

Kina Gbezhgomi Child & Family Services

Locations & Contact Information

Main Office
98 Pottawatomi Avenue
Wikwemikong, ON P0P 2J0

Tel: 705 859-2100
or
Toll Free: 1 800 268-1899

Wikwemikong Office
19A Complex Drive
Wikwemikong, ON P0P 2J0

Administration Office
15 Edward Street, Unit #6
Wikwemikong, ON P0P 2J0

M'Chigeeng Office
72 Hwy 551, Unit #2
M'Chigeeng, ON P0P 1G0

Sudbury Office
866 Newgate Avenue, Unit #1
Sudbury, ON P3A 5J9

Please visit our website
www.kgcs.org

Kina Gbezhgomi Child & Family Services



“Our Children...Our Responsibility”

Servicing the following seven First Nations communities within the Districts of Sudbury & Manitoulin:

Sheguiandah First Nation
M'Chigeeng First Nation
Sheshegwaning First Nation
Zhiibaahaasing First Nation
Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation
Whitefish River First Nation
Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve

Phase II: Service to other First Nations within the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin whom are not serviced by Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services and Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services.



Vision

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services will honour and support our family's and community's inherent authority to care for their children based on unity, traditions, values, beliefs and customs.

Mission Statement

Our services ensure children are protected and stay connected with their culture, language and community while strengthening family and community relationships.

Service Principles

1. That all Prevention and Child Welfare Services delivered are culturally based utilizing traditions and practices that strengthen cultural identity for children and families.
2. That all Prevention and Child Welfare Services delivered will support children remaining in their communities with healthy caregivers to stay connected with their roots, culture and language.
3. That Child Welfare Services will be family-centered and family-focused while not compromising the safety and well-being of the child.
4. That Child Welfare Services will use innovative, collaborative processes that empower children, families and communities to participate in all aspects of case planning and decision making.
5. That all Prevention and Child Welfare Services will place emphasis on supporting families based on honest and open communication to create relationships and partnerships.

Comments, Compliments & Complaints

We Can Work It Out - Together

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services is committed to offering the best possible services to families and children. If you have a comment, compliment or complaint about our services, we want to hear from you to continue strengthening service delivery.

Comments and compliments are always welcome and we want to hear about your experience with us. Your feedback helps us to understand our clients and improve the delivery of our programs and services.

How to Submit Your Feedback

To receive the most efficient service, we encourage you to submit your comment and compliment by completing our electronic feedback form at www.kgcsf.org. In addition, you can write to us at:

Comments, Compliments and Complaints

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services
98 Pottawatomi Avenue
Wikwemikong, ON P0P 2J0



To fully address your feedback, we require:

- Your name, address, telephone number;
- A description of what happened including date, time and incident; and,
- Where possible, the name of the employee, program or service.

What to Expect

Comments and suggestions for improvements will be forwarded to the appropriate office or program area for consideration. Compliments about your experience with Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services will be passed to the responsible manager and/or employee for recognition.

Complaints will be handled in a confidential, efficient, professional and impartial manner. Tell us what we could have done better.

You have three (3) ways of providing feedback to Kina Gbezhgomi Child & Child Services:

- Informal Review;
- Internal Complaint Review Panel (ICRP); and,
- Child and Family Services Review Board (CFSRB)

Informal Review

The most direct and efficient way to resolve the issue is to discuss your concerns directly with your worker (or his/her supervisor). Informal concerns do not need to be in writing and can provide good solutions for everyone involved. If you are unable to resolve the issues with the worker and supervisor, you may contact their Manager for assistance in resolving them. You may bring a trusted friend to support you during this discussion and any future meetings with the Kina Gbezhgomi Child & Child Services. As well, you may bring to the meeting a representative of your First Nation. If you are not satisfied following these discussions, then you can file a formal complaint.

Cultural Department

We recognize that culture is unique to each individual Nation and Tribe. However, we also recognize that certain elements of culture may also be considered 'universal' in beliefs, traits and practices of Indigenous world views.

For our purpose at Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services, we are adapting our own Anishinabek Aadiziwin [our way of living] based upon our traditional and territorial practices of the Anishinabek of Mnidoo Mnising.

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services' Cultural Service Model will encompass the following Elements: Offer of Bi-Cultural services, Anishinabek Best Practices, Strengths-Based and Family Preservation.

