



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New Yorkers are steadfast in their commitment to promoting the safety and well-being of all of our children, including providing a stable household in which these young people can be nurtured and succeed; and

Whereas, all children deserve a safe and secure place to live, and kinship caregiver services are an important permanency option for children in foster care and others who cannot safely remain at home with their parents; and

Whereas, New York State is focused on strategies to locate, engage, and inform relatives and kin of available options as they make crucial decisions regarding their ability to parent again; and

Whereas, our state awards funding to kinship programs to provide caregivers with the tools to build a brighter future for thousands of New York children and place them on a path to growth and success; and

Whereas, nearly 436,000 children in our state reside in homes where a relative is the head of the household, and 122,000 children are being raised by kin with no parent present; we commend those who have stepped forward out of love and loyalty to care for their young relatives, providing them continuity, security, family, and ties to their cultural and ancestral heritage; and

Whereas, kinship families in New York State have a valuable resource in the Kinship Navigator which provides information, referrals, and assistance via its website and toll-free telephone line; and is working with New York State through a federal grant to provide an evidence-based model for a statewide system of kinship care; and

Whereas, it is vitally important that New Yorkers grow in awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by children, grandparents, relatives and other caregivers in kinship families; partnerships among the education, legal, social services, mental health, justice, and other systems are necessary to provide access to the services that enable kinship youth to flourish in all aspects of life; and

Whereas, Kinship Care Month provides an opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of countless children and youth throughout our state and nation, who with the unconditional support of grandparents and other relatives, have successfully come through the emotional trauma of separation from their parents; New Yorkers are grateful for the many kinship caregivers who provide youth with a safe and secure environment that offers a foundation of love and support, and the sense of belonging that comes with being part of a family;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 2021 as

KINSHIP CARE MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day of
September in the year two thousand twenty-one.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

[Signature]
Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh