Building Capacity to Support Kinship/Grandfamilies: Funding Beyond NFSP and NACSP—Resource List

Background

Nationwide, 2.4 million grandparents are raising their grandchildren.[1] Many other children are being raised by aunts, uncles, other relatives and close family friends. While research shows that these kin caregivers[2] (as they are collectively known) and their children[3] benefit from being in kinship/grandfamilies, studies also indicate that these families are disproportionally impacted by financial instability, disability and trauma[4] and that the well-being of all members of these families improves when they receive appropriate services.[5]

Currently, 53 percent of Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)[6] and 61 percent of Title VI Native American Aging Programs (Title VI programs)[7] offer services specifically for kin caregivers and their families. A 2022 USAging survey found that an additional 13.3 percent of AAAs would like to offer supportive services for this population but need training, technical assistance and/or funding to start.[8] Additionally, a 2022 USAging topical poll found that 47 percent of AAA and Title VI program poll respondents identified limited funding as a top challenge for supporting kinship/grandfamilies and that 44 percent of poll respondents only utilize funding from the Older Americans Act (OAA) National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) and/or Native American Caregiver Support Program (NACSP) to do so.[9]

Purpose of Resource List

This resource list is a supplement to a Fast-Track session presented at the USAging 49th Annual Conference and Tradeshow in Tampa, FL, on July 10, 2024. It contains links to no-cost educational materials intended to help AAAs and Title VI programs obtain funding to supplement their NFCSP and NACSP dollars towards supporting kin caregivers and their families.

The resource list is divided into six sections. The first four (*Finding Funding, Introduction to Grant Writing*, *Different Funders/Different Strategies* and *Introduction to Fund Blending and Braiding*) are intended for all AAAs and Title VI programs regardless of organizational structure. Following are two sections for AAAs and Title VI programs with specific characteristics: *Additional Resources for Government-Based AAAs and Title VI Programs* and *Additional Resources for Tribes or Tribal Organizations.*

Finding Funding

These no-cost educational resources are intended for all AAAs and Title VI programs regardless of organizational structure. Though some of the resources specify they are for nonprofits, each resource includes information applicable to AAAs and Title VI programs with other organizational structures.

- Finding Program Funding Tip Sheet, by the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network, offers quick tips on finding and obtaining funding.
- Funding Toolkit for Nonprofit Agencies Serving Kinship/Grandfamilies, by the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network, provides an overview of how to find and apply for funding from government (federal, state and local), foundations and corporations.
- Grant Research Tools, by the National Council of Nonprofits, includes a downloadable chart that compares the pros, cons and costs of three online grant databases.
- Introduction to Corporate Giving, by Candid, is available as a 90-minute live webinar or a one-hour video.
- Introduction to Finding Grants, by Candid, is available as a 90-minute live webinar, a 70-minute video or a self-paced learning module.
- What is Crowdfunding?, by Candid, explains what crowdfunding is, crowdfunding platforms and considerations to take before diving into crowdfunding.
- Where Can I Find Information About Government Grants?, by Candid, offers tips for finding federal, state and local grant announcements.

Introduction to Grant Writing

These no-cost educational resources are intended for all AAAs and Title VI programs regardless of organizational structure. Though some of the resources specify they are for nonprofits, each resource includes information applicable to AAAs and Title VI programs with other organizational structures.

- Fundamentals of Grant Writing, by the U.S. Department of State's Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative, is a series of four videos covering the basics of grant writing.
- Introduction to Proposal Writing, by Candid, is available as a 90-minute live webinar, a 76-minute video or a self-paced online learning module.
- Writing a Successful Grant Proposal, by Purdue University Extension, covers the nuts and bolts of grant writing from planning to submission.

Different Funders/Different Strategies

These no-cost educational resources are intended for all AAAs and Title VI programs regardless of organizational structure. Though some of the resources specify they

are for nonprofits, most include information applicable to AAAs and Title VI programs with other organizational structures.

- Corporate Matching Gifts: Get Started as a Small Nonprofit, by Charity Navigator, explains what corporate matching gifts are and offers strategies for obtaining them.
- Fund Development Strategies—Pros and Cons, by the LEAD Collaborative and the UMass Donohue Institute, describes the strengths and weaknesses of various fundraising activities, including applying for grants from government sources, family foundations, community foundations and corporations.
- Securing a Government Grant, from Candid, is a five-minute video providing strategies on what to include in grant proposals, building relationships with grant program officers and learning from rejected proposals.
- Successful Corporate and Foundation Fundraising for Nonprofits, from Grantmakers in Aging, covers the differences in grantmaking processes and motivations among government, corporate and foundation funders.