The intent of offering Cultural Services is to assist and guide those involved with Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services in their personal efforts to attain a balanced and holistic well-being attributing to their quality of life, familial and community connections.

It is important to respect where individuals may be in their own Spirituality and Healing Paths. In our role as helpers, we at Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services may be able to support you.

Cultural Services will be made available to children, youth and their families including communities at-large. The following Cultural Services may be available to you and family members (loved ones).

- Traditional Case Conference to involve everyone to develop a Service Plan / Plan of Care
- Naming Ceremony / Clan and Colours
- Traditional Talking or Sharing Circles
- Regalia Making for children / youth in care
- Purification Ceremonies: Cedar Baths, Sweat Lodge
- Fasting Teachings and Ceremony
- Coordinate Debriefing and Recovery Sessions
- Cultural Camps for children / youth-in-care
- Match and Mentorship with an Elder or Traditional Resource

- Lunch and Learn Sessions: Anishinabemowin / Hand Drumming
- Traditional Teachings and seasonal ceremonies to coincide with each season
- Collaboration with external service providers in the delivery of Cultural Events
- Repatriation and Reunification Ceremony
- Cultural Day Events

To assist Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services in its on-going cultural developments, the following mechanisms have been implemented internally:

1. **Cultural Wellness Committee** comprised of agency staff who serve on a voluntary basis that act within a consultative planning forum to provide advice and recommendations of cultural developments that may be adapted into the agency's wide service delivery .
2. **Traditional / Spiritual Services Policy and Procedural Manual** [administrative tool] to assure the appropriate delivery and integration of Traditional / Spiritual healing practices and processes offered by the agency.
3. **Cultural Department** that is comprised of the following positions: (1) Cultural Coordinator located in Wikwemikong and (2) Cultural Enaadaamaaget positions (1) Wikwemikong and (1)Newgate Office in Sudbury.
4. **Elders Advisory Council** that is comprised of Elders appointed by our member First Nations Leadership who act within an advisory capacity exercising their collective wisdom, knowledge and life experiences to reinforce the agency's vision, mission and service principles.

“The Anishinaabe child is a gift from the Creator. The child represents all Creation, its place is at the centre and must always remain our focus.”

- KGCFS Elders Advisory Council 2012

Customary Care

What is Customary Care?

Customary Care is the traditional practice that has always existed among First Nations. Today, this informal practice is alive, whereby communities care for and protect the children without the intervention of child welfare authorities.

The Customary Care Program is based on our Anishnaabe cultural belief system. It is a program that recognizes and respects inherent rights of the Anishnaabek. This current model of customary care will be implemented only if a child is deemed in need of protection, as identified through Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services and the respective First Nation. The First Nation community declares that the child(ren) be cared for under a Customary Care Agreement, through a Band Council Resolution.

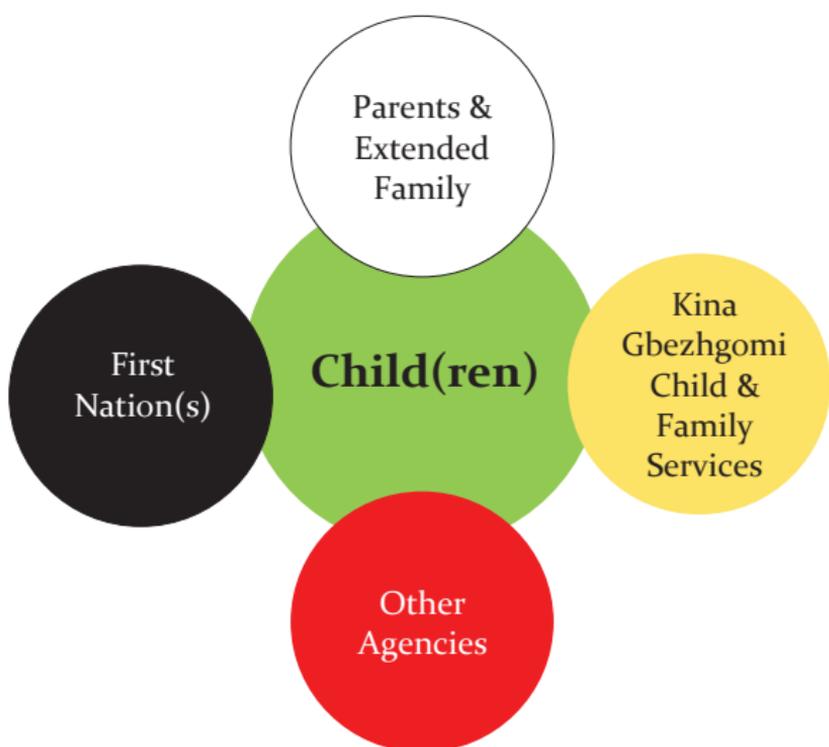
Our historical practices are the foundation to customary care.

