



## SEMINAR

# Foster Care for Legislators

A seminar designed to assist in developing policies to improve our foster care system.

Where do we need to go, and how do we get there?

## MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019

Location: U-Turn Sports Academy –  
2101 Maywill St., Richmond

[Register here](#)

[Register  
here!](#)

Registration starts:  
9:00 a.m.

Program runs:  
9:30 a.m. to  
12:30 p.m.

# Family Finding & Kinship Care Unlocking Doors for Difficult to Place Youth

---

Emily Clark, UMFS  
& Shannon Updike, HopeTree Family Services



**Purpose** Begin a collaborative conversation about developing mind opening ideas about serving children in our communities through formal kinship care

## **Objectives**

- We will SPARK ideas for increasing kinship care in our communities
- We will leave with actionable steps in your area of influence

# Let's Get Acquainted...



# How we got here...

## Our shared experience

Referral & Intake Process

Placement Availability

Challenges with Foster Parent Recruitment

Observations on the FAPT Team

Family Focused Treatment Association (FFTA) & Virginia Association of Licensed Child Placing Agencies (VALCPA) Kinship Summit

# Why now?

## Implementation of Families First Prevention & Services Act FFPSA

Federal Legislation passed in February 2018 which redesigns Title IV-E Funding

Incentivizes states to increase placements in family based settings and reduce use of non family based settings

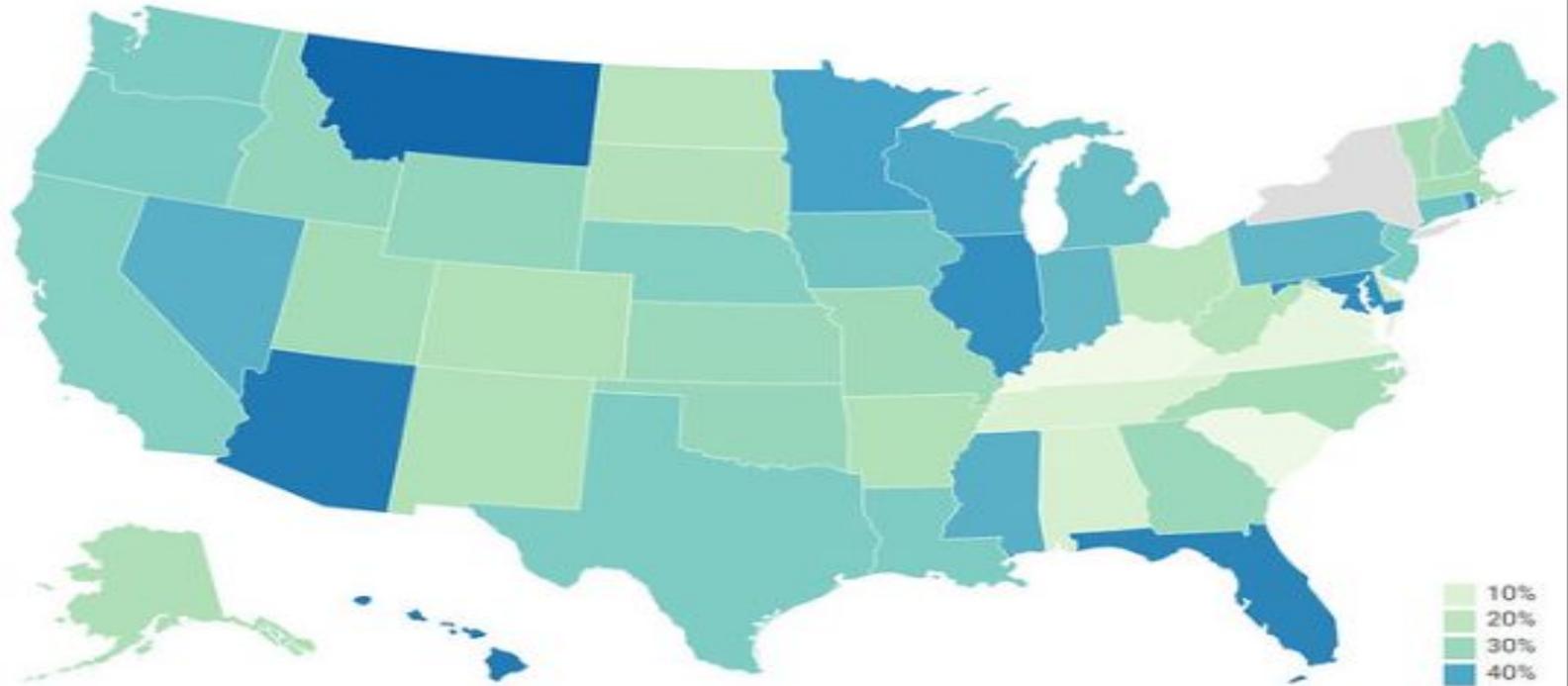
IV E Funding will now be able to be used for prevention services

