2012*	15	51	105
To date: April 2010 – March 2012**	30	223	269

** This number may be an undercount because one of the contracted partners had staff turnover during this period, and there may be a lag time in submitting support group logs*

***Includes all support group logs submitted since formal data collection began in April 2010.*

Most support group sessions are unstructured, and provide an opportunity for participants to check in and discuss relevant issues related to their individual circumstances as kinship caregivers. However, occasionally support group facilitators invite guest speakers to present on a specific topic of interest to the group. Most support groups are located in greater Minnesota.

Children's activities

Some support groups offer children's programming while adults are meeting in group. One partner organization collaborates with other organizations in the community to offer special programs for children during some of these meetings. During this period, children's activities were offered on at least 33 different occasions.

5. Children's activities, October 2011 – March 2012

Description of activity	Frequency	Partner organizations	Number of children in attendance
Science Center staff lead children in education activities during adult support group	Monthly	Headwaters Science Center; Bemidji, MN	4-8
Children swim at the community center while adults meet for support group	Monthly	Staples Community Center; Staples, MN	5-8
Staff lead children in crafts, puzzles, and reading activities	Monthly	White Earth Child Care Program, White Earth Reservation	8-16
Staff work with children on crafts, reading, and outdoor activities	Bi-monthly	Grandparents Shaping Our Community, Minneapolis, MN	2-30
Staff work with children on crafts, puzzles, reading activities, and games	Once	Park Rapids RAP – children's group	5

Educational workshops or events

MKCA and partner staff also convene or participate in workshops or other events designed to educate and inform kinship caregivers and professionals who work with them. Most events are held in partnership with other community organizations which provide facilities, trainers, or other support. According to training attendance logs received, 89 unduplicated person attended 8 different trainings.

6. Educational workshops or events, October 2011 – March 2012

Title and location	Audience	In-kind support
Family Centered County Approaches, Eagan, MN	Kinship caregivers and professionals	Speakers provided their time as in-kind
Child with ADHD, LSS/Minneapolis	Grandparents/foster parents	Speakers provided their time as in-kind
Project Mura, UROC/Minneapolis	Grandparents	-
Computer skills, UROC/Minneapolis	Grandparents	-
NAMI Children's Mental Health, NAMI office	Grandparents	-
Computer, Minneapolis	Grandparents	-
Due Process, Urban League	Grandparents	-
Coffee & Conversation, Park Rapids	Kinship caregivers and their family, friends, and neighbor providers	Refreshments and speaker

Other community partnership activities

In addition to educational workshops and events, project staff build relationships and collaborate with other community organizations to further the work of the Minnesota Kinship Navigators Project. Figure 7 describes those activities.

7. Other community partnership activities, October 2011 – March 2012

Description of community partnership activity	Number of events/activities	Partner organizations
Strengthening Families of Incarcerated Parents	1	MN Departments of Corrections, Human Services, Education, and Public Safety; Initiative Foundation; Amicus; Council on Crime and Justice; Wilder Foundation; Volunteers of America
Participation in St. Cloud Area Thrive Coalition meetings, focused on infant and toddler mental health.	2	Sauk Rapids Early Childhood Family Education, mental health practitioners, public health professionals, county social workers, and early intervention staff.
Participation in monthly meetings of the Family Education Network to learn about and share family education opportunities in the area.	5	St Cloud Early Childhood Family Education, Resource Training and Solution, Big Brothers Big Sisters, TriCAP, Crisis Nursery, Catholic Charities, and Rasmussen College.
Participation in monthly meetings of local Child Abuse and Neglect Council.	5	Benton County Child Protection, Stearns County Child Protection, St. Cloud Hospital, Anna Maries (Domestic Abuse Shelter) YMCA, Crisis Nursery, Head Start, and Albany hospital.
Participation in monthly meetings of the Stearns County Transitions Task Force, a county advisory committee focused on homelessness, cash and child care assistance, and other social services.	3	Stearns County, TriCAP, Community Action, Recovery Plus, St. Cloud HRA, Mid Minnesota Family Practice, Place of Hope, and other professional community members.
Attendance at Stearns County Inside-Out Connections meeting, program for children of incarcerated parents.	4	St. Cloud School District, Crisis Nursery, Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, St. Cloud Reformatory, Benton County Jail, and Stearns County Jail.
Attendance at Wright County Inside-Out Connections meeting, program for children of incarcerated parents.	1	Wright County Public Health, Buffalo Early Childhood Family Action, Wright County Jail, and PATH Crisis Nursery.
Members of Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Advisory.	1	Arc Midstate, Public Health, and Centra Care
The We Care program, facilitated by grandparent Lorraine Smaller, has agreed to provide educational art and expression services for grandchildren	1	Oak Park Community Center
S. Mills agreed to serve as Child Development support for grandparent bi-monthly meeting, providing grandchildren with development and social engagement activities during the meetings	1	La Creche Early Childhood Development Center
Outreach to civic, health, and social organizations to raise awareness of the professional/cultural support needed by grandparents raising grandchildren	1	MN Chapter of Black Social Workers, MN Chapter of Black Nurses, University of MN Law School, Legal Rights Center
Northside Residents Redevelopment Council and University Research Center have supported grandparents, acting as fiscal host and providing meeting space	1	University of MN Family Education Center, University of MN Children's Mental Health

B-02: Problems

Problems identified during the six month period were mainly related to program efforts at sustainability.

- **Funding.** For MKCA, a primary struggle over this reporting period has been to raise the required cash match for the federal grant. MKCA staff have made considerable efforts to seek funding from other sources. However, due in part to economic conditions, philanthropic restrictions, the small size of the agency and limited financial infrastructure, and the fact that the impact of the federal grant on program development is just now being realized, there may be considerable issues in reaching a cash match. One option is for MKCA to subcontract with one of the existing partner agencies (RAPs) to provide the Navigator warm-line services and continue the efforts that have already been developed (such as the website and the Legal Steps Manual). This would result in the ability to continue services until the Navigator grant ends in September 2012. It may also allow enough time to find funding for sustainability after the grant ends.

In addition, the partner organizations (RAPs) are facing challenges searching for funding to continue their programs, once the contract with MKCA ends.

- **Consistent participation and recruiting new families at some partner sites.** Although MKCA, the primary site, has continued to increase the number of families served, a few of the partner agency sites have reported that they struggle with consistent participation, particularly in children's programming. This may be due, in part, to children having other available activities at these sites.

B-03: Significant findings and events

The follow-up interview outcome evaluation is still in data collection phase, so there currently are few significant findings to report, beyond the baseline interviews reported in Section B-05. However, it is known that the project has served a large number of caregivers during this reporting period through one-to-one support, support groups, workshops, and community events. In addition to considerable work on the direct service side, the project has developed its organizational infrastructure to support the work of the federal Kinship Navigator grant and its evaluations. These activities are reported in other sections of this report.

- During this reporting period, the Minnesota Kinship Navigator Project served **514** caregivers through the five regional partners and the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association. Of these, **309** were new contacts. Most caregivers contacting the kinship program were seeking information about custody, adoption or guardianship (55%) and/or emotional support (32%).
- As mentioned previously in this report, one community forum/training was held for kinship caregivers and professionals. It involved a unique and effective approach, “Signs of Safety,” used by county child protection staff with high-risk families.
- In November 2011, Wilder Research worked with MKCA to conduct a web survey to quickly gather feedback from caregivers to be used in program development efforts. The following is a summary of key findings (N=131):
 - Two-thirds (66%) of the caregivers surveyed are grandparents or step-grandparents to the children in their care.
 - Over seven in ten (73%) caregivers have contacted the MKCA by email or phone, and another 12% are interested in this service.
 - Caregivers are most likely to receive information from MKCA about kinship caregiving (84% received), the Legal Steps manual (69%), or the name and contact information service or program, support group, or training (51%).
 - A large majority is satisfied with the information and support provided to them by MKCA, with 31% saying they are satisfied and twice as many saying they are very satisfied (62%).
 - A plurality of caregivers (44%) says that they have noticed changes in their family or kinship parenting because of the information, support, and referrals provided by MKCA.

- Only 19% of caregivers have participated in a kinship parent or grandparent support group; however, out of those who have participated, 84% said they felt that attending a support group has helped in parenting, or made them feel more prepared to parent, their kinship child; 76% said that attending a support group has helped them find needed resources; and, overall, caregivers are satisfied with the information and support provided to them in the groups.
- Three-quarters (75%) of caregivers have visited the MKCA website and satisfaction is high among those who have visited. Nearly half (49%) say they are satisfied with the information provided, and 37% are very satisfied.
- Email (83%) is the clearly preferred method of receiving information from MKCA, with regular mail (47%) being the second choice.
- Evaluators have completed baseline interviews with 225 caregivers, including 36 control group families. To date, Wilder Research has conducted 9-month follow-up interviews with 111 of these 225 caregivers (98 project participants and 13 comparison group participants). It is expected that the information from the baseline and follow-up interviews will contribute to the knowledgebase about providing services for informal kinship families.

B-04: Dissemination activities

The email addresses for the Family Connections project contact person, Carla Jacobson, is: director@mkca.org

The website for the project is: <http://www.mkca.org>

The websites for the partner agencies are:

www.aeo.org

www.childcarechoices.net

www.mahube.org

www.mnchippewatribe.org

www.itelderservices.org

www.lssmn.org/grandfamilies/default.htm

Current dissemination activities

Over the past six months, the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association has conducted a variety of dissemination activities to reach more caregivers and professionals. Figure 8 summarizes the dissemination activities that have occurred over the past six months. To date, none of these materials or activities has been shared with the Kinship Navigator Family Connections grantee cluster. However, program management and staff are generally willing to share any materials with others in the cluster if requested.

8. Current dissemination activities, October 2011 – March 2012

Product or activity	Number of products/ activities	Target audience	Number reached	Goal of strategy	Result
Group presentations	17	Caregivers and professionals	933	Expand network of professionals working on issues related to kinship caregiving, educate professionals about grant activities and resources, and reach local caregivers to provide them with information and referrals	Educated professionals about caregiver issues and available services
Published newsletters (email and mail)	14	Caregivers and professionals	8,000+	Expand network of professionals working on issues related to kinship caregiving, educate professionals about grant activities and resources, and reach local caregivers to provide them with information and referrals	Informed caregivers and professionals about caregiver issues, such as support groups, social/emotional development, and tips for caregivers of children with incarcerated parents
Conducted one-to-one outreach to professionals	7	Professionals	20	Expand network of professionals working on issues related to kinship caregiving, educate professionals about grant activities and resources, and reach local caregivers to provide them with information and referrals	Formed partnership resulting in recommendations for new member caregivers
Presented informational displays at fairs and conferences	1	Caregivers and professionals	100	Expand network of professionals working on issues related to kinship caregiving, educate professionals about grant activities and resources, and reach local caregivers to provide them with information and referrals	Educated professionals about caregiver issues and available services

Media coverage

As part of the evaluation, the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association and regional partners (RAPs) are also asked to record media coverage of their agency or program. Over the past six months, Kinship Navigator services or activities were mentioned 41 times in local newspapers and 200 times on local radio and television. They are also linked to at least 13 other websites; and were mentioned in various other publications such as foster care newsletters, school newsletters, and regional magazines.

