



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New Yorkers are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being 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 live with their parents; and

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

Whereas, New York State is providing a Kinship Champion Training curriculum with the goal of training at least one Kinship Champion from each local department of social service and voluntary agency with the knowledge and skills to support kinship care at all stages; 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 recognize 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 that provides information, referrals, and assistance via its website and toll-free telephone line, and works through a federal grant to provide an evidence-based model for a statewide system of kinship care; and

Whereas, our State awards funding to programs to provide kinship 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, 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 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 2022 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 thirtieth day of August in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh

Governor