How Does it Work?

Together, the Parents, Band Representatives and Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services decide on a suitable family to help raise the child.

Support Provided

- A collaborative approach to providing services to the family, child and selected caregiver in collaboration with community service providers.
- Support and Subsidy for Customary Care placements with the endorsed Customary Care Agreement.
 - Childcare Standards apply.
 - Foster Care Licensing Standards apply.
- A Customary Care home will be paid a regular or specialized “Foster Care Rate” in accordance to child’s needs.



The Customary Care Agreement is a voluntary program for short and long term placements in the best interest of the Child(ren) and Family.

Positive Outcome

- Parental Rights are maintained and the connection and relationship with the child are preserved.
- Court proceeding are not required.
- Child Focused: Child(ren) remain with their extended family and within their community.
- Family Based: The relationship between the child(ren), parent and community is valued and respected.
- Community-based decision making.

Duty to Report

According to the Child and Family Services Act

- The paramount purpose of this Act is to promote the best interests, protection and wellbeing of children. The Act defines the term “child in need of protection” including physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect, and risk of harm.
- A child is defined as a person under the age of 16 years, or a person who is already subject to a Protection Order.
- Everyone in Ontario, including an individual who works with children in the course of his/her duties, has a legal responsibility to IMMEDIATELY report suspicions of child abuse.
- The individual who suspects that a child may have been abused or is at risk of abuse, must report directly to KGCFS and cannot rely on anyone to report on his/her behalf. The person with the knowledge must make the report, and you cannot ask an assistant or colleague to report on your behalf.
- An individual who reports suspicions is protected from civil action (being sued) unless it is proved to be a malicious report.
- Professionals who do not report can be fined for failing to do so. Professionals include, health care professionals (doctors, nurses, psychologists, dentists, etc), Educational Professionals (teachers, principals, and school employees, daycare employees), Social workers and family counsellors, youth and recreation workers, peace officers and coroners, and Priests, Rabbis and other clergy.
- All relevant information must be given to KGCFS. Confidential information cannot be withheld if it relates to child abuse. You do not need to be sure that a child is in need of protection to make a report. “Reasonable Grounds” is based on professional training, background and honest judgment.
- Any additional suspicions or information must be reported even after the initial report to KGCFS.
- Always act in the child’s best interest to protect from harm. Children are sacred gifts from Creator and deserve our protection.

- Do not discuss details of suspicions or doubts with anyone but KGCFS.
- By legislative requirement, the duty to report is “forthwith” meaning promptly.
- Do not tell a parent/caregiver about the call until speaking with KGCFS – notification to a parent/ caregiver may place the child at risk of harm.
- If a suspicious injury is discovered, and the parent did not offer an explanation, consult with KGCFS before calling the parent.
- Discuss with the KGCFS worker at the time of referral whether you will be identified as the referral source. You have a professional duty to report.
- Clarify with KGCFS if any other personnel should know the details of the report (respecting confidentiality).
- Call KGCFS and advise that you need to make a report of suspected child maltreatment. You will be referred to a Phones Screener.
- An on-call worker is available when the office is closed.