9. Media coverage, October 2011 – March 2012

	Number of mentions	Name of publication/media	Brief description of coverage
Newspaper	41	Pine City Pioneer Advertiser, the Scotsman (Mora), Kanabec County Times, Mesabi Daily News, Manney's Shopper, Duluth Budgeteer, Mille Lacs Messenger, and St. Cloud Times.	General marketing for programs, support groups, and special events.
Radio/ Television	200	Radio: KBEK (Kanabec County), WJON (St. Cloud), and WCMP (East Central Minnesota and Northwest Wisconsin). Television: Charter Channel 12 (St. Cloud public access channel).	General marketing for support groups and other program services. Interviews with program staff on specific events.
Web/Online Coverage	15	United Way 211, mnhelp.info, aarp.org, mnadopt.org, mncourts.gov, mnmentalhealth.org, tcaging.org, aecf.org, macmh.org, nacac.org, ifapa.org, mnbar.org, and anokajudicare.org	Websites include program descriptions and contact information.
Billboards	1	Mora, Minnesota	General program coverage
Other coverage	3	Wright County Foster Care Newsletter, Stearns Inside-Out Connections "Who You Gonna Call" Card, and United Way "Be the Best Parent" flyer.	General information about services and how to contact program for support.

Referral source

As part of the intake process, participants who contact the Minnesota Kinship Caregiver Association or a RAP regional partner are asked how they learned about the organization. This information is useful to understand the reach and impact of dissemination activities. There was a significant increase in the number of new participants who found out about the project from the website. Figure 10 shows the referral source for participants served during this reporting period.

10. Caregiver referral source, new contacts October 2011 – March 2012 (N=297)

Caregiver could give more than one response	Number	Percent
Brochure or newsletter	4	1%
County social services	31	10%
Community organization/group	28	9%
Friend/family member	25	8%
Website	136	46%
Other	48	16%

Future dissemination activities

MKCA is recognized as a statewide resource for information about and needs of relative caregiving families. As part of their new service delivery model, MKCA has designed a variety of opportunities for both caregivers and professionals to learn about relative caregiving. However, during the next period, the focus of the project will be on direct caregiver programming and fundraising efforts related to future sustainability of the federal Navigator grant, therefore planned dissemination activities will be cut back.

11. Future dissemination activities

Task	Deadline/Priority	Outcome(s) Desired
Develop more caregiver training	Next six months	A partner organization would like to be able to make connections with more caregivers in the Sherburne County area
Presentations at community fairs and events	Next six months	Partner organizations would like to continue outreach, reconnect with agencies to raise awareness of programs, distribute brochures
Group recreational gathering	April 21, 2012	Provide caregivers and their families an opportunity for fun and relaxation; provide information to families and hear a speech from John Hays, from the Adoption Support Network
Network and forge collaborations with other community organizations	Next six months	We have begun to reach seniors and grandchildren through churches, the Urban League, and the Minneapolis Senior Housing-Heritage Place

B-05: Other activities

Besides evaluation activities, there were no other significant activities not reported in other sections of the performance narrative document.

Funding Recipient: Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association

Grant #: 93605

Program Name: Minnesota Kinship Navigator Project

City and State: Saint Paul, Minnesota

Reporting Period: October 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012 (contains cumulative data from October 2009 – March 2012)

Evaluation progress and modifications

1. Evaluation planning

Wilder Research staff worked in partnership with Minnesota Kinship Navigator staff to continue to plan and implement evaluation activities during this period. This included monthly meetings between Wilder Research and MKCA staff, and multiple phone and email contacts with partner agency staff. In addition, Wilder Research communicates with partner agencies through the project's Wiki site.

Wilder Research and MKCA staff continued with the random assignment day method, where one day each week all new callers requesting services are asked to participate in the control group and then referred to their county social service department for services. MKCA has continued with this method despite the difficulty of not providing services to callers on the randomly selected day. Researchers and MKCA staff have also worked together to design and plan for the follow-up interviews to be conducted with “intervention” and “control group” respondents during this reporting period.

Finally, MKCA was looking for some more immediate feedback about their services (the results of the initial follow-up interviews will not be available until the final reporting period). To gather this feedback, Wilder and MKCA developed a web-based survey that was conducted with caregivers for which the project has email contact information. This survey was conducted at the end of November 2011; 131 caregivers participated in the web survey. A summary of the results are reported in Section B-03: Significant Findings.

Finally, during this period, there have been multiple Wilder internal planning meetings to discuss modifications to the 9-month follow-up interview which was field-tested and finalized during this period.

2. Evaluation goals, questions, and outcomes of interest

The goals, questions, and outcomes of interest have not changed since previous reports. Because outcome data will not be available until the final reporting period, MKCA and Wilder Research designed a brief web-survey to gather feedback from caregivers served by the project.

3. Evaluation design

As mentioned above, Wilder Research has moved to a random assignment model for creating a control group of participants for the telephone follow-up study. This involves random assignment of participants at the first contact with the project. Because of changes in the project model, and their potential impact on the evaluation, baseline telephone interviews were initially postponed until December 2010 with a “pilot” group of families (in order to test the instrument). Full implementation of baseline interviews began in January 2011 with the first set of follow-up interviews were completed in December 2011. To date 111 follow-up interviews have completed (out of 225 baseline interviews). It is anticipated that baseline interviews will be matched with follow-up interviews to see if there have been any changes over time.

One limitation is the size of the control group. There were 36 completed baseline interviews. Researchers are pleased with the baseline analysis which shows that the intervention group answered the baseline survey with very similar patterns as the control group.

Outcomes measured through interviews

The following child and caregiver outcomes are included in the interview: child protection involvement, basic needs, employment, use of MFIP child-only grant, risk and protective factors, family needs, child well-being, kinship caregiver-child relationship, and others. During the follow-up interview, intervention group participants are also asked to provide feedback about the impact of the services they received from the program.

4. Evaluation participants

As noted above, random assignment to a control group continued during this period. These caregivers are not served by the project, and instead are referred to their county social service agency. A new group of control group participants was extracted from the

population of caregivers who visited the MKCA website for a “Legal Steps” manual and agreed to be a part of the study but who otherwise received no other services. After the completion of the 9-month follow-up interview, these families will be eligible to receive project services.

5. Primary and secondary data sources

Wilder Research worked with MKCA to design a web-based (Survey Monkey) survey of caregivers to find out more about their satisfaction with program services to date. This survey was administered in November 2011.

In addition, Wilder Research staff designed a follow-up interview to be conducted with caregivers at approximately 9-months after the baseline interview (which is conducted within one month of first contact). This includes caregivers who are served by the project as well as a randomly selected control group.

6. Changes to data collection procedures

During this period, Wilder Research staff finalized the 9-month follow-up caregiver telephone interview. This instrument development took longer than anticipated. The follow-up interviews began in November 2011. To date, 111 interviews have been completed. These interviews will be matched with the baseline interviews conducted with the intervention and control group sample to measure changes over time.

In addition, Wilder Research staff worked with MKCA to address issues related to missing data. MKCA staff reviewed numerous intake forms and followed up with program staff to ensure that forms were as complete as possible. The procedure was changed as of January 1st, so that MKCA staff received all forms from partner agencies (RAPs) and reviewed them for completeness before sending them to Wilder Research.

7. Data analysis

This report includes the most extensive analysis of data collected to date, and includes results of all 225 baseline interviews that have been completed as part of this study. Questions were recoded so that most responses could be analyzed for statistically significant differences using a 2x2 table (chi square). There were no other data analysis changes during this time period.

8. Reporting and dissemination: *No changes at this time.*

Process evaluation

1. Participant Unit(s) of Analysis

At this time, there are two groups of participants served by the Minnesota Kinship Navigator project who are included in the evaluation. These include kinship caregivers and children of kinship caregivers who participate in grant-funded activities.

This evaluation also includes interviews with a control group of families. These families represent a third unit of analysis. To date, 36 control group families have been interviewed at baseline. This report includes results of the baseline interviews conducted with 189 “served” families and 36 control group families (baseline interviews were conducted through December 2011 for intervention families and through January 2012 for control group families). Currently, Wilder Research is conducting 9-month follow-up interviews with those families, in each group, who completed baseline interviews.

2. Number of Participants Served

In February 2010, project staff were asked to begin completing intake and contact logs on each caregiver served through project activities, including a short intake log completed by caregivers participating in support groups only. Therefore, the numbers below do not account for persons served before data collection forms were implemented, if they did not participate in activities at a later date. Also, there was some ramp-up time needed for project staff to fully implement the data collection procedures. In addition, information about number of children participating in activities was included in a one-time report completed by MKCA and partner agency staff in April 2010.

12. Participants served, October 2009-March 2012

Timeframe	Kinship caregivers	Children	Total
October 2009 to September 2010 (1 year)	472	181*	653
October 2010 to March 2011 (6 months)	452	25	477
April 2010 to September 2011 (6 months)	457	67	524
October 2011 to March 2012 (6 months)	514	113	627
Total (unduplicated)	1,376	307*	1,683

** This is the number of children reported served from October 1, 2009-March 31, 2010. Data collection procedures were recently put in place to record unduplicated number of children served for subsequent reports. The number of children served is likely underreported.*

3. Demographics

Because data collection systems were being implemented during year 1, not all participants have complete demographic information available. Records show that 1,376 caregivers were served by the project to date. Since February 2010, 1,238 caregivers had completed intake forms (90%).

Some of these caregivers may be participating in training or other activities in which an intake form is not completed unless further services are provided.

It should also be noted that there are two versions of the Intake form: one that includes more extensive information that is completed by staff, and one that is a shorter version designed to be completed as a self-administered questionnaire with caregivers who participate in support groups-only or other less intensive in-person services. Therefore, information included in the tables below are based on 1,084 staff-completed intake forms (more information) and 154 caregiver self-administered questionnaires (less information).

Kinship Navigator: Caregiver Level

We are unable to provide some of the requested items under this section because we did not ask for it on our intake forms. (Forms were designed before this reporting template was rolled out). For this reason, the following are not included in the table¹:

- Marital Status
- Education level
- Employment status
- Primary language
- Primary reason for assuming care
- Number currently receiving kinship guardianship assistance payments

¹ These items were asked in the baseline telephone interviews with “served” and control group caregivers. The analysis of baseline interviews conducted to date is included in the final section of the report.

13. Demographics of caregivers at first contact, October 2009 – March 2012

First contact October 2009 – March 2012		
	Number	Percent
Age	(N=810)	
18-40 years old	155	19%
41-54 years old	305	38%
55-79 years old	349	43%
80 and over	1	>1%
Mean age	51 years old	
Gender	(N=1,211)	
Female	1022	84%
Male	189	16%
Racial background	(N=976)	
White	598	61%
American Indian	133	14%
African American/African Native	138	14%
Asian American	10	1%
Multiracial	19	2%
Other	17	2%
Unknown	61	6%
Hispanic/Latino (any race)	17	2%
Referral source	(N=1,084)	
Friend/family member	157	15%
Brochure/newsletter	89	8%
Website	345	32%
Community organization/group	93	9%
County social services	128	12%
Other (coded below)	220	20%
Newspaper	11	1%
Court system/attorney	53	5%
United Way First Call for Help/help line	16	1%
Conference/event	21	2%
County (not social services)	35	3%
Doctor/mental health/social worker	18	2%
Other various referral sources	66	6%

**13. Demographics of caregivers at first contact, October 2009 – March 2012
(continued)**

Income	(N=717)	
Below \$20,000/year	255	36%
\$20-29,000/year	118	16%
\$30-39,000/year	87	12%
\$40-49,000/year	69	10%
\$50-59,000/year	52	7%
\$60-79,000/year	31	4%
\$80,000 or above/year	40	6%
Refused	65	10%
Income was reported to be below federal poverty line	179	25%
Relationship to child/children	(N=1,025)	
Grandparent	733	72%
Aunt/uncle	180	18%
Great grandparent	17	2%
Sibling	27	3%
Other relatives	20	2%
Family friend	24	2%
Other	31	3%
Type of kinship care arrangement	(N=1,238)	
Currently caring for kin	1,036	84%
Not currently, but recently had, or will soon be, caring for kin	202	16%
Number of kinship children in the home	(N=805)	
1 child	483	60%
2 children	204	25%
3 children	65	8%
4 children	32	4%
5 or more children	20	2%
Mean	1.6	

14. Caregiver legal status in relation to the child at first contact, October 2009 – March 2012

	First contact October 2009 – March 2012	
Caregivers legal status in relation to the child	(N=1,016)	
Caregiver has permanent legal custody	218	21%
Children placed in the home due to involvement of County or Tribe	51	5%
Children in home through other documented legal arrangements	97	10%
Children living with caregiver without legal documentation	281	28%
Other (coded below)	303	30%
Children living with caregiver: combination of custody arrangements for multiple children	6	<1%
Child and child's parents living with caregiver	20	2%
Child living part-time with caregiver and part-time with others	12	1%
Caregiver has temporary legal custody (DOPA)	24	2%
Caregiver has notarized paperwork signed by parents	6	<1%
Other various situations	235	23%

Source: Reports from Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association and five regional partner agencies.

