



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SPAULDING FOR CHILDREN AND PARTNER AGENCIES RECEIVE \$2.5 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT
TO IMPLEMENT NEW PROGRAM TO HELP KINSHIP CAREGIVERS AND FOSTER PARENTS
PROVIDE BEST PRACTICES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

SOUTHFIELD, Mich., Oct. 14, 2021 – Spaulding for Children, a private, non-profit child welfare agency, announced today it has received a new 5-year, \$2.5 million grant from the Federal Administration for Children & Families, Children’s Bureau to develop a new program designed to promote and support normalcy in child-rearing activities and parenting for children in foster care.

The funding will establish the **Kinship Network Development, Empowerment and Resilience plus Connection and Relationship Enhancement through Shared Parenting (KINDER-CARES) Program**. The new program will provide critical support to kinship families caring for children in foster care when they most need it, and will increase kinship families’ access to vital supports and critical resources that can lessen the challenges of taking in a child. The program also is designed to transform relationships between the child welfare system, foster parents, kinship caregivers, and parents.

KINDER-CARES will begin operations in October of 2021. Spaulding will serve as lead agency in a partnership that includes the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and its Macomb County office, and Michigan State University. The program will focus first on families in Macomb County. The program will be systematically refined and shared with foster care providers throughout the nation.

“The KINDER-CARES program will help children and youth by changing how kinship and foster families, the child’s parents, child welfare specialists, and the many community-based organizations can best work together to help children in foster care,” Cristina Peixoto, President and CEO of Spaulding for Children, said. “The new program will bring systemic changes that will be reflected through intentional policies, practices and capacity building activities that will target biases and preconceived ideas about kinship caregivers and shared parenting. The program also will develop and share resources, tools, and strategies needed when kinship and foster families, multiple agencies and numerous community organizations impact the lives of children in foster care.”

KINDER-CARES will create more effective approaches to improve stability, permanency and family-centered well-being. Its strategies will provide comprehensive supports and services for kinship families and promote broadening the role of kinship and foster families through shared parenting.

Spaulding for Children
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