If you are not sure about whether or not a report is required, call KGCFS to consult (705) 859-2100 or toll free 1-800-268-1899



Basic Needs of Children

- Basic needs for shelter, clothing, nutrition
- Health care
- Nurturing
- Stability
- Guidance and discipline
- Intellectual stimulation
- Love and acceptance
- Positive peer interactions and relationships
- Safe neighbourhood
- Safe community

Signs of Abuse

Generally, there are four types of child maltreatment defined by the Child and Family Services Act:

- Neglect
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse

Neglect

Physical Indicators

- Poor Hygiene
- Unattended Physical or medical needs (e.g glasses, dental work)
- Consistent Lack of Supervision

Behavioural Indicators

- Pale, listless, unkempt
- Frequent absence from school
- Inappropriate clothing for the weather or dirty clothes
- Frequently does not bring a lunch

Physical Abuse

Physical Indicators

- Injuries that don't fit the explanation
- Presence of several injuries that are at different stages.
- Facial injuries in infants and preschool children
- Injuries don't fit with the children age and development stage

Behavioural Indicators

- Cannot recall how injuries occurred or offers an explanation that doesn't fit
- Wary of adults
- May cringe or flinch if touched unexpectedly
- Infants may display a vacant stare
- Extremely aggressive or extremely withdrawn

Emotional Abuse

Physical Indicators

- Bed wetting that is nonmedical
- Frequent psychosomatic complaints, headaches, nausea, abdominal pains
- Child fails to thrive

Behavioural Indicators

- Severe depression
- Extreme withdrawal or aggressiveness
- Overly compliant, too well-mannered, too neat or clean
- Extreme attention seeking
- Displays extreme inhibition in play

Sexual Abuse

Physical Indicators

- Unusual or excessive itching in the genital or anal area
- Torn, stained, or bloody underwear
- Pregnancy
- Injuries to the genital or anal areas (e.g bruising, swelling, or infection)
- Sexually transmitted disease

Behavioural Indicators

- Age-inappropriate play with toys, self, or others displaying explicit sexual acts.
- Age-inappropriate sexually explicit drawing and/or descriptions
- Bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge
- Seductive behaviours

What happens when KGCFs receives a call regarding concerns for a family?

- Allegation/referral that a child may be in need of protection is assessed.
- Respond in relation to the protocol with each First Nation in accordance with the service models developed also in accordance with the protocols developed with the police services.
- A KGCFs Worker will respond within a period of 12 hours – up to a maximum response time of 7 days. The response time is determined by the level of urgency, child vulnerability and/or the assessed level of present or imminent threat to the safety of the child.
- Allegations involving sexual harm or serious physical harm are referred to the police for a joint KGCFs-police investigation.
- A review of any past child welfare history.
- Safety assessment is completed which includes:
 - Private and separate interviews with the children.
 - Private and separate interviews with the caregivers.
 - Observation of the home.
 - Developing a safety plan if needed to keep children safe.
 - Investigation continues with the following steps taking place to determine if the children are in need of protection.

Signs of Safety: All families have signs of safety including strength, resources, their own way of solving problems, and their own goals.

- An investigation can take up to 45 to 60 days. During the course of an investigation the following is included:
 - Interviews with any witnesses.
 - Determining family supports and strengths.
 - Contact with collateral sources of information, such as schools, HBHC, daycares, doctors, nurses, counsellors, psychiatrists, police, probation/parole, etc.

- The completion of Child Protection Assessment Tools.
- The worker may make a verbal request for information contained in a record. Any information that relates to the alleged protection concerns is to be provided to the KGCFS worker. The client's consent is not required for the referral of protection concerns. This provision for reporting protection concerns to KGCFS is covered under the Duty to Report section of the Child and Family Services Act.

Family Centered Conferencing

“Is a culturally sensitive decision making process that brings together the family group – nuclear and extended family as well as friends – and service providers to develop a plan that meets the needs for safety and well-being of the child and the family as a whole.” (Family Group Conferencing Project of Toronto, 2006)

Benefits / Outcomes

- Increase in professional involvement with extended families.
- Increase in the number of children living with kin.
- Increase in community involvement.
- Reduce the number of children living in out-of-home care.
- Reduce the number of court proceedings as voluntary agreements are often possible.
- Empowers the family to lead planning to promote family healing.

Family Counsellor Program

Family Counsellor Program:

The Family Counsellor program offers families intensive and short-term crisis intervention and family education services in their home for four weeks with possibility of an extension up to a maximum of six weeks using the Families First Model.

The Family Counsellors work to assist families by establishing individual family goals designed to reduce risk of out of home placement and increase child safety.

The program at KGCFCS has also been extended to support families through repatriation through providing in home support in the transition of children into their care. Currently, KGCFCS has two Family Counsellors whom provide services to families within the Sudbury and Manitoulin Districts.