States can begin accessing this funding Oct. 1, 2019 if in compliance with the requirements of the Act

State emphasis on Kinship Care

## Foster children placed in homes of family members

Nationwide, 32% of foster children are placed with relatives. That percentages ranges from 4% in Kentucky to 47% in Montana.



Data not available from New York

Map: By Caitlin Morris of VCU Capital News Service • Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

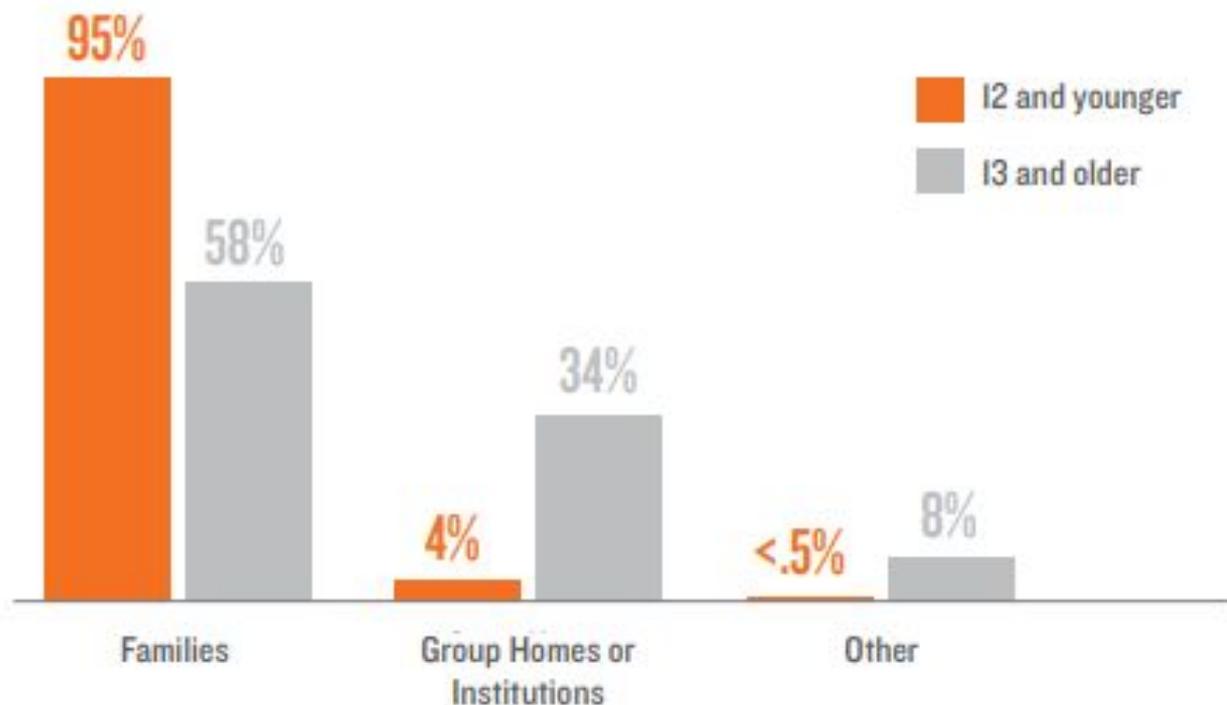
**VIRGINIA PROFILE: KIDS COUNT Data Snapshot “Keeping Children in Families: Trends in Placement of Young People in Foster Care in the United States”**

|   | <b>2007</b> | <b>2017</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Number of children in foster care               | 7,665       | 4,795       |
| Percent in relative placements                  | 7%          | 7%          |
| Percent in nonrelative placements               | 51%         | 70%         |
| Percent in group homes or congregate placements | 23%         | 17%         |

