

The logo for Adoption Council of Ontario (ACO) consists of the lowercase letters 'aco' in white, set against a solid blue square background.

SUPPORTING KIN FAMILIES



When kids can be raised within their extended families, this can increase their sense of identity and belonging and long term well-being. We know kinship families need connection and support.

SUPPORT

Throughout its over 30 year history, ACO has known that kids need families, and families need support.

That support is just as critical for kinship families. Sometimes it is even more important as kinship parents/caregivers often did not have the opportunity to prepare for this change in their life. As well, the impact of this on family relationships can be complex and challenging.

ACO believes in supporting kinship families throughout their lifelong journey.

WWW.ADOPTION.ON.CA/KINSHIP



"Thanks for helping me to take a step back and parent this child the way she needs to be parented."

TRAINING

The Pathways training is an 8-week program that empowers caregivers to effectively parent their children and help them heal.

Pathways provides families with an understanding of early childhood adverse experiences and the impacts they have on a child's brain, attachment and learning. Parents are then supported to develop skills that are developmentally and therapeutically helpful to a child's healing. Through connections with other families and the increased knowledge and skills, research has found that families are more able to parent children with trauma symptoms.

Pathways was developed by the Kinship Center in California for adoptive, kinship and legal guardian families. The Pathways evaluation programs done in Ontario and in the US demonstrated strong positive results. In fact, the US evaluation actually demonstrated stronger results in some areas for kinship families.

Until funding is secured to enable ACO to offer Pathways to kinship families at no cost, the fee is \$540 per family.

Special Sponsorship Opportunity

Until March 31, 2022 agencies are invited to sponsor a seat in a Pathways training for a kinship caregiver at a cost of \$540 per family, or purchase a training for up to 20 kinship caregivers at a cost of \$9,200.

Questions? Contact the ACO at pact@adoptontario.ca.

RESOURCES

Given the importance of Kinship Families in the lives of their children ACO has developed a new resource webpage for them. View our [new webpage](#) for information on trainings, kinship support groups and other helpful resources.



"If we could get the consistency in financial support, emotional support, resource support...you would see more kin families being able to step up and help."