

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department: Social Services

HB Section(s): 11.365

Program Name: Kinship Navigator FFPSA

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Kinship Navigator FFPSA

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Safety and well-being for children and youth.

1b. What does this program do?

Kinship Navigator Program assist both formal and informal relative/kinship caregivers in learning about, finding, and using program and services to meet the physical and emotional needs of the children they are raising and their own needs, and promote effective partnerships among public and private agencies to ensure kinship caregiver families are served. DSS-Children's Division partnered with the University of Missouri-ParentLink, as its contractor to:

- (A) coordinate with other State and local agencies that promote service coordination or provides information and referral services, including the 2-1-1 information systems, to avoid duplication or fragmentation of services to kinship care families;
- (B) plan and operate in consultation with kinship caregivers and organizations representing them, youth raised by kinship caregivers, relevant government agencies, and relevant community-based or faith based organizations through the Missouri Kinship Navigator Steering Committee;
- (C) establish an informational and referral system, Missouri Kinship Navigator toll-free line (1-833-KIN-4-KID, 1-833-546-4543) that is answered by Master level ParentLink staff that link kinship caregivers, kinship support group facilitators, and kinship service providers to each other; eligibility and enrollment information for Federal, State, and local benefits; relevant training to assist kinship caregivers in caregiving and in obtaining benefits and services; and relevant legal assistance and help in obtaining legal services;
- (D) provide outreach to kinship care families, including by establishing, distributing, and updating a kinship care website (<https://education.missouri.edu/navigators/>) and other relevant guides or outreach materials;
- (E) promote partnerships between public and private agencies, including schools, community based or faith-based organizations, and relevant government agencies, to increase their knowledge of the needs of kinship care families and other individuals who are willing and able to be foster parents for children in foster care under the responsibility of the State who are themselves parents to promote better services for those families; and
- (F) support any other activities designed to assist kinship caregivers in obtaining benefits and services to improve their caregiving.

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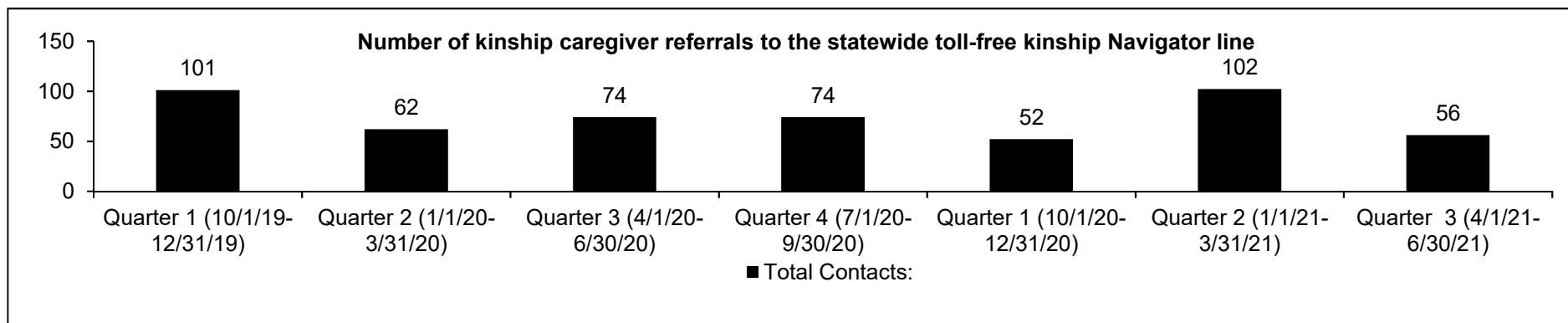
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2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.



*This measure will be updated in February 2023.

2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.

In FY24 the Children's Division will be able to measure quality of services provided to Kinship Caregivers, based on the results of responses which will be received through surveys completed by evaluators and focus groups attended by evaluators. ParentLink Kinship Navigator Evaluations are in the process of being conducted at the University of Missouri IPP.

2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.

Kinship care and a measure of one or more of the following target outcomes: increased safety, permanency, and child well-being, will be measured using the data accumulated after the evaluations are received.

2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.

The evaluations received will provide measures of the program's efficiency.

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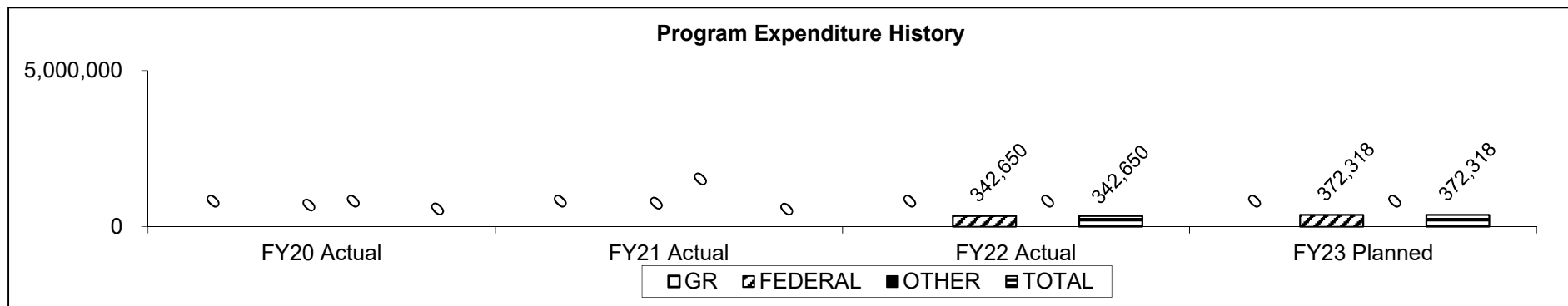
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3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



Planned FY 2023 expenditures are net of reverted and reserves.

4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?

N/A

5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)

Federal authorization, The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) which allows title IV-E agencies to receive funding for kinship navigator programs that meet certain criteria. To help title IV-E agencies prepare to participate in the new title IV-E Kinship Navigator Program funding option while program models eligible for title IV-E reimbursement are being identified, Congress, through annual appropriation has funding appropriated under title IV-B, subpart 2 of the Social Security Act in each of FYs 2018 -2021. [Title IV-B, subpart 2 funding is to support the development, enhancement, or evaluation of kinship navigator programs.] These are federal fiscal year (FY) 2021 funds, provided in P.L.116-260, Division H of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* , enacted December 27, 2020.

6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.

Federal matching requirements under the current IV-B Kinship Navigator Funding (option of future 50% matching)

7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.

No