The Family Counsellors assist families in meeting goals by teaching, modeling and reinforcing appropriate parenting and by providing concrete services and connections to community services.

Program Eligibility:

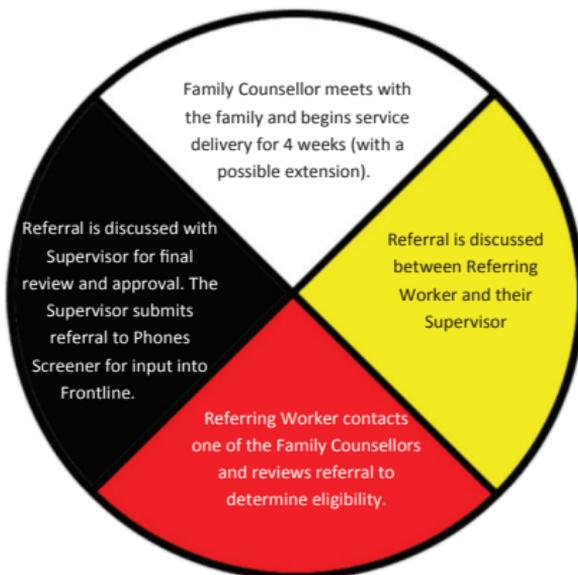
- The main criterion for a referral is the risk factor(s).
- Families may be eligible for services if one child is in imminent risk of placement in out-of-home care.
- Families may be eligible if repatriation services are required to return children into the care of their families.
- The service is voluntary and parental consent is required.
- Families must be involved with KGCFCS Child Welfare Services

Services:

- **Assessment:** assist families in identifying family stressors and current needs in order to reunite and/or maintain a successful intact family.

- Community referrals are completed to address the family's needs, along with advocacy to address the family's needs.
- In-Home support
- The Family Counsellors help families learn new skills and parenting strategies needed to allow children/ youth to remain in their own homes and prevent potential family breakdown.
- Families will be visited in their own homes, or supported in the community for up to 10 hours per week.
- The Family Counsellors will assist families in meeting goals by making an individual family plan that includes teaching, modeling, and reinforcing positive, responsive parenting in a culturally inclusive way. Skills will be practiced and homework will be given.
- The Family Counsellor will connect with the family after the initial closing at 3 Months, 6 Months and 9 Months and 1 year to assess progress and if the family feel that the safety plans are effective or if there needs to be a revision of the current plan.
- A team of support is developed with the family with the family defining their individual and family strengths to set goals to address the current stressors and risks.

Referral Process:



Family Counsellor Essential Components:

- **Engagement:** Using a collaborative and individual/family strengths-based approach to engage and partner with families.
- **Assessment and Goal Setting:** Use family-focused and directed assessment of life domains, such as progressive crisis/safety risk assessment, needs identification and planning, e.g. Life Domains Behavior Change. Behavioral based practices and skill-based interventions, as well as cognitive intervention strategies and cultural approaches to support parents.
- **Skills Development:** Teaching families a wide variety of life skills through utilizing direct teaching, modeling behaviors, practicing/role-play, strength-focused feedback, and individual/family based practice to strengthen learning.
- **Skills Practice Component:** Families may be assigned homework or skills practice to strengthen their skill development and practice a skill, hold a family meeting, use journaling to track behavioural progress, etc.
- **Collaboration or Interacting with the Community and Accessing Services:** Joint planning with supports & partners.
- **Services are provided in the Families Homes & Communities:** Services will be provided in the families' homes and community, where they are most comfortable, able, and willing to explore behavior change.
- **Intensity of Home Visiting:** The intensity varies according to the needs of each individual family. The workers will spend 10-15 hours per week with each of the families on their caseload and the average visit is 2 hours.