*Source: Child Trends' analysis of 2007 – 2017 Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System data.*

## Systems Less Likely to Place Older Youth in Families

Percentage of Children in Foster Care by Placement Type and Age: 2017



**SOURCE:** Child Trends' analysis of 2017 Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System data.

**DEFINITION:** Children in families include children in relative and nonrelative foster homes, children in pre-adoptive homes and children in trial home visits. Other includes children who have run away or are in supervised independent living arrangements.

**NOTE:** Counts include children in care at the end of the fiscal year. Children missing date of birth are excluded. Due to rounding, percentages might total 100 percent.

# Current Political & Legislative Climate

First ever Foster Care Caucus - co-chairs Del. Emily Brewer, R-Suffolk and Sen. Monty Mason D- Williamsburg

Bipartisan support of funding for implementation of FFPSA

JLARC Report

# Alignment of State Systems

DMAS, DJJ, DBHDS, OCS



**How is your community preparing for this change?**

# KINSHIP CARE



**Let's Get Sparked!**

# Global Family Reunion



**What would it be like to have kids in foster care feel connected to relatives?**

**Does the idea of a “global family” broaden our view on kinship in foster care?**

# National Reunification Month

How do/could you celebrate  
National Reunification Month in  
your community?

What other ways do we celebrate  
family reunification?



# Queer Eye

NETFLIX

Qe  
QUEER EYE



**When is a time that you went overboard to wrap around a person or family in need?**

**What are all the different ways a family might need support?**

# Hope Meadows

They say it takes a Village, what if we became that village?



What could it look like if we were intentional neighbors?

# Connecticut Reform & Kinship Care

What if we adopted a culture and norm that it is the expectation and not the exception that children be placed with relatives first?

How is your community doing with placing children with family first?



<https://www.mockingbirdsociety.org/mockingbird-family>



**What would it be like for families to have a network of people with shared experiences there to provide support?**

# Here's how VA is preparing

Three Branch Workgroup

Our systems are coming together to align transformations DBHDS, DMAS, DJJ,

Voices for VAs Children - May 6th Foster Care Session for Legislators

Children's Cabinet

First ever Foster Care Caucus - with bipartisan support

KinGAP

# Here's how private providers are preparing

Training

Other services to support relatives

Evidenced-Based practices

Collaborating with communities

FFTA Kinship Summit through FFTA in 2015

Strategic planning

Patty's Hope

# Case example - 30 Days to Family Grant



# **Spark Ideas to Ignite Change**



# **Action Steps: What will you take back to your community?**

Instead of “we can’t”, ask “how might we?”

Who are the stakeholders and how do we engage them?

What strategy needs to be put in place to achieve these goals?

What groups of kids do we focus on first and how do we expand?

# Resources

Family Focused Treatment Association (FFTA) - <https://www.ffa.org>

The Kinship Treatment Foster Care Initiative Toolkit

VDSS <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/>

Child Welfare League of America - <https://www.cwla.org>

The Nation's Children 2018

Annie E Casey Foundation - <https://www.aecf.org/>

Stepping up for Kids

Voices for Virginia's Children <https://vakids.org/>

# Thank you!

Emily Clark LCSW

Assistant Director Community Based Services, Central Region

UMFS

[eclark@umfs.org](mailto:eclark@umfs.org)

Shannon Updike LCSW

Director of Foster Care & Adoption, Eastern Region

HopeTree Family Service

[shannonu@hopetreefs.org](mailto:shannonu@hopetreefs.org)