Note: Project staff were asked to begin tracking this information in April 2010.

Kinship Navigator: Child Level

Of the information requested in this section, we are unable to provide some of the requested items, because we did not ask for it on our intake forms. (Forms were designed before this reporting template was rolled out). However, intake forms completed with caregivers provide some basic information about children of caregivers served through the project. Because children are not the primary direct recipient of services, the following are not included in the table:

- Gender (frequency)
- Race / Ethnicity (frequency)
- Number of siblings (average and frequency)

- Current involvement with the child welfare agency. (On this item, we asked if the child/children had been involved in the child protection system during the past 5 years.)
- Length of time in foster care

During a previous reporting period, Wilder Research designed a log that collects information about children attending project groups or other activities.

15. Demographics of kinship children of caregivers served, October 2009 – March 2012

	First contact October 2009 – March 2012	
	Number	Percent
Age	(N=1,028)	
Birth to 2 years old	143	14%
3 to 4 years old	195	19%
5 to 8 years old	251	24%
9 to 12 years old	219	21%
13 to 17 years old	209	20%
18 to 21 years old	11	1%
Length of time in relative's care	(N=885)	
Less than 6 months	232	26%
6 months to 2 years	238	27%
More than 2 years	415	47%
Children involved in child protection during past 5 years	(N=777)	
Yes	212	27%
No	484	62%
Unknown	81	10%
Children have special needs	(N=493)	
Yes	167	34%

4. Type of service by participant

16. Type of services provided, by participant served, October 2009-March 2012

Service	# Times Service Offered	Intended Service Recipient	# Receiving Service(s)					Total
			9/30/09 to 9/29/10*	9/30/10 to 3/31/11	4/1/11 to 9/29/11	9/30/11 to 3/31/12	4/1/12 to 9/29/12	
Information and referral/ or phone support	2,154*	Caregivers	339	387	332	389		1,084
1-to-1 support**	154	Caregivers	40	65	20	25		154
Support groups	223	Caregivers	168	128	89	105		269
Educational workshops or events	55	Caregivers	23	124	100	89		317
Children's activities (unduplicated)	57***	Kinship children	181***	25	67	113		307***
Total (unduplicated)	2,489		653	477	524	514		1,683

* Data collection systems for tracking contact and participant information were put in place in February 2010. Therefore, some of the information about the number of contacts and numbers of participants served may be underreported. In addition, data for the number of participants in educational workshops and events was first collected in the summer of 2010.

** Caregivers with four or more contacts during this period (these caregiver numbers are not included in the I&R numbers).

***Information about number of children participating in activities was included in a one-time report completed in April 2010. This did not include the number of events. During the previous period, researchers asked staff to begin tracking attendance at children's activities. Because these children's group attendance logs are new, we have information about 57 events that took place.

5. Collaboration Evaluation

No evaluation activities to report in this area at this time.

6. Outputs

Caregiver-level outputs

The following items (a-i) were requested in the instructions. For each item, we have responded about whether the information is available this period (in bold).

- a. # and % of caregivers that completed assessments: **See below, an assessment form was implemented during the previous period.**

- b. # and % of caregivers completing service/case plans: **See below, under types of service provider by Kinship Navigator to caregiver. An assessment was implemented during the previous period (see figure 8).**
- c. Number of kinship navigator contacts per caregiver: **see below.**
- d. Length of time kinship caregiver receives services from kinship navigator (i.e., # of days, weeks, etc.): **The program has not yet implemented criteria for closing cases or discontinuing services. Therefore, this information cannot be determined.**
- e. Mode of kinship navigator contact with caregiver: **see below.**
- f. Type of service provided by kinship navigator to caregiver: **see below.**
- g. # and types of services/supports caregivers are linked to: **see below.**
- h. # and % of caregivers completing applications for kinship guardianship assistance payments: **This information has not yet been collected, but will be collected in follow-up interviews and may be added to worker data collection forms.**
- i. Other. **Reason for contact: see below.**

The Minnesota Kinship Caregiver Association and its regional partners provide direct one-to-one support for kinship caregivers and professionals primarily through a telephone Warmline. Since the beginning of the grant, on average, staff spent **26** minutes on the phone per caregiver – showing the length of time it takes to address questions and concerns.

As needed, staff are also available by email and for in-person visits. Figure 6 shows the number of contacts made by type of contact. This figure does not include contacts made with non-caregivers/professionals.

17. Caregiver level outputs, types of contact, October 2009 – March 2012

	October 2009 – March 2012	
	Number	Percent
Number of kinship contacts per caregiver	(N=1,084)	
Number of contacts with caregiver	2,154	
Mean number of contacts per caregiver	2.0	
Mode of contacts with caregiver	(N=2,154)	
Phone	1,423	66%
Email	337	16%
In person	279	13%
Other (Website, Facebook)	79	4%
Missing/unknown	52	2%

On the Contact Log, staff are asked to code the services provided to the caregiver at the time of contact as well as the types of referrals that are made (Figure 18).

18. Caregiver level outputs, services provided at contact and types of referrals made, October 2009 – March 2012

	October 2009 – March 2012	
	Number	Percent
Services provided to caregiver at contact by project staff	(N=2,154)	
Emotional support	819	38%
Resource information/referral	813	38%
“Legal Steps” resource manual/DVD	772	36%
Legal information/advocacy	138	6%
Support group information/referral	181	8%
Mentor program information/referral	40	2%
Training information/referral	9	<1%
Developed a care plan	341	16%
Conducted a formal assessment	296	14%
Other	271	13%

***Caregiver could give more than one reason for contact.*

18. Caregiver level outputs, services provided at contact and types of referrals made, October 2009 – March 2012 (continued)

October 2009 – March 2012		
Types of support caregivers are linked to (referrals made)	(N=2,154)	
Legal referral	323	15%
Medical referral	37	2%
Respite	71	3%
Child care	34	2%
Basic needs	94	4%
Financial support/MFIP/TANF grant	136	6%
Mental health/counseling	72	3%
County social services	99	5%
Other RAP/Project Partner	113	5%
Medical Assistance	34	2%
Mediation	2	<1%
Education services	23	1%
Other	91	4%
Reason(s) for contact**	(N=2,154)	
Questions about custody, adoption, or guardianship	956	44%
Other legal support	213	10%
Emotional support	573	27%
Financial support/eligibility for benefits	400	19%
Other basic needs	153	7%
Mental health/behavior of child	105	5%
Physical health of child	64	3%
Physical health of caregiver	60	3%
Education needs of child	53	3%
Child care	39	2%
Other (coded, main reasons listed below)	709	33%
Event/field trip	155	9%
Project staff contacted caregiver to check-in	92	5%
Legal Steps Manual	202	9%

A year ago, project staff began to conduct a more formalized assessment of caregiver needs using a simple assessment developed by Wilder and MKCA staff. This assessment can be conducted at first contact, or if not appropriate, at a subsequent contact. Figure 19 shows the results of these assessments.

19. Assessments of caregiver needs, October 2009 – March 2012

	October 2009 – September 2010	October 2010 – March 2012	
		Number	Percent
Identified need	Form not collected during this period	N=380-477	
Caregiver has concerns about child's safety		161	34%
Caregiver has concerns about own safety		31	7%
Caregiver has concerns about family's safety		40	9%
Caregiver has concerns about meeting basic needs of family		145	32%
Children have behaviors that worry caregiver on a regular basis		147	32%
Children are attending or enrolled in school		321	72%
Children are receiving financial benefits		219	57%
Children have health insurance		324	82%
Caregiver has someone to talk to about their children		401	95%
Caregiver has someone to take care of children when they need a break		336	88%
Caregiver has questions about their legal rights to care for the child		286	61%
Caregiver has had problems in meeting the needs of the children in their care		72	17%

System-level outputs

The following items (a-i) were requested in the instructions. For each item, we have responded about whether the information is available this period (in bold).

- a. # of outreach activities conducted. **See below, may not include activities toward the beginning of the grant period.**
- b. estimated # of individuals reached through outreach activities. **See below, estimates.**

- c. # and purpose of incoming calls to kinship caregiver information line. **Number of calls is at least 1,423. See figure 6**
- d. **for reasons for contact.**
- e. # of visits to kinship caregiver website. **Not yet collected.**
- f. # of resource directories distributed. **Not collected.**
- g. # of community partners engaged in partnerships. **Formal partnerships with 5 RAPS and MKCA. In July 2010, a sixth partnership was established with Inter-tribal Elder Services. During the previous period, a seventh partnership was established with Grandparents Shaping our Community group of North Minneapolis. Also, the project collaborates with multiple other agencies described in the semi-annual report.**
- h. # of trainings/informational sessions conducted with community partners/service providers. **See below.**
- i. # of individuals attending trainings/informational sessions conducted with community partners. **See below.**
- j. Other

20. General outreach activities, October 2009 – March 2012

	Number of activities	Estimated number of persons reached
Group presentations/group outreach	108	4,545
Newsletter	49	21,500+
One-to-one outreach to professionals	104	120+

**There may be duplication in number of persons reached across semi-annual reporting periods.*

21. Media coverage, October 2009 – March 2012

	Number of mentions
Newspaper	172
Web/Online Coverage	55
Radio/ Television	776
Billboards	2
Other coverage	19

Outcome evaluation

Most of the listed caregiver-level or child-level outcomes will be reported when the follow-up telephone interviews are completed during the next reporting period. However, during the prior period, project staff began tracking “milestones” that were achieved by participants they had worked with. Milestones were collected for 39 clients served by the project and include:

Safety

- 18 participants reported that their kinship child(ren)’s safety had improved.
- 19 participants reported that their family’s safety had improved.
- 1 client reported that their (caregiver) safety had improved.

Permanency

- 19 participants reported that they had made a step toward permanency for their kinship child(ren)

Wellbeing

- 7 participants reported that their family had secured basic needs
- 7 participants reported that their kinship child(ren)’s behavior had improved
- 3 participants report their kinship child(ren) were now enrolled/attending school
- 11 families accessed financial benefits for their kinship children
- 9 families secured health insurance/coverage for their kinship children
- 4 participants report that they had expanded their network of support persons to help with kinship children
- 9 participants reported an improved ability to meet the needs of their kinship child(ren).