- **Duration of Program:** The Family Counseling Program works with families for a period of 4-6 weeks. Cases can be extended for a couple of weeks, to complete goals and objectives. Extensions will be based on extenuating circumstances.
- **Immediate Response to Referral:** Referrals will be accepted continuously. Family Counselors are available 24 hours a day, 5 days a week to support families in averting crisis, with the application of strategies and problem solving – over the phone.
- **Caseload Size:** Carry caseloads of 2-4 families at a time on average.
- **Flexibility and Responsiveness:** Home visits are scheduled based on the schedule of the family. Services are tailored to each family's needs, strengths, lifestyle, and First Nations (Anishnabek) or Family Culture.
- **Concrete Services:** Provide and/or help the family access concrete needs and services that are directly related to goal achievement and risk reduction.
- **Booster Sessions:** Families who have participated in the Program, (who have stabilized) will continue to be able to access Strengthening Booster Sessions for problem solving or goal planning modifications required.
- **Tracking of Former Clients:** Families whom have participated in the Family Counseling program are tracked to measure progress and functioning, without re-referral, for 3, 6, and 12 months after exiting the program.
- **Reports:** Reports are available to referring workers.

First Nations Community Prevention Programs

All First Nation prevention programs are community-based and community directed and community delivered.

Community Support Program

Community Support services include the following general framework of support services and specific programs and services as defined at the First Nation community-based level:

- Advocacy and Referral
- Cultural Awareness
- Community Education Promoting Healthy Lifestyles
- Life Skills
- Support and Counselling Services
- Family and Parent Education

Family Support Program

Family Support services include the following general framework of support services and specific programs and services as defined at the First Nation community-based level:

- Individual and Family Support and Direct Services
- Assessment and Service Planning for Individual and Families

- Advocacy and Liaison Services
- Education and Skill Development and Planning
- Information and Referral Services and Planning
- Tangible Support Services and Planning
- Service Planning and Conference Involvement as it relates to Child Welfare Matters
- Collaboration and Planning Services

Foster Care Department

Our Children. Our Responsibility.

We are seeking loving, safe Anishnaabe caregivers for Anishnaabe children that require foster care. Each year many Anishnaabe children are placed with non-Native foster families because we do not have enough Anishnaabe homes available. Our communities have the knowledge, skills and family networks to take care of our own children. We need Anishnaabe people like you to become foster parents.

Why do children require foster care?

There are a variety of reasons why children in our communities might require the care of a foster family. These include:

- Neglect, physical or sexual abuse
- Emotional harm and/or exposure to conflict
- Child has been abandoned or orphaned
- Conflict between the child and the caregiver
- Parent(s) have been impacted by family violence, health or addictions creating parenting challenges

What do Foster Parents do?

The role of the foster family is to provide a safe and nurturing home until the birth family is ready to regain the parenting role.

Foster Parents help the child understand what is happening and to cope with their feelings during this difficult time. They need to respond to the child with patience, calm, love and guidance. Foster Parents are vitally important in supporting the child's relationship with their birth family, extended family and First Nation.

How are Foster Parents supported?

- 24 hour support
- Home visits
- Resources for meeting the child's needs
- Compensation for expenses and daily care
- Reimbursement for cultural activities, sports and recreation
- Education and training supports

Become a Foster Parent today.

If you are interested in fostering, contact our Foster Care Department to discuss the program in more detail. We will begin a Foster Care Home Study that includes the following:

- Police Vulnerable Sector Check and KGCFS Record Checks (household members 18 years and older)
- Personal references
- Medical report
- Housing and safety review
- Individual interviews for household members (6 years of age and older)

Foster Parents can decide to provide care for specific children known to them through kinship or customary care or provide regular care to First Nation children as required. Foster Parents are urgently needed to provide regular care, specialized foster care services, as well as relief services.

Become a foster parent today and assist Anishnaabe children to stay connected with our communities.

Kinship Services

KINSHIP: Family and Community Working Together to Plan for Children

Kinship is the full time care and nurturing of a child or youth by a relative, community member, or other adult with whom there is a relationship significant to the child or youth. There are two types of Kinship arrangements: Kinship Service and Kinship Care.

Kinship Service: Kinship Service applies to a child or youth who cannot safely live at home, who is placed with a member of his or her extended family or community but not admitted into the care of a child welfare agency.

Kinship Care: Kinship Care applies to a child or youth who cannot safely live at home, who is admitted to the care of a child welfare agency and placed with a member of the child or youth's extended family or community. Kinship Care families become licensed Foster Homes.

