Grandparenting and Kinship Care

ELDERLY SERVICES PROGRAM
Talking Points

• Funding
• Eligibility
• Reasons for Kinship Care
• Challenges of Kinship Care
• Issues & Concerns of the Caregivers
• State & Tribal Services & Resources
• Family & Community Resources
• American Indian Values & Culture Roles
Funding

- Title VI, Part C, Native American Caregiver Support Program
- Title III, Part E, National Family Caregiver Support Program
- Partnering with other agencies in or outside communities
- Other resources
Definition

Grandparent Raising Grandchildren or Relative Caregiver

- A Grandparent or Step-Grandparent
- Relative of a child by blood or marriage
- 55 years of age or older and
  - Lives with the child
  - Is the primary caregiver
  - Has legal or informal relationship
Reasons for Kinship Care

- Death
- Illness
- Divorce
- Parent Military Duty
- Incarceration
- Substance and Alcohol Abuse
- Economically Disadvantaged
Challenges of Kinship Care

- Financial Assistance
- Housing and Transportation
- Education and Special Needs
- Family Relationships
- Respite & Child Care
- Work related issues
- Legal Relationships And Services

Grandparents
Determining the Issues

- Title VI Assessment
- Surveys & Evaluations (Conferences, Trainings, Elder’s Meetings or Gatherings, Support Groups)
- Community Grandparent/Relative Caregiver Forums
Grandparent/Relative Caregivers’ Important Issues

- Placement, custody, advocacy, resources
- Legal (custody, guardianship, adoption)
- Power of Attorney
- Medical and educational consent
- Financial assistance—food, clothing, furniture, day care (transitioning/maintenance)
- Time off from work
- Parenting classes for Grandparents
- Establish an Advisory Council
Family & Community Resources

- Indian Child & Family Program
- Grandparent Kinship Programs, Coalitions
- Foster & Adoptive Parent Associations
- Tribal Social Services
- Tribal Family Caregiver Support Programs
- Legal Services
Respite Care

- Pay caregivers to provide care on a temporary, intermittent basis so the primary unpaid, informal caregiver gets a break.
- Get-a-way activities for Grandparents, Relative caregivers and grandchildren.
Supplemental Services

- Intergenerational activities
- Summer camps/activities for grandchildren
- Back-to-school supplies
- Other ideas
Traditional Values & Culture

- Language
- Tribal teachings
- Family bonding
- Sense of belonging
- Spiritual growth
- Role as tribal community member
- Tribal ceremonies
Financial Help

- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) – Cash assistance for low income families.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) – Benefits for mentally or physically disabled children.
- Medicaid
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