Besides the Milestone Tracking Form, most other outcomes will be collected by examining baseline versus matched follow-up interviews. Baseline interviews began in December 2010 for new participants to the project as well as selected control group caregivers. Figure 11 shows the number of completed baseline interviews by group.

22. Completed baseline interviews, December 2010-January 2012

Sample time	Intervention	Control	Total
Total eligible	291	66	357
Completed	189	36	225
Response rate to date	65%	55%	63%

Because of timing (baseline and follow-up telephone interviews and subsequent analysis), most outcome information cannot be reported until the end of year 3.

The following requested items are to be included in the follow-up interviews (a copy of the final version of the follow-up interview guide can be found in the Appendix).

Kinship Navigator: Caregiver Level

- a. # and % of caregivers who are connected to more services and supports
- b. # and % of caregivers who report increased utilization of services and supports
- c. # and % of caregivers who report increased income or additional financial resources
- d. # and % of caregivers who report a decrease in barriers to receiving services
- e. # and % of caregivers who report decreased family needs
- f. # and % of caregivers who report an improved ability/confidence in their ability to provide for their family's needs
- g. # and % of caregivers who obtain/take concrete steps to obtain legal guardianship for kinship child
- h. # and % of caregivers who report an increase in social support
- i. # and % of caregivers who report improved parenting skills/attitudes/decreases parenting stress
- j. # and % of caregivers who report improved health
- k. # and % of caregivers who report increased satisfaction with caregiving role
- l. # and % of caregivers who report improved/strengthened family relationships
- m. Other

Kinship Navigator: Child Level

- a. # and % of children who demonstrate improved behavior
- b. # and % of children who demonstrate improved health
- c. # and % of children who demonstrate an increase in well-being

- d. # of family connections maintained per child
- e. # and % of children who experience placement stability
- f. # and % of children who do not experience maltreatment or repeat maltreatment
- g. # and % of children maintained in caregivers' home
- h. # and % of children who do not enter or re-enter foster care
- e. # and % of children who exit foster care to:
 - i. reunification
 - ii. legal guardianship
 - iii. adoption
- f. Other

Results of baseline interviews

For this report, researchers conducted an analysis of baseline interviews conducted between December 2010 and January 2012. Examining the results of interviews conducted with the intervention and the control group of caregivers will help us determine the similarities and differences between the two groups at baseline. Program staff are also interested in learning more about the characteristics and needs of caregivers at baseline.

The following is information about the two groups at baseline. This analysis includes results of 225 interviews conducted between December 2010 and January 2012. Of these, 189 were conducted with intervention group caregivers (served) and 36 were conducted with control group caregivers. Because of the small number of control group caregivers interviewed, results should be interpreted with some caution.

Selected data tables are included below. Additional information from the baseline interviews can be found in the Appendix of this report.

Caregiver relationship to kinship children and length of care

- Most caregivers in both groups are grandparents (69% intervention group and 61% control group). Aunts and uncles are the second most common kinship caregiver (20% of intervention group and 31% of control group).
- Close to half of all caregivers interviewed (43%) have been a caregiver for over two years, and a large majority see themselves as a long-term caregiver for the child (81% intervention group and 89% control group).

23. What is your relationship to the kinship children living in your home?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Grandparent/step-grandparent	130	69%	22	61%	152	68%
Aunt/uncle or great aunt/uncle	37	20%	11	31%	48	21%
Family friend	7	4%	2	6%	9	4%
Sibling	6	3%	1	3%	7	3%
Great grandparent	4	2%	-	-	4	2%
Cousin	5	3%	1	3%	6	3%
Step parent	1	1%	-	-	1	<1%
Concerned adult	1	1%	-	-	1	<1%

24. How long have you been a caregiver for the kinship children?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Less than six months	55	29%	9	25%	64	28%
Six months to two years	57	30%	8	22%	65	29%
More than two years	77	41%	19	53%	96	43%

25. Do you see yourself as the long-term caregiver for the kinship child(ren) in your care?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=188)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=224)	Percent
Yes, you see yourself as the long-term caregiver for the child(ren)	153	81%	32	89%	185	83%
No, this is a temporary arrangement	11	6%	-	-	11	5%
You're not sure/it's too early to tell	24	13%	4	11%	28	13%

Legal status of caregiver's kinship children

- Less than half of caregivers have permanent legal custody of a kinship child in their care (39% of intervention group and 45% of control group); while a quarter are in the process of gaining custody.

26. Do you have permanent legal or physical custody of the child?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=278)	Percent	Number (N=51)	Percent	Number (N=329)	Percent
Yes	109	39%	23	45%	132	40%
No	101	36%	17	33%	118	36%
In the process of gaining custody	68	25%	11	22%	79	24%

Note: Respondents could give more than one answer and often have different custody arrangements for different kinship children.

27. What type of kinship arrangements do you have for the kinship children in your care?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=188- 189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Informal, voluntary arrangement between me and child(ren)'s parent(s)	104	55%	20	56%	124	55%
Court ordered arrangement	69	37%	11	31%	80	36%
Voluntary agreement, but social service was involved in placing the child	20	11%	4	11%	24	11%
Parent deceased	6	3%	-	-	6	3%
Temporary/permanent Power of Attorney	4	2%	-	-	4	2%
No arrangement	85	45%	16	44%	101	45%
Temporary legal arrangement	1	1%	1	3%	2	1%
Probation office	1	1%	-	-	1	<1%
Emergency contact for school, doctor, daycare	1	1%	-	-	1	<1%
Adoption	-	-	1	3%	1	<1%
Parent abandoned child with no agreement	1	1%	-	-	1	<1%

Characteristics of children of caregivers

- The mean number of kinship children living with caregivers is similar in both the intervention (1.47) and the control group (1.42).
- The average age of kinship children is 8 years old (7.7 for the intervention group and 8.4 for the control group).

28. Number of children living at least half time in caregiver's household (includes all children ages 17 and under, not just kinship children)

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
One child	73	39%	15	42%	88	39%
Two children	65	34%	11	31%	76	34%
Three children	26	14%	6	17%	32	14%
Four children	16	9%	1	3%	17	8%
Five children	6	3%	2	6%	8	4%
Six children	2	1%	1	3%	3	1%
Seven children	1	1%	-	-	1	<1%
Average number of children in household	2.08		2.08		2.08	

29. Number of kinship children (age 17 or younger) living with caregiver

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
One child	124	66%	25	69%	149	66%
Two children	48	25%	9	25%	57	25%
Three children	11	6%	1	3%	12	5%
Four children	5	3%	-	-	5	2%
Five children	1	1%	1	3%	2	1%
Average number of kinship children in household	1.47		1.42		1.46	

30. Ages of kinship children

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=275)	Percent	Number (N=51)	Percent	Number (N=326)	Percent
Less than one year	8	3%	1	2%	9	3%
1-2 years old	34	12%	6	12%	40	12%
3-4 years old	53	19%	12	24%	65	20%
5-9 years old	78	28%	10	20%	88	27%
10-13 years old	59	21%	9	18%	68	21%
14-17 years old	43	16%	13	25%	56	17%
Child's age is missing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average age of kinship child	7.71		8.43		7.82	

Reasons for kinship caregiving and relationship with children's biological parents

- Most caregivers reported that they were providing care for the children because the child was at risk due to a parent's behavior (65% of intervention group and 61% of control group.)

31. What was the main reason you became a caregiver for the kinship child(ren)?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=188)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=224)	Percent
Child was at risk due to parental behavior	123	65%	22	61%	145	65%
Parent(s) were unable to care for child due to parental incarceration	36	19%	5	14%	41	18%
Parent(s) were unable to care for child due to poverty or unemployment	31	17%	6	17%	37	17%
Parent(s) were unable to care for child due to parental illness or death	27	14%	3	8%	30	13%
Parent(s) were unable to care for child due to child's special needs	13	7%	4	11%	17	8%
Abandonment by parent(s)	10	5%	4	11%	14	6%
Mental health issues of parent	9	5%	3	8%	12	5%
To provide better education opportunities and support	4	2%	1	3%	5	2%

31. What was the main reason you became a caregiver for the kinship child(ren)? (continued)

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=188)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=224)	Percent
Parent/child relationship issues	2	1%	1	3%	3	1%
Parent wanted a better environment/ home for child	1	1%	1	3%	2	1%
Responsible parent is out of state or country	2	1%	-	-	2	1%
Parent(s) need parenting skills	2	1%	-	-	2	1%
Homelessness	3	1%	-	-	3	1%
Parental rights taken away	0	-	2	6%	2	1%
Child requested change in home environment	1	1%	-	-	1	<1%
Parent is hospitalized	1	1%	-	-	1	<1%
Previous caregiver died	1	1%	-	-	1	<1%
Parent(s) does not want to be a parent	1	1%	-	-	1	<1%

Child protection history

- Most children of caregivers did not have any recent history in the child protection system (65%).

32. Has the kinship child or children been involved in a child protection case during the past five years?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=187)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=223)	Percent
Yes	62	33%	15	42%	77	35%
No	125	67%	21	58%	146	65%

Connections to birth parents

33. Is the child(ren)'s parent(s) involved in making any of the parenting decisions?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=188)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=224)	Percent
Yes, one or both parents are very involved	23	12%	2	6%	25	11%
Yes, one or both parents are somewhat involved	29	15%	8	22%	37	17%
Yes, but their involvement is limited	40	21%	11	31%	51	23%
No, neither parent is involved	96	51%	15	42%	111	50%

34. Caregiver's relationship with birth parent(s)

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=186)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=222)	Percent
Generally positive or friendly with at least one parent	127	68%	24	67%	151	68%
Generally negative or adversarial	25	13%	7	19%	32	14%
Non-existent	34	18%	5	14%	39	18%

35. How do the kinship children in your care perceive the relationship with their biological parents?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=181)	Percent	Number (N=34)	Percent	Number (N=215)	Percent
At least one of the kinship children has a positive relationship with a biological parent	126	70%	24	71%	150	70%
The children have a negative relationship with their biological parents	19	11%	7	21%	26	12%
The children have no relationship with any biological parent	36	20%	3	9%	39	18%

Kinship family needs and use of services

- Both intervention and control group families were generally able to meet their families' basic needs in the prior month. Slightly fewer were able to get child care when needed (72% intervention group and 82% control group).
- Control group families (28%) were less likely than intervention families (43%) to report receiving MFIP/TANF (although differences are NOT statistically significant). Control group families were also more likely to report that they did not need these funds (44% versus 23% of intervention group families).

36. Kinship family needs, past month

The number and percent of caregivers reporting "yes" to having...	Intervention group (N=189)		Control group (N=36)		All Respondents (N=225)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Food for at least two meals a day in the last month	188	99%	35	97%	223	99%
A stable place to live	188	99%	35	97%	223	99%
Adequate clothing for you and the children in your care	177	94%	33	92%	210	93%
Enough money to pay for heat and other utilities	164	87%	30	83%	194	86%
Phone service in either home or a cell phone	189	100%	35	97%	224	99%
Reliable transportation	175	93%	33	92%	208	92%
Child care when it was needed ^a	115	72%	22	82%	137	73%

^a Only respondents needing child care services responded to this question.

37. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive cash support through MFIP* for yourself or an MFIP child-only grant for the kinship children in your care?

