

NAA Summer 2026 Article Series • Spotlight on Post-Permanency Support

This summer, NAA is highlighting programs and providers across the country that are doing exceptional work to support children and families after adoption and guardianship. Each article features real voices from these programs—quick, practical reads designed for busy professionals and advocates.

We often say, “it takes a village to raise a child”—that phrase rings especially true when a child cannot safely remain in the care of their parent or parents. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and trusted adults step forward every day to ensure that children are safe, nurtured, and cared for.

While there are now many programs that support Kinship Guardian and Kinship Adoptive Caregivers, historically the child welfare system did not always understand the grief, loss, and financial hardship kinship caregivers face, nor offer them the same supports provided to non-relative foster providers. Stepping from grandparent, auntie, or favorite teacher into the role of parent is a challenging transition—especially when making the legal commitment of Kinship Guardianship or Adoption.



Virginia Kenny

Workforce Engagement & Advancement Committee Chair
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New Jersey: NJ ARCH & KinKconnect



Cynthia Lapidus

Director, NJ ARCH & KinKconnect



Cecelia Gaines

Warm Line & Training Specialist

NJ ARCH and KinKconnect, programs run under the auspices of Children’s Aid and Family Services and funded by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, provide connections to resources and support across the state via their comprehensive website and warm line for all members of the adoption, kinship, and state-guardianship constellation. Visit www.kinkconnect.org and www.njarch.org.

Families reach out for “everything,” says Cindy, looking for guidance in many areas including parenting challenges, trauma-related concerns, and connections to support groups and community resources. Cecelia fields daily warm line calls from caregivers with questions about state subsidies, kinship navigator programs, adoption or kinship competent therapists, parenting groups, and so much more. Whether connecting families to a service provider, relevant training, or a book through their lending library – NJ ARCH and KinKconnect meet families where they are.

Oregon: ORPARC



Kendra Morris Jacobson
Director, ORPARC

Kendra Morris Jacobson directs ORPARC, part of Northwest Resource Associates and funded by Oregon DHS, serving state-guardianship and “adoptive families of any kind that are parenting and caring for an Oregon child.” Their lending library includes videos, digital materials, and culturally reflective content in both Spanish and English, including a robust and growing Tribal Collection—with all items catalogued by adoptee and foster authors and illustrators, and by Tribe and Nation. Training and Support links lead to referrals for attachment-competent therapists, support groups, and trainings for both families and permanency professionals.

Kendra and her staff hear often from relatives parenting kin after they thought that chapter of life was behind them—facing financial pressure and the learning curve of school platforms and social media. As seen nationwide, youth are achieving permanency with increasingly complex mental health, developmental, and behavioral challenges. ORPARC’s resources reflect that reality, including supports for families parenting neurodivergent children and those who have experienced significant trauma.

♥ ORPARC’s lending library—all items catalogued by adoptee and foster authors and illustrators, and by Tribe and Nation.



Key Takeaways

- 1 Kinship caregivers face grief, loss, and financial hardship that the child welfare system did not always recognize or support equally compared to non-relative foster providers.
- 2 NJ ARCH & KinConnect (NJ) provide comprehensive websites, warm lines, trainings, newsletters, and a free lending library — www.kinconnect.org and www.njarch.org
- 3 ORPARC (OR) offers a lending library with Tribal and Spanish-language materials catalogued by adoptee and foster authors and illustrators, and by Tribe and Nation, trauma-informed trainings, and referrals to attachment-competent therapists and support groups. → orparc.org
- 4 Kinship families report needs around financial assistance, clinical supports for trauma, neurodivergent parenting, and navigating technology and social media with children.
- 5 These programs meet families where they are—keeping children connected to their families, cultural heritage, and community.



NAA is proud and grateful to highlight these formal supports that are part of our village. We all have a role in ensuring that youth who have achieved permanency have adults who can support them in their lives—providing stability, community, and connection to their families, heritage, and culture.