



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, the family unit is one of our most important resources for providing New Jersey's children with love, dignity and a sense of self-determination; and

WHEREAS, family connections may be structured differently from family to family, but the sense of physical and emotional safety, encouragement and stability is vital to children's emotional, physical, and developmental health; and

WHEREAS, over 5,000 children throughout our State are raised in kinship families who have stepped forward out of love and loyalty to offer care and provide children with a sense of connection, security and ties to their cultural heritage, family and community; and

WHEREAS, kinship care providers can include grandparents or other relative caregivers, and non-related individuals who have a close bond with the children, such as coaches, teachers, neighbors and close family friends; and

WHEREAS, kinship caregivers reside in urban, rural and suburban households in every county of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, kinship care providers work in partnership with the education, legal, social services, mental health, justice and other systems to access services that can enable kinship youth to flourish in all facets of their lives; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families includes the preservation of Kinship Care Connections as one of its transformational goals; and

WHEREAS, each year up to 40 percent of out-of-home placements are with Kinship Care families; and

WHEREAS, Kinship Care Month provides an opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of countless youth throughout the Garden State who, with the unconditional support of their kinship care providers, have successfully navigated the emotional difficulties of separation from their parents;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

SEPTEMBER 2020  
AS  
KINSHIP CARE MONTH

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this thirty-first day of August in the year two thousand twenty, the two hundred forty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States.

  
Lt. GOVERNOR

  
GOVERNOR