	Intervention group (N=188)		Control group (N=36)		All Respondents (N=224)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	80	43%	10	28%	90	40%
No, but I could have used this	53	28%	9	25%	62	28%
No, I am ineligible because the child's biological parent receives this	12	6%	1	3%	13	6%
No, I did not need this	43	23%	16	44%	59	26%

*MFIP is the Minnesota Family Investment Program. It is Minnesota's version of TANF cash assistance

38. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive adoption assistance, relative care assistance, or foster care payments for kinship children in your care?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=185)	Percent	Number (N=35)	Percent	Number (N=220)	Percent
Yes	36	19%	7	20%	43	20%
No, but I could have used this	85	46%	17	49%	102	46%
No, I am ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	-	-	-	-	-	-
No, I did not need this	64	35%	11	31%	75	34%

39. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive free or discounted legal assistance?*

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=186)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=222)	Percent
Yes*	24	13%	-	-	24	11%
No, but I could have used this	85	46%	15	42%	100	45%
No, I am ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	-	-	-	-	-	-
No, I did not need this	77	41%	21	58%	98	44%

*There was a statistically significant difference between the intervention group and the control group on this question calculated for those who answered yes ($p < .05$)

40. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive free or discounted medical care?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=35)	Percent	Number (N=224)	Percent
Yes	143	76%	23	66%	166	74%
No, but I could have used this	23	12%	4	11%	27	12%
No, I am ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	1	1%	-	-	1	<1%
No, I did not need this	22	12%	8	23%	30	13%

41. What programs or services have you contacted for help related to your needs or the needs of the kinship children?

	Intervention group (N=188)		Control group (N=36)		All Respondents (N=224)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
County Social Service/ Social worker	85	45%	16	44%	101	45%
MKCA	79	42%	13	36%	92	41%
Financial/health services (MFIP/MA/WIC/EBT)	58	31%	10	28%	68	30%
Mental health/physical health (medical/in-home/play therapy/ psychological)	26	14%	12	33%	38	17%
Legal (attorney/court/legal aid/guardian ad litem)	33	18%	3	8%	36	16%
Non-profits/non-county social services	26	14%	6	17%	32	14%
School (PCA/Head Start/physical and speech therapy/counselor)	19	10%	5	14%	24	11%
State (DHS/Ombudsman)	8	4%	4	11%	12	5%
Tribal (Tribal Counsel/ICWA/Amind Family Center/Indian Health services)	10	5%	1	3%	11	5%
Church/pastoral services	4	2%	2	6%	6	3%
Child care programs (respite care/Family, Friends, and Neighbors)	1	<1%	1	3%	2	<1%
Support groups (1 st Widows club/ Grandparents Raising Grandkids)	1	<1%	-	-	1	<1%

Needs and concerns of caregivers

- With regard to caregiver needs, intervention group caregivers are slightly more likely to report physical health problems, while control group caregivers are slightly more likely to report mental health problems.

42. Do you have any chronic health conditions or disabilities that make it difficult to do daily tasks or activities?

	Intervention group (N=187)		Control group (N=36)		All Respondents (N=223)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	56	30%	5	14%	61	27%
No	131	70%	31	86%	162	73%

43. In general, how would you describe your physical health over the past three months?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Excellent	38	20%	4	11%	42	19%
Very good	40	21%	13	36%	53	24%
Good	62	33%	14	39%	76	34%
Fair	40	21%	4	11%	44	20%
Poor	9	5%	1	3%	10	4%

44. In the last six months, have you had any problems related to anxiety, depression, or other mental health concerns?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=188)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=224)	Percent
Yes	66	35%	18	50%	84	38%
No	122	65%	18	50%	140	63%

Needs of kinship children

- A similar percentage of intervention group and control group children have needs related to physical health, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems.

45. Health and mental health needs of kinship children

Do any of the kinship children in your care have a . . .	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=176-186)	Percent	Number (N=35-36)	Percent	Number (N=211-222)	Percent
Physical disability?	13	7%	2	6%	15	7%
Learning disability?	47	27%	10	29%	57	27%
Mental or cognitive disability?	39	22%	10	29%	49	23%
Chronic health condition?	25	14%	7	19%	32	15%
Emotional or behavioral problems?	86	47%	15	43%	101	47%

46. Compared to other children their age, do you think the kinship children are on track in terms of their development?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=187)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=223)	Percent
Yes, I think all the children are on track	133	71%	25	69%	158	71%
No, I have concerns about the development of one or more of the kinship children	54	29%	11	31%	65	29%

47. Are any of the kinship children in your care currently receiving special education?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=187)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=223)	Percent
Yes	47	25%	13	36%	60	27%
No	140	75%	23	64%	163	73%

Demographics of caregivers interviewed

- Most caregivers in both groups are female and have at least a high school diploma.
- The control group has a higher percentage of White respondents (86% versus 63% of intervention group participants). This was one of only a few items on the survey that showed a statistically significant difference.

48. Gender

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Male	15	8%	4	11%	19	8%
Female	174	92%	32	89%	206	92%

49. Race*

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=188)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=224)	Percent
African American/African Native/ Black	39	21%	3	8%	42	19%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	21	112%	1	3%	22	10%
Asian American/Asian/Pacific Islander	2	1%	-	-	2	<1%
White/Caucasian*	119	63%	31	86%	150	67%
Multi-racial	6	3%	1	3%	7	3%
Other: Puerto Rican	1	1%	-	-	1	<1%

**Using a statistical steps grouping all races other than White/Caucasian. There was a statistically significant difference between the intervention group and the control group on this question. The control group is more likely to describe their race as White ($p < .01$)*

50. Hispanic ethnicity

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=188)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=224)	Percent
Yes	5	3%	-	-	5	2%
No	183	97%	36	100%	219	98%

51. Highest level of education completed

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
No school	1	1%	-	-	1	<1%
Some school, but no high school diploma or GED	11	6%	1	3%	12	5%
High school or GED	36	19%	4	11%	40	18%
Vocational certificate, associate degree, or some college but no degree	93	49%	16	44%	109	48%
College degree	34	18%	7	19%	41	18%
Some graduate coursework, but no graduate degree	3	2%	1	3%	4	2%
Graduate/Professional degree	11	6%	7	19%	18	8%

52. Employment status

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=188)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Employed full-time (35 or more hours a week)	70	37%	20	56%	90	40%
Employed part-time (less than 35 hour a week)	40	21%	6	17%	46	20%
Retired	21	11%	1	3%	22	10%
Disabled (not working)	29	15%	1	3%	30	13%
Unemployed – looking for work	11	6%	-	-	11	5%
Unemployed – not looking for work	11	6%	2	3%	13	6%
At home full time	4	2%	4	11%	8	4%
Self-employed	2	1%	1	3%	3	1%
On sabbatical	1	1%	-	-	1	<1%

53. Marital status

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Married - living with spouse	95	50%	16	44%	111	49%
Living with a partner	10	5%	3	8%	13	6%
Single, never married and NOT living with a partner	31	16%	1	3%	32	14%
Divorced or widowed and not living with a partner	43	23%	16	44%	59	26%
Married but living apart	10	5%	-	-	10	4%

54. Household income

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=184)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=220)	Percent
Below \$10,000	25	14%	2	6%	27	12%
\$10,000 – under \$20,000	28	15%	2	6%	30	14%
\$20,000 – under \$30,000	31	17%	8	22%	39	18%
\$30,000 – under \$40,000	27	15%	4	11%	31	14%
\$40,000 – under \$50,000	10	5%	3	8%	13	6%
\$50,000 – under \$60,000	13	7%	5	14%	18	8%
\$60,000 – under \$80,000	24	13%	5	14%	29	13%
\$80,000 or above	26	14%	7	19%	33	15%

55. Home language

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
English	189	100%	35	97%	224	99%
Another language	-	-	1	3%	1	1%

Discussion

The descriptive data from baseline interviews presented here is helpful to gain further understanding about the population of caregivers seeking services through MKCA and their partners. In addition to being useful for the evaluation, this information will help inform practice decisions at the agency-level.

It is also encouraging to note that the intervention group and control group appear to be similar in most areas, as expected in a true experimental design model. This will allow evaluators to use this data as intended, and compare groups over time to observe whether services offered through MKCA appear to be having an impact in the lives of caregivers.

Minor differences between groups include differences related to the number of caregivers who are parents, the percentage who are lower income, and caregiver stress levels. In order to run statistical tests to see if responses from the intervention and the control group were similar at baseline, some items with multiple responses were grouped. Results of these tests (generally 2-tailed significance tests using Fisher's Exact or Pearson Chi-Square) show that the two groups are similar in nearly every area.

The survey had over 100 questions. Only five questions had statistically significant differences. The most notable was:

- The control group has a higher percentage of White respondents (86% versus 63% of intervention group participants).

Other statistically significant differences were:

- Intervention group families were significantly more likely than control group families to have received free or discounted legal assistance during the prior three months.
- Intervention group families were significantly more likely than control group families to have received free or discounted dental services for their household in the past three months.
- Intervention group families were significantly more likely than control group families to agree with the statement, "I have someone I can talk to who understands what I am going through."
- Intervention group families were significantly more likely than control group families to agree "about half of the time" or "most of the time" that they have the energy that they need to take care of the children in their home.

Overall, however, evaluators are pleased to see groups appear to be similar enough at baseline to conduct our intended analysis.

As mentioned previously, the outcome evaluation is highly dependent on follow-up telephone interviews with caregivers. To date, 111 follow-up interviews have been completed. Analysis of follow-up interviews will occur in late summer when all interviews are completed. Thus this information will be reported and discussed in the final report for this grant (completed at the end of the next reporting period).

B-06: Activities planned for next reporting period

Next steps in program activities

At this time, the project will continue to deliver services through the Warmline and website (which distributes the popular “Legal Steps” manual). It appears that many of the services currently coordinated by the lead agency, MKCA, will be transferred to a partner agency that has the ability to provide the cash “match.”

Next steps in the evaluation

Next steps in the evaluation include continuing 9-month follow-up telephone interviews with caregivers (participants and control group). To date 111 of 225 follow-up interviews have been completed. These interviews are designed to follow-up on the caregiver’s status in several outcome areas since the baseline interview, and collect information about potential outcomes. Caregiver participants are also be asked about their satisfaction with program services. At the end of the next period, evaluators will report outcomes of the intervention and control groups by comparing their baseline to follow-up results.

Appendix

*Minnesota Kinship Navigator Project, Caregiver Follow-up
interview protocol: final version*

Additional data tables from baseline interviews

**Minnesota Kinship Navigator Project
CAREGIVER SURVEY
9-month Follow-up interview**

INTRODUCTION: PART A

May I speak to [R] ?

IF R IS NOT HOME: When would be the best time to reach [R] ? MAKE NOTES ON FACESHEET

IF R IS AVAILABLE, PROCEED.

Hello, my name is _____ and I am calling from Wilder Research on behalf of the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association. About nine months ago, we sent you a \$25 gift card for completing an interview with us. We would like to interview you again now, and we will send you a \$25 gift card from either Walmart or Target as a thank you for completing this follow-up interview. Do you remember doing that first interview?

IF R SAYS YES: Great. We are calling again now to find out how things have been going for you and your family lately. This second interview is very similar to the first and takes about 20 to 25 minutes. As I mentioned, we will send you a \$25 gift card from either Wal-Mart or Target as a thank you for completing the interview. Is now a good time? **(IF YES, GO TO PART B)**

IF R SAYS NO/UNSURE: During the interview, we asked you questions about your use of services in the community, needs your family may have, about your kinship caregiving situation, your health, the health and well-being of children in your care, among other questions. If you can't remember, that's okay. We would still like to interview you for a second time now. This second interview is very similar to the first and takes about 20 to 25 minutes. To thank you for completing it, we will send you a \$25 gift card from either Walmart or Target. Is now a good time? **(IF YES, GO TO PART B)**

IF R SAYS NOW IS NOT A GOOD TIME: When would be a better time to reach you? MAKE NOTES ON FACESHEET. Great. We will call you again on (SPECIFIC DATE AND TIME [R] REQUESTED) to do the interview. Thank you for your time.

IF R REFUSES: Is there any particular reason you prefer not to be interviewed? FILL OUT A REFUSAL REPORT. Thank you for your time.

INTRODUCTION: PART B

Great. Before we get started, I want to let you know a few things. First, anything you say during this interview will be kept confidential unless you tell us that you or someone else in your household is in immediate danger. Your answers will not be seen by anyone except the staff from Wilder Research who are working on the study. Second, if there is a question you would rather not answer, just let me know, and I will skip it and move on to the next question. Finally, your participation in this interview and the information you provide will not affect any services you may be receiving.

As you may recall from the last interview, we are asking some questions about children who have lived with you through a legal or informal kinship arrangement. This is when children live with you and you provide care in place of the child's parents. Throughout the rest of the interview, we will be referring to your "kinship child/children." When we ask about, "kinship children" please answer only about these children, and not about other children who may be living in your home.

- 1A. How many children are living with you through a legal or informal kinship arrangement, where you and/or your partner or spouse are providing care for the child in place of the child's parents?

_____ Number of children (IF NO CHILDREN ENTER "0")

IF 1 OR MORE CHILDREN GO TO Q. 2

- 1B. When we spoke with you last time, you told us you had (CHECK FACESHEET FOR NUMBER) kinship children living in your home. Where are these children currently living? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

With children's parents, 1
 With another relative, 2
 With a foster family, or 3
 Someplace else? (SPECIFY: _____) 4
 Refused -7
 Don't know -8

- 1C. Are you satisfied with the children's current living arrangement?

Yes 1
 No 2
 Refused 7
 Don't know 8

- 1D. How likely do you think it is that the kinship children will live with you again?

Very likely 1
 Somewhat likely 2
 Not too likely 3
 Not at all likely 4
 Refused 7
 Don't know 8

- 1E. Can you say more about how your kinship situation has changed in the past 9 months?

1F. Did you or someone else call child protection about the kinship children during the past 9 months?

Yes 1

No 2

Refused 7

Don't know 8

1G. Have the kinship children been involved in a child protection **case** during the past 9 months?
(CIRCLE YES IF AT LEAST ONE CHILD HAS HAD CHILD PROTECTION INVOLVEMENT)

Yes 1

No 2

Refused 7

Don't know 8

1H. How long ago did the kinship children move out of your home?

Within the last 2 months (GO TO Q4) 1

IF WITHIN THE LAST 2 MONTHS, READ: Please respond to the remaining questions for the final month the children were in the home

Between 2 and 6 months ago 2

Over 6 months ago (GO TO Q111) 3

Refused (GO TO Q111)..... 7

Don't know (GO TO Q111) 8

1I. Over the past 9 months, have the kinship children lived with you for at least 6 months total?

Yes (GO TO Q4) 1

IF YES, READ: Please respond to the remaining questions for the final month the children were in the home

No (GO TO Q111) 2

Refused (GO TO Q111)..... 7

Don't know (GO TO Q111) 8

2A. How many kinship children are living with you. . .

Full time,..... Number of children

At least half time,..... Number of children

And less than half time Number of children

Refused -7

Don't know -8

IF ALL CHILDREN ARE FULL TIME, SKIP TO Q3

2B. Where are the children living when they are not with you? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

- With children's parents, 1
With another relative, 2
With a foster family, or 3
Someplace else? (SPECIFY: _____) 4
Refused -7
Don't know -8

3. Last time we interviewed you, about 9 months ago, you told us you had (NUMBER ON FACESHEET) kinship children living in your home. Are these the same children who are currently living with you?

- Yes, all of the same children are still living with me 1
No, only some of these children are still living with me (SEE NOTE BELOW).. 2
No, none of these children are still living with me (GO TO Q111) 3
Refused (GO TO Q111)..... 7
Don't know (GO TO Q111) 8

(INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF R HAS DIFFERENT CHILDREN LIVING IN THE HOME:

- **RESPOND TO REMAINING QUESTIONS ONLY ABOUT CHILDREN THEY REPORTED ON 9 MONTHS AGO WHO ARE STILL IN THE HOME.)**

4. In the past 9 months, have there been any changes in the custody status of **any** of the kinship children living with you? (PROBE: Have you taken any legal steps to securing custody?) (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

- Yes, I now have legal permanent custody (includes adoption, guardianship)..... 1
Yes, I have taken other steps toward securing custody/adoption/guardianship..... 2
Yes, I have obtained a delegation of parental authority/power of attorney 3
No, we have an informal arrangement, with no written agreement..... 4
No, I already had legal permanent custody..... 5
No, I have taken some steps, but no change over the last 9 months..... 6
Other (Please describe: _____) 7
Refused -7
Don't know -8

5. Do you see yourself as the long-term caregiver for the kinship children in your care?
(PROBE: Do you consider this a permanent or temporary arrangement?)

- Yes, you see yourself as the long-term caregiver for the children..... 1
No, this is a temporary arrangement..... 2
Not sure/it's too early to tell 3
Refused 7

IF R HAS NO CHILDREN LIVING WITH THEM AT THIS TIME, SKIP TO Q8

6. Did you or someone else call child protection about the kinship children during the past 9 months?
- Yes 1
- No 2
- Refused 7
- Don't know 8
7. Have the kinship children been involved in a child protection **case** during the past 9 months?
(CIRCLE YES IF AT LEAST ONE CHILD HAS HAD CHILD PROTECTION INVOLVEMENT)
- Yes 1
- No 2
- Refused 7
- Don't know 8
8. Are the children's parent(s) involved in making any of the parenting decisions?
Would you say...
- At least one parent is very involved, 1
- At least one parent is somewhat involved, 2
- Their involvement is limited, or 3
- Neither parent is involved 4
- Refused 7
- Not applicable – children's parents are deceased (GO TO Q. 12) 9**
9. We recognize that your relationship with the kinship children's parent or parents is likely complex. In general, how would you describe your **current** relationship with the parent or parents? Would you say it is....
(CIRCLE ONLY ONE.)
- Generally positive or friendly with at least one parent, 1
- Generally negative or adversarial, or 2
- Non-existent because parents are absent? 3
- Refused 7
- Don't know 8
10. In the past 9 months, has your relationship with the parent or parents...
- Improved a lot, 1
- Improved a little, 2
- Stayed the same, 3
- Become a little worse, or 4
- Become a lot worse? 5
- Refused 7
- Don't know 8

11. In the past 9 months, has your kinship children's relationship with at least one parent ...

- Improved a lot, 1
- Improved a little, 2
- Stayed the same, 3
- Become a little worse, or 4
- Become a lot worse? 5
- Refused 7
- Don't know 8

BASIC NEEDS

The following set of questions asks how well the needs of your family are being met.

In the last month, did you...	Yes	No	REF	DK	NA
12. Have food for at least two meals a day?	1	2	7	8	9
13. Have a stable place to live?	1	2	7	8	9
14. Have adequate clothing for you and the children in your care?	1	2	7	8	9
15. Have enough money to pay for heat and other basic utilities?	1	2	7	8	9
16. Have phone service, either in your home or a cell phone?	1	2	7	8	9
17. Have reliable transportation when you need it?	1	2	7	8	9
18. Have child care when you need it?	1	2	7	8	9

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS OR REFERRALS

Next, I would like to ask you about any help you might have received from **social service or community agencies that provide services to kinship families**. This refers to any help or information that may have been provided by phone, email or in person – including paperwork, assistance completing applications, and referrals – regardless of whether the help resulted in obtaining a job, housing, child care, etc. This does **NOT** include help provided by friends or family members.

Thinking back over the past 9 months, did anyone help you apply for or access...	Yes	No (GO TO b) →	REF	DK	NA	b. Why not? Would you say...					
						I was already receiving this service	I did not get help or a referral, but I could have used it, or	I didn't need this type of service?	REF	DK	NA
19. Cash support through MFIP, either for yourself or an MFIP child-only grant for the kinship children in your care?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
20. Adoption assistance, relative care assistance, or foster care payments for the kinship children in your care?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
21. Free or discounted legal assistance?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
22. Free or discounted medical care?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
23. Free or discounted dental services?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
24. Mental health services?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
25. Help with basic needs like food, transportation, furniture, or household items?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
26. Respite care? (IF NEEDED: <u>RESPITE CARE</u> REFERS TO TEMPORARY RELIEF FOR CAREGIVERS WHO PROVIDE CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, CHILDREN, OR ELDERLY PEOPLE.)	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9

Thinking back over the past 9 months, did anyone help you apply for or access...	Yes	No (GO TO b) →	REF	DK	NA	b. Why not? Would you say...					
						I was already receiving this service	I did not get help or a referral, but I could have used it, or	I didn't need this type of service?	REF	DK	NA
27. One-on-one counseling or support for kinship caregivers?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
28. Group counseling or support for kinship caregivers?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
29. Case management for you` or a kinship child in your care?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
30. Free or discounted child care?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
31. Parenting education?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
32. Free or reduced school lunch for the children?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
33. Social security benefits?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
34. Child support payments?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9
35. Veteran's benefits?	1	2	7	8	9	1	2	3	7	8	9

36. Of the programs or services you identified, what would you say has been the **most helpful**?

READ BACK SERVICES 19-35 R REPORTED RECEIVING AS NEEDED

ENTER Q NUMBER HERE _____

Refused-7

Don't know-8

Not applicable.....-9

37. In the past 9 months, how much have you **learned** about the programs and services in your community that help families, like the kinds of programs I have mentioned so far? Would you say...

A lot, 1

Some, 2

A little, or..... 3

Nothing at all?..... 4

Refused 7

Don't know 8

38. During the past 9 months, how often have you **used** these types of programs? Would you say...

More than 10 times, 1

5 to 10 times,..... 2

3 or 4 times, 3

Once or twice, or..... 4

Never?..... 5

Refused 7

Don't know 8

CAREGIVER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Next, I would like to ask you some questions about your own health and well-being.

39. In general, how would you describe **your** physical health over the past 9 months? Would you say it was...

Excellent, 1

Very good, 2

Good, 3

Fair, or..... 4

Poor? 5

Refused 7

Don't know 8

40. In the past 9 months, has your **physical** health...

- Improved a lot, 1
- Improved a little, 2
- Stayed the same, 3
- Become a little worse, or 4
- Become a lot worse? 5
- Refused 7
- Don't know 8

41. In the past 9 months, has your **mental** health...

- Improved a lot, 1
- Improved a little, 2
- Stayed the same, 3
- Become a little worse, or 4
- Become a lot worse? 5
- Refused 7
- Don't know 8

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Would you say you...						
	Strongly agree,	Somewhat agree,	Somewhat disagree, or	Strongly disagree?	REF	DK	NA
42. Right now, I am able to provide my kinship children with the things they need.	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
43. I am worried about my ability to care for my kinship children in the future.	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
44. I have someone I can count on to encourage me when I am down.	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
45. I have someone I can talk to who understands what I am going through.	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
46. I have someone I can count on to take care of the child(ren) for a few hours in an emergency.	4	3	2	1	7	8	9

How often do you feel that...	Would you say...						
	Most of the time,	About half of the time,	Rarely, or	Never?	REF	DK	NA
47. Difficulties are piling up so high that you cannot overcome them?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
48. You are on top of things?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
49. You have the energy that you need to take care of the children in your home?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
50. You are able to take time for yourself when you need it?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
51. You have time to do things you enjoy?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH

FOR CHILDREN AGE 4 OR OLDER – ASK Q. 52-57b.