Introduction to Fund Blending and Braiding

These no-cost educational resources are intended for all AAAs and Title VI programs regardless of organizational structure.

- Blending, Braiding and Sequencing, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Employment policy, provides brief descriptions and examples of blending, braiding and sequencing funding.
- Your How-To Guide: Blending and Braiding Funds to Support Home Visiting by the New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council. Though written for a specific programmatic activity, the guide includes information transferrable to other programs and activities.

Additional Resources for Government-Based AAAs and Title VI Programs

In addition to the resources above, these no-cost resources offer fundraising considerations and strategies specific to government-based organizations.

- 10 Ways to Make Your Local Match for Federal Projects, by The National League of Cities, offers tips on generating matching fund required by many federal grants.
- Counties Ask "the Crowd" to Fund Local Needs, by the National Association of Counties, describes the efforts of sereral counties to crowdfund and lessons learned.

- [Innovative Financing to Expand Services So Children Can Thrive](#) by The Children's Funding Project and The Education Redesign Lab at The Harvard Graduate School of Education. Though focused on funding children's services (which some AAAs and Title VI programs provide as a way to offer respite to kin caregivers), the policy brief offers strengths and challenges associated with various financing strategies utilized by cities and counties nationwide, including public–private partnerships, tax credits and community benefit agreements.
- [Parks and Recreation Professionals' Guide to Fundraising](#), by the National Recreation and Park Association. Though written for Parks and Recreation, the guide includes information transferrable to other government agencies on partnering with a nonprofit for fundraising (pp. 17–18), partnering with a corporation (p.19) and ensuring that the appropriate authorities are consulted before starting fundraising activities (p. 7).

Additional Resources for Tribes and Tribal Organizations

In addition to the resources found in the first three sections, these no-cost resources may be particularly useful to tribes and tribal organizations.

- [Access to Capital Clearinghouse](#) from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Indian Affairs. Launched in 2023, the clearinghouse combines federal funding opportunities (from 15 federal agencies) for which tribes are eligible into one place.
- [Blending and Braiding Funding Streams for Your Tribal Program](#) by the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Office for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Programs. The document explains what is meant by "blending" and "braiding" funds and provides examples of funds that can be blended or braided.
- [Finding and Applying to Grants Toolkit](#) by the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Office for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Programs. Written with a Title VI program audience in mind, the toolkit details the type of funding available to tribes, the grantwriting process, budgets and program development.
- [Funding Map](#) by Investing in Native Communities, a joint project by Native Americans in Philanthropy and Candid. The interactive map identifies funders (investing in Indian Country) and fund recipients by state.
- [Grantseeker Resource Webinars](#) by the First Nations Development Institute (FNDI). This collection of no-cost recorded webinars provides training on fundraising plan development, federal grants private foundations and

fundraising for tribal nation programs. FNDI periodically issues its own [grants](#).

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[1] Generations United, Fact Sheet – Grandfamilies and Kinship Families: Strengths and Challenges, 2022, https://www.gu.org/app/uploads/2022/10/General-Grandfamilies-Fact-Sheet-2022-FINAL-UPDATE.pdf.

[2] Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (SGRG) Act: Initial Report to Congress, November 16, 2021, https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/RAISE_SGRG/SGRG-InitialReportToCongress_2021-11-16.pdf.

[3] Generations United, State of Grandfamilies Report 2021: Reinforcing a Strong Foundation: Equitable Supports for Basic Needs of Grandfamilies, 2021, https://www.gu.org/app/uploads/2022/02/2021-Grandfamilies-Report_V14.pdf.

[4] Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (SGRG) Act: Initial Report to Congress, November 16, 2021, https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/RAISE_SGRG/SGRG-InitialReportToCongress_2021-11-16.pdf.

[5] Generations United, State of Grandfamilies Report 2021: Reinforcing a Strong Foundation: Equitable Supports for Basic Needs of Grandfamilies, 2021, https://www.gu.org/app/uploads/2022/02/2021-Grandfamilies-Report_V14.pdf.

[6] USAging, 2023 Chartbook: More Older Adults, More Complex Needs: Trends and New Directions from the National Survey of Area Agencies on Aging, 2023, https://www.usaging.org//Files/AAA-Survey-Report-23-508.pdf.

[7] Email conversation with USAging Research Director Traci Wilson on March 7, 2024.

[8] USAging, 2022 National Survey of Area Agencies on Aging, (unpublished data).

[9] USAging, Kinship/Grandfamilies: The Role of Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging Programs, 2023, https://www.usaging.org//Files/Kinship-Report-508%20(English).pdf.