

DC KINCARE ALLIANCE

Advancing Racial and Economic Equity

FY 2019

★ OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ★

- Elected caregiver relative to corporate board of directors
- Established Community Board to empower caregiver relatives to lead advocacy efforts
- Successfully advocated for DC Law to provide financial subsidy to close relative-caregivers
- Guided development of DC law to create Office of Ombudsperson for Child and Safety Well-Being
- Selected DC Coding Justice Project recipient for unique technology solution to access public benefits
- Partnering with Ropes & Gray to file impact litigation to redress DC's discriminatory practices

OUR RELATIVE-CAREGIVER CLIENTS

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN WHO:

- live in DC Wards 7 and 8
- are primarily grandmothers, godmothers, and aunts
- are living at or near the poverty line
- report a disability
- are raising abused and neglected children
- need food, clothing, and financial help to raise the children who come into their care



IDENTIFYING ESSENTIAL NEEDS



- Financial help to raise child relatives in their care
- Food for the children
- Medical care for the children
- Child care
- Larger-sized housing units to accommodate more children

OUR STRATEGIES: Increase Access to Public Benefits

- Advocate for removal of unique barriers for relative caregivers to obtain TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, Child Care Subsidy, and larger-sized public housing units (e.g., remove burdensome and unnecessary documentation requirements)
- Advocate for better training of DHS staff regarding requirements to obtain benefits
- Advocate for enhanced technology to streamline the application process (e.g., pdf fillable or online application)
- Advocate for DHS Kinship Office to address unique needs of relative caregivers



Enhance Benefits and Stop Discriminatory Practices



- Hold the DC Child and Family Services Agency accountable for violating the law when it fails to notify relative caregivers of their right to be licensed as foster parents for abused and neglected DC children, fail to license these relatives, and fail to pay them the foster care subsidy
- Advocate for an increase in the amount of the subsidy relatives receive for caring for at-risk DC children outside of the foster care system
- Advocate for reduced barriers to obtain the relative caregiver subsidy