FOR CHILDREN AGE 3 OR YOUNGER – SKIP TO Q.58.

Next, I am going to ask you some questions about how the kinship children are getting along with others.

Over the last month, how often...	Would you say...						
	Often,	Sometimes,	Rarely, or	Never?	REF	DK	NA
52. Were you concerned about the kinship children's ability to get along with other children?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
53. Were you concerned about the kinship children's ability to get along with family members?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
54. Were you concerned about the kinship children's ability to get along with other adults?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
55. Did any of the children misbehave or break the rules?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
56. Were the children able to cope when things went wrong?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9

57A. In the past 9 months, did any of your kinship children need specialized educational services?

Yes 1
 No (GO TO Q.58) 2
 Refused (GO TO Q.58) 7
 Don't know (GO TO Q.58) 8

57B. In the past 9 months, were you able to get any specialized education services for your kinship children that you did not have before?

Yes 1
No 2
Refused 7
Don't know 8

58. In the past 9 months, have your kinship children's mental health...

Improved a lot, 1
Improved a little, 2
Stayed the same, 3
Became a little worse, or 4
Became a lot worse? 5
Refused 7
Don't know 8

59A. In the past 9 months, did any of your kinship children need any emotional or mental health services?

Yes 1
No (GO TO Q60) 2
Refused (GO TO Q60) 7
Don't know (GO TO Q60) 8

59B. In the past 9 months, were you able to get any emotional or mental health services for your kinship children that you did not have before?

Yes 1
No 2
Refused 7
Don't know 8

HOUSING/LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

The next set of questions will ask about your living situation.

60. Is where you are living **now** the same place you were living when we last interviewed you in **(BASELINE MONTH)**?

Yes (GO TO Q.62) 1
No 2
Refused (GO TO Q.62) 7
Don't know (GO TO Q.62) 8

61. Between **(BASELINE MONTH)** and **now**, how many times have you moved?

_____ Times

Refused-7

Don't know-8

STRESS AND COPING

The next set of questions ask about changes that may have occurred in your household during the past 9 months.

Between (BASELINE MONTH) and now , have any of the following things happened:	Yes	No	REF	DK	NA
62. An adult in your household started a new job?	1	2	7	8	9
63. An adult in your household lost a job unexpectedly? (NOTE: THIS INCLUDES BEING LET GO OR LAID OFF, NOT TEMP POSITIONS)	1	2	7	8	9
64. Someone in your household became seriously ill or injured?	1	2	7	8	9
65. Someone in your household died?	1	2	7	8	9
66. Someone in your household got married?	1	2	7	8	9
67. Someone in your household became pregnant?	1	2	7	8	9
68. Someone in your household became separated or divorced?	1	2	7	8	9
69. Someone in your household moved in or out?	1	2	7	8	9
70. Someone in your household got into trouble with the law?	1	2	7	8	9
71. Someone in your household had a drug or alcohol problem?	1	2	7	8	9
72. Someone in your household was involved in a personal relationship with someone who hit them, slapped them, or pushed them around, or threatened to do so?	1	2	7	8	9

PARENTING (CAREGIVER-CHILD INTERACTION)

Next, I am going to ask you some questions about your relationship with the kinship children. These questions may apply to children of many ages. Please answer the best you can.

Over the last month, how often did you...	Would you say...						
	Often,	Sometimes,	Rarely, or	Never?	REF	DK	NA
73. Play games with the children?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
74. Have dinner together as a family?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
75. Read with the children?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
76. Remain calm when dealing with the children's misbehavior?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
77. Scold or yell at the children?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
78. Show the children physical affection, for example, by giving him or her a hug or kiss?	4	3	2	1	7	8	9

INTERVIEWERS: CHECK FACESHEET ID...

- **IF “INTERVENTION” RESPONDENTS – CONTINUE WITH Q.79**
- **IF “CONTROL GROUP” RESPONDENTS – SKIP TO Q.107:**

Next, I would like to ask you some questions about your participation in the Minnesota Kinship Navigators project.

79. Do you recall receiving services from the Minnesota Kinship program? You probably would have worked with (WORKERS' NAMES) through (AGENCY NAME).

[INTERVIEWER NOTE: BASED ON AGENCY IDENTIFIED ON FACESHEET, IDENTIFY WHICH WORKERS THE RESPONDENT MAY HAVE WORKED WITH; NAMES ARE BELOW.]

Yes 1
No(GO TO Q.99)..... 2
Refused 7
Don't know 8

[INTERVIEWER NOTE: USE ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION BELOW AS NEEDED TO HELP THE PARTICIPANT RECALL THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROGRAM, IF THEY DO NOT INITIALLY.]

Agency	Possible workers:
MKCA	Most likely Janet or Elaine , otherwise Carla, Lori, Kris, Nancy
Child Care Choices – St. Cloud	Most likely Crystal or Corrine , otherwise Jane, Sarah or Nancy
AEOA ROCK/RAP program	Most likely Theresa , otherwise Sue, Martha, Rosemary, Deb or Colleen
Mahube Community Council	Most likely Bonnie , otherwise Christin, Erna, Kathie, or Julie
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Grandkin program	Marilyn, Fran
Inter Tribal Elder Services Grandparents Raising Grandchildren	Norby, Mary, Jackie

80. About how many times have you contacted [NAME OF AGENCY] in the past 9 months by phone, email, or some other way?

0 times(GO TO Q.99)..... 1
 1-4 times 2
 5 or more times 3
 Refused 7
 Don't know 8

Next I am going to read a series of statements about services you may have received. Please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

The kinship worker I spoke with....	Would you say you...						
	Strongly agree,	Agree,	Disagree, or	Strongly disagree?	REF	DK	NA
81. Gave me useful suggestions.	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
82. Was caring and warm.	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
83. Knew a lot about services and programs in the community that could help me and my family.	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
84. Was easy to reach.	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
85. Was helpful for me and my family.	4	3	2	1	7	8	9

86. I would recommend the Kinship Navigator program to families like mine. Would you ...

Strongly agree, 1
 Agree, 2
 Disagree, or 3
 Strongly disagree? 4
 Refused 7
 Don't know 8

For the next set of questions, please think about the various types of assistance your Kinship worker may have provided to you or your kinship children.

Did your Kinship worker help you....	Would you say....				
	Yes, they helped me with this,	No, but I needed this, or	No, but I didn't need this?	REF	DK
87. Understand legal issues or steps to gaining legal rights with regard to your kinship children?	1	2	3	7	8
88. With basic things like food, clothing, housing, or paying bills?	1	2	3	7	8
89. With services related to your own or your kinship children's safety?	1	2	3	7	8
90. With parenting?	1	2	3	7	8
91. By just being there to provide emotional support or encouragement?	1	2	3	7	8

IF R SAID "YES" TO AT LEAST TWO QUESTIONS FROM Q.87-91, ASK Q.92.

IF R SAID "YES" TO ONLY ONE QUESTION, SKIP TO Q93.

IF R SAID "NO" TO ALL OF Q87-91, SKIP TO Q94.

92. You mentioned that your worker helped you (**REFER TO "YES" ANSWERS FROM Q.87-91**). (IF MORE THAN ONE ANSWER PROVIDED:) Of these areas, which one was the **most helpful** to you or your children?

WRITE Q NUMBER 87-91 FROM ABOVE _____

93. Describe how your kinship worker helped you with this: (**REFER TO "YES" ANSWER FROM Q.87-91**)

_____ (GO TO Q.95)

- 94A. Did the Kinship Navigator program help you in some other way?

Yes 1

No GO TO Q.94C) 2

Refused(GO TO Q.95) 7

Don't know(GO TO Q.95) 8

 (GO TO Q.95)

Very satisfied,	1
Satisfied,	2
Dissatisfied, or	3
Very dissatisfied?.....	4
Refused	7
Don't know	8

Yes	1
No	(GO TO Q.99)..... 2
Refused	GO TO Q.99)..... 7
Don't know	(GO TO Q.99)..... 8

98. What changes have you noticed? (PROBE: Please be specific.)

99. Have you ever participated in a kinship parent/grandparents support group? Would you say...

- Yes, 1
- No, but I am interested in this service, or(GO TO Q.103)..... 2
- No, and I am not interested?(GO TO Q.103)..... 3
- Refused(GO TO Q.103)..... 7
- Don't know(GO TO Q.103)..... 8

100. How often have you participated in a kinship parent/grandparents support group in the past year?

- None in the past year(GO TO Q.103)..... 1
- 1 time 2
- 2 to 3 times..... 3
- 4 or more times 4
- Refused(GO TO Q.103).....
- Don't know(GO TO Q.103)..... 8

101. Overall, how satisfied are you with the information and support provided through the group? Would you say...

- Very satisfied, 1
- Satisfied, 2
- Dissatisfied, or 3
- Very dissatisfied?..... 4
- Refused 7
- Don't know 8

102. What suggestions do you have for improving the group?

103. Have you participated in a kinship parenting workshop or training program through MKCA or its partners in the past year? This does not include training that was part of a support group. Would you say...
- Yes 1
- No, but I am interested in this service, or(GO TO Q.106A)..... 2
- No, and I am not interested?(GO TO Q.106A)..... 3
- Refused(GO TO Q.106A)..... 7
- Don't know(GO TO Q.106A)..... 8
104. Overall, how satisfied are you with the information and support provided through the training or workshop? Would you say...
- Very satisfied, 1
- Satisfied, 2
- Dissatisfied, or 3
- Very dissatisfied?..... 4
- Refused 7
- Don't know 8
105. What are your suggestions for improving future training events or workshops?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 106A. Of all the services from the Kinship Navigator project we have discussed so far, including one-to-one information and referral, support groups, trainings, and workshops; what would you say has been most helpful?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 106B. Why was it helpful?
- _____
- _____
- _____

ASK ALL RESPONDENTS:

107. As part of our research, we are gathering feedback about gaps in services to kinship families. What services would you like to receive, but do not have access to? (PROBE: What else do kinship families like yours need?)

108. We are interested in how families like to receive information. I am going to read a list of ways that MKCA and its partners might be able to reach you. Please tell me the top one or two ways that you most prefer to receive information. How about... (CIRCLE UP TO TWO RESPONSES)

Mail,.....	1
Personal phone call,.....	2
Website,	3
Email,.....	4
Electronic newsletter,.....	5
Support group or in-person training,.....	6
1-to-1 support of a mentor, or	7
Some other way? (Please specify_____)	8
Refused	-7
Don't know	-8

DEMOGRAPHICS

These last questions are just to help us understand more about the people completing this interview. I just want to remind you that your answers are confidential and will be grouped with others in a report. No individuals will be identified.

109. What type of area do you live in? Would you say...

An urban area,.....	1
A suburban area within 30 miles of an urban area,.....	2
A town in a rural area, or	3
Outside of a town in a rural area?	4
Refused	7
Don't know	8

110. What is your current employment situation? Are you...

- Employed full-time 35 or more hours/week, 1
- Employed part-time under 35 hours/week, 2
- Retired, 3
- Disabled and not working, 4
- Unemployed and looking for work, 5
- Unemployed and **not** looking for work, 6
- Unemployed and **not** looking for work, but in school or job program, or 7
- At home full time or stay-at-home parent, or 8
- Something else? (Specify: _____) 9
- Refused -7
- Don't know -8

111. Are there any other comments that you would like to make?

END OF INTERVIEW

Those are all of the questions I have for you today. Thank you for taking the time to complete our interview. As a thank you, we would like to send you a \$25 gift card to either Target or Walmart. To which store would you prefer your gift card?