Benefits of Kinship

- Children experience less trauma and less stigma when moving to kin compared to children who are placed in regular foster care.
- Family Relations tend to have greater commitment to children and ability to stick it out if things become tough.
- Sibling groups are more likely to remain together.
- Is easier to maintain, culture, identity, sense of belonging and self-esteem.
- Child(ren) remain within their familial unit and able to continue engaging in family traditions and culture.
- There is a potential for more natural access with parents and siblings.
- It allows opportunity for families to plan together in the short term and long term.
- Family stories and histories are maintained.

All Children have the right to be cared for safely within their own families and communities.

Support for Kinship Service Families

- Financial support through Ontario Works Temporary Care Allowance and Child Tax Credit.
- Episodic Financial support from the child welfare agency.

Support for Kinship Care Families

- Financial support through a daily per diem and reimbursement of child care activities.
- PRIDE training and other training support.



How to become a Kin Caregiver

If you are interested in becoming a kinship caregiver for child/youth in care please contact Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services and ask to speak with a Child Well Being Worker. The worker may not be able to provide information over the phone for confidentiality reasons. However, the information will be forwarded to the appropriate worker. You also can contact the Band Representative in your community to assist in bringing your wishes forward to KGCFS.

Whether caring for a child through Kinship Service or Kinship Care, you will be required to participate in a home assessment. This will include: individual interviews with caregivers, interviews with any children or other adults in the family, criminal record checks (vulnerable sector screening), child welfare background checks and home safety inspection.

Some other requirements may include medicals, references, and financial reports. Kinship Care families must meet foster care licensing standards and attend PRIDE Training.

Other ways families can be involved:

Children need connections with family, culture and community. Kinship does not have to mean a full-time placement. You can stay connected in different ways such as:

- Taking the children for a weekend visit
- Sending birthday cards, phone calls, etc.
- Having typical grandparent/aunt/uncle relationships and showing children you sincerely care about them



Specialized Services

Who can Volunteer?

- Volunteers are community members, parents, teachers, and retirees, whom choose to share their lives with vulnerable children and youth. They come from many different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, are from all age groups and can be single, male or female, LGBTQT or two spirited.
- Volunteers of KGCFS support children, youth and families. Volunteers have a wide range of skills. Some work directly with children and youth, while others offer their expertise to provide leadership and guidance to KGCFS as members of the Board of Directors working with the administrators of the agency.
- KGCFS is governed by a First Nation appointed Board of Directors who serve on the Board for a period of time as determined by their respective First Nation Chief and Council.

What Volunteers do?

KGCFS always need your help! There is never a shortage of opportunities for interested community members to participate in improving the lives of children and youth. Volunteers make a significant difference to the lives of First Nation children. Their valuable contributions enable agencies to provide enriched services to children, youth and their families.

Volunteers offer a great deal of personal experience and knowledge that is invaluable to KGCFS. They work alongside staff and foster parents, bringing their skills, energy and commitment to protect children.

Some of the volunteer opportunities that are available at KGCFS include:

- Drivers
- Supervised Access
- Special Events
- Special friend to a parent or child
- Tutor
- Mentors

How do I Volunteer?

If you are interested in volunteering, contact KGCFS to attend a session to learn about volunteer opportunities training and the application process. All volunteers must be 18 years of age or older, must pass a criminal record check and sign an Oath of Confidentiality. We will strive to find the best role that best suits your skills and schedule.

Benefits of Volunteering at KGCFS:

- Get involved and help your community
- Develop and improve your life skills
- Learn more about child protection and KGCFS
- Meet new people and socialize
- Make a difference in someone else's life (as well as your own)
- Engage in a rewarding life changing experience

Youth in Transition Program

Program Definition:

Support youth in their successful transition out of child welfare system into adulthood. Help youth develop and pursue their goals, support them to identify, access and navigate adult service systems relevant to their specific needs and provide emotional support.

Types of Support (information or referrals):

- Housing
- Education resources
- Cultural resources and connections
- Employment services and training
- Life skills (financial and household management)
- Health and Mental Health services
- Legal services
- Support youth to develop and maintain relationships with responsible caring adults in community

Eligibility

- Youth between 16-24
- Youth was subject to crown wardship order, legal custody order under section 65.2 or the CFSA
- Formal customary care agreement immediately prior to the youth's 18 birthday
- Eligible for support under the Renewed Youth Support Policy (RYS) at ages 16 and/or 17, whether or not the youth actually received RYS