- Target 1
- Walmart 2

Your gift certificate will be sent by certified mail within the next week or two. This means that the mail carrier will bring it to your door for someone to sign for it so we know that it isn't lost or stolen. INTERVIEWER; IF CERTIFIED MAIL IS A PROBLEM, GIVE R A CHOICE OF HAVING IT SENT ELSEWHERE OR HAVING IT SENT BY REGULAR MAIL AT HIS/HER OWN RISK. THIS MEANS THAT IF THEY DON'T RECEIVE IT, WE WILL NOT REPLACE IT.

- Certified 1
- Regular mail 2

What name and address should we send the gift card to?

Name: _____
Address: _____

Thank you again for your time!

Additional data tables from baseline interview

A1. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive free or discounted dental services?*

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=186)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=222)	Percent
Yes*	115	62%	15	42%	130	59%
No, but you could have used this	32	17%	8	22%	40	18%
No, you are ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	-	-	-	-	-	-
No, you did not need this	39	21%	13	36%	52	23%

*There was a statistically significant difference between the intervention group and the control group on this question calculated for those who answered yes ($p < .05$)

A2. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive free or discounted mental health services?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=186)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=222)	Percent
Yes	86	46%	21	58%	107	48%
No, but you could have used this	33	18%	8	22%	41	19%
No, you are ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	-	-	-	-	-	-
No, you did not need this	67	36%	7	19%	74	33%

A3. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive help with basic needs like food, transportation, furniture, or household items?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Yes	42	22%	7	19%	49	22%
No, but you could have used this	60	32%	13	36%	73	32%
No, you are ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	-	-	-	-	-	-
No, you did not need this	87	46%	16	44%	103	46%

A4. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive respite care?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Yes	15	8%	6	17%	21	9%
No, but you could have used this	55	29%	9	25%	64	28%
No, you are ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	-	-	-	-	-	-
No, you did not need this	119	63%	21	58%	140	62%

A5. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive one-on-one counseling or support for kinship caregivers?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=187)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=223)	Percent
Yes	33	18%	5	13%	38	17%
No, but you could have used this	79	42%	17	47%	96	43%
No, you are ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	-	-	-	-	-	-
No, you did not need this	75	40%	14	39%	89	40%

A6. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive group counseling or support for kinship caregivers?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=188)	Percent	Number (N=35)	Percent	Number (N=223)	Percent
Yes	29	15%	3	9%	32	14%
No, but you could have used this	70	37%	19	54%	89	40%
No, you are ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	-	-	-	-	-	-
No, you did not need this	89	47%	13	37%	102	46%

A7. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive case management for you or a kinship child in your care?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=184)	Percent	Number (N=34)	Percent	Number (N=218)	Percent
Yes	41	22%	8	24%	49	23%
No, but you could have used this	60	33%	10	29%	70	32%
No, you are ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	-	-	-	-	-	-
No, you did not need this	83	45%	16	47%	99	45%

A8. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive free or discounted child care?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=34)	Percent	Number (N=223)	Percent
Yes	9	5%	1	3%	10	5%
No, but you could have used this	76	40%	18	53%	94	42%
No, you are ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	-	-	-	-	-	-
No, you did not need this	104	55%	15	44%	119	53%

A9. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive parent education?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Yes	12	6%	5	14%	17	8%
No, but you could have used this	44	23%	6	17%	50	22%
No, you are ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	-	-	-	-	-	-
No, you did not need this	133	70%	25	69%	158	70%

A10. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive free or reduced school lunch for the children?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=186)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=222)	Percent
Yes	105	57%	19	53%	124	56%
No, but you could have used this	13	7%	1	3%	14	6%
No, you are ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	-	-	-	-	-	-
No, you did not need this	68	37%	16	44%	84	38%

A11. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive Social Security benefits?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=179)	Percent	Number (N=34)	Percent	Number (N=213)	Percent
Yes	62	35%	12	36%	74	35%
No, but you could have used this	46	26%	6	18%	52	24%
No, you are ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	-	-	-	-	-	-
No, you did not need this	71	40%	34	47%	87	41%

A12. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive child support payments?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=182)	Percent	Number (N=35)	Percent	Number (N=217)	Percent
Yes	24	13%	3	9%	27	12%
No, but you could have used this	93	51%	19	54%	112	52%
No, you are ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	9	5%	-	-	9	4%
No, you did not need this	56	31%	13	37%	69	32%

A13. Over the past three months, did you or someone in your household receive veteran's benefits?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=176)	Percent	Number (N=31)	Percent	Number (N=207)	Percent
Yes	5	3%	1	3%	6	3%
No, but you could have used this	26	15%	3	10%	29	14%
No, you are ineligible because the child's bio parent receives this	-	-	-	-	-	-
No, you did not need this	145	82%	27	86%	172	83%

A14. I am able to provide my kinship children with the things they need?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=35)	Percent	Number (N=224)	Percent
Strongly disagree	8	43%	-	-	8	4%
Somewhat disagree	12	6%	2	6%	14	6%
Somewhat agree	52	28%	12	34%	64	29%
Strongly agree	117	62%	21	60%	138	62%

A15. I am worried about my ability to care for my kinship children in the future?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=186)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=222)	Percent
Strongly disagree	85	46%	18	50%	103	46%
Somewhat disagree	26	14%	6	17%	32	14%
Somewhat agree	55	30%	12	33%	67	30%
Strongly agree	20	11%	-	-	20	9%

A16. I have someone I can count on to encourage me when I am down?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=188)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=224)	Percent
Strongly disagree	10	5%	1	3%	11	5%
Somewhat disagree	2	1%	2	6%	4	2%
Somewhat agree	35	19%	5	14%	40	18%
Strongly agree	141	75%	28	78%	169	75%

A17. I have someone I can talk to who understands what I am going through?*

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Strongly disagree	17	9%	6	17%	23	10%
Somewhat disagree	8	4%	4	11%	12	5%
Somewhat agree	45	24%	7	19%	52	23%
Strongly agree	119	63%	19	53%	138	61%

**There was a statistically significant difference between the intervention group and the control group on this question calculated for those who answered agreed (strongly agree and somewhat agree grouped together) ($p < .05$).*

A18. I have someone I can talk to take care of the child(ren) for a few hours in an emergency?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Strongly disagree	10	5%	3	8%	13	6%
Somewhat disagree	10	6%	2	6%	12	5%
Somewhat agree	33	18%	6	17%	39	17%
Strongly agree	136	72%	25	69%	161	72%

A19. How often do you feel that difficulties are piling up so high that you cannot overcome them?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=187)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=223)	Percent
Never	43	23%	4	11%	47	21%
Rarely	100	54%	22	61%	122	55%
About half of the time	37	20%	9	25%	46	21%
Most of the time	7	4%	1	3%	8	4%

A20. How often do you feel that you are on top of things?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Never	1	1%	-	-	1	1%
Rarely	7	4%	1	3%	8	4%
About half of the time	50	27%	10	28%	60	27%
Most of the time	131	69%	25	69%	156	69%

A21. How often do you feel that you have the energy that you need to take care of the children in your home?*

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=188)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=224)	Percent
Never	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rarely	1	1%	3	9%	4	2%
About half of the time	39	21%	10	28%	49	21%
Most of the time	148	79%	23	64%	171	76%

**There was a statistically significant difference between the intervention group and the control group on this question. This was calculated by grouping never and rarely together and about half of the time and most of the time together ($p < .05$)*

A22. How often do you feel that you are able to take time for yourself when you need it?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Never	15	8%	2	6%	17	8%
Rarely	58	31%	13	36%	71	32%
About half of the time	60	32%	7	19%	67	30%
Most of the time	56	30%	14	39%	70	31%

A23. How often do you feel that you have time to do things you enjoy?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Never	17	9%	1	3%	18	8%
Rarely	56	30%	10	28%	66	29%
About half of the time	68	36%	16	44%	84	37%
Most of the time	48	25%	9	25%	57	25%

A24. Over the last month, how often were you concerned about the kinship children's ability to get along with other children?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=144)	Percent	Number (N=27)	Percent	Number (N=171)	Percent
Never	59	41%	10	37%	69	40%
Rarely	41	29%	7	26%	48	28%
Sometimes	33	23%	8	30%	41	24%
Often	11	8%	2	7%	13	8%

This question was asked only of participants with children age four or older.

A25. Over the last month, how often were you concerned about the kinship children's ability to get along with family members?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=145)	Percent	Number (N=27)	Percent	Number (N=172)	Percent
Never	63	43%	10	37%	73	42%
Rarely	40	28%	12	44%	52	30%
Sometimes	30	21%	5	19%	35	20%
Often	12	8%	-	-	12	7%

This question was asked only of participants with children age four or older.

A26. Over the last month, how often were you concerned about the kinship children's ability to get along with other adults?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=145)	Percent	Number (N=27)	Percent	Number (N=172)	Percent
Never	73	50%	11	41%	84	49%
Rarely	38	26%	8	30%	46	27%
Sometimes	26	18%	7	26%	33	19%
Often	8	6%	1	4%	9	5%

This question was asked only of participants with children age four or older.

A27. Over the last month, how often did any of the children misbehave or break the rules?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=144)	Percent	Number (N=26)	Percent	Number (N=170)	Percent
Never	16	11%	4	15%	20	12%
Rarely	36	25%	7	27%	43	25%
Sometimes	71	49%	9	35%	80	47%
Often	21	15%	6	23%	27	16%

This question was asked only of participants with children age four or older.

A28. Over the last month, how often were the children able to cope when things went wrong?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=145)	Percent	Number (N=27)	Percent	Number (N=172)	Percent
Never	2	1%	-	-	2	1%
Rarely	13	9%	3	11%	16	9%
Sometimes	48	33%	11	41%	59	34%
Often	82	57%	13	48%	95	55%

This question was asked only of participants with children age four or older.

A29. Over the last month, how often did you play games with the children?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Never	4	2%	-	-	4	2%
Rarely	8	4%	4	11%	12	5%
Sometimes	51	27%	8	22%	59	26%
Often	126	67%	24	67%	150	67%

A30. Over the last month, how often did you have dinner together as a family?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Never	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rarely	2	1%	-	-	2	1%
Sometimes	15	8%	3	8%	18	8%
Often	172	91%	33	92%	205	91%

A31. Over the last month, how often did you read with the children?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=34)	Percent	Number (N=223)	Percent
Never	15	8%	1	3%	16	7%
Rarely	18	10%	2	6%	20	9%
Sometimes	38	20%	8	24%	46	21%
Often	118	62%	23	67%	141	63%

A32. Over the last month, how often did you remain calm when dealing with the children's misbehavior?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=35)	Percent	Number (N=224)	Percent
Never	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rarely	3	2%	-	-	3	1%
Sometimes	35	19%	7	20%	42	19%
Often	151	80%	28	80%	179	80%

A33. Over the last month, how often did you scold or yell at the children?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=35)	Percent	Number (N=224)	Percent
Never	50	27%	6	17%	56	25%
Rarely	74	39%	15	43%	89	40%
Sometimes	58	31%	13	37%	71	32%
Often	7	4%	1	3%	8	4%

A34. Over the last month, how often did you show the children physical affection, for example by giving him or her a hug or kiss?

	Intervention group		Control group		All Respondents	
	Number (N=189)	Percent	Number (N=36)	Percent	Number (N=225)	Percent
Never	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rarely	1	1%	-	-	1	1%
Sometimes	8	4%	1	3%	9	4%
Often	180	95%	35	97%	215	96%