

# REGIONAL KINSHIP CAREGIVER SUPPORTS

Provided varying amounts of flexible funding to regional kinship caregiver organizations to support events, respite, and direct assistance. Local partners were trusted to use these funds in ways that best reflected the unique needs and priorities of their communities.

## RECIPIENTS

N. Idaho - Relatives as Parents Inc.

AAA 5 - Many Lodges, One Fire

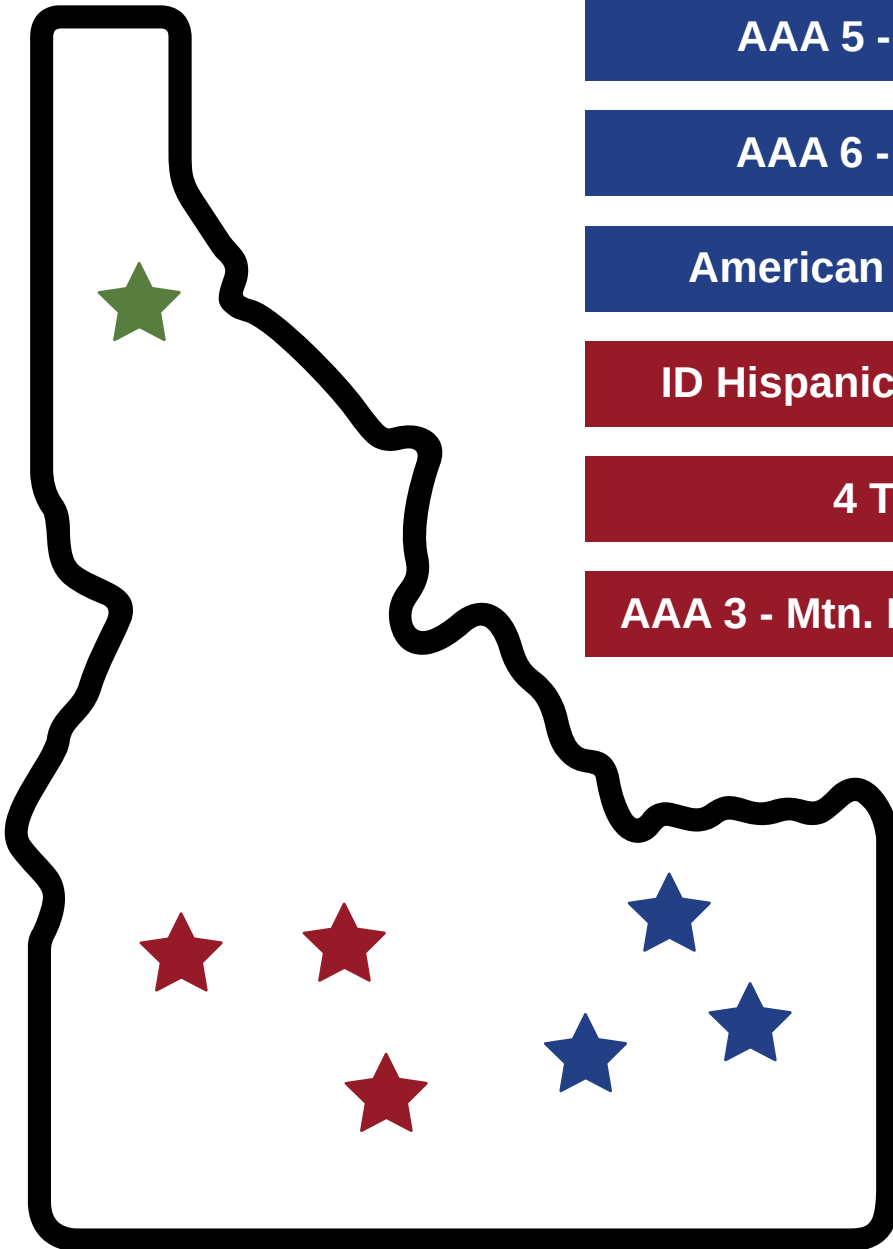
AAA 6 - Kinship Support Group

American Falls Joint School District

ID Hispanic Foundation Kinship Group

4 The Love of Kinship

AAA 3 - Mtn. Home Kinship Support Group



*“All of our families wanted to pass on their thanks for the opportunity.”*

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## ***N Idaho - Relatives as Parents Inc.***

***“A grandpa cried and said - ‘This means our family can have fresh fruits and vegetables that we know are good.’”***

- ★ Served 50 kinship families with 128 children.
- ★ Held a lottery and awarded 50 giftcards for groceries, sensory items, and other immediate needs.

## **AAA 5 - Many Lodges, One Fire**

***“It was such a relief to meet others who understand what I’m going through. I finally feel like I’m not alone in this journey.”***

- ★ Served 12 kinship families with 8 children.
- ★ Supported two introductory kinship events in Fort Hall that fostered connection, reduced isolation, and created a welcoming space.

## **AAA 6 - Kinship Support Group**

***“We were reminded that adversity can be transformed into something beautiful and strong. We can heal, embrace our imperfections, and grow more resilient.”***

- ★ Served 12 kinship families with 15 children.
- ★ Provided caregiver books and an art-based event that fostered connection, reflection, and resilience among kinship families.

## **American Falls Joint School District**

***“Support turned a long-held hope into a reality and provided stability, safety, and peace of mind for a family that has endured so much.”***

- ★ Served a young adult sister caring for her brother.
- ★ Funds removed a financial barrier, allowing a rural family to secure legal guardianship and create stability, safety, and peace of mind.

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## **Idaho Hispanic Foundation Kinship Group**

***“Allowed us to create a safe, welcoming space where caregivers could connect, access resources, and receive support.”***

- ★ Served 12-15 kinship families and 5-10 children.
- ★ Helped provide culturally responsive programming, materials, meals, and supportive services for kinship caregivers.

## **AAA 3 - Mtn. Home Kinship Support Group**

***“The gift card ‘made their day.’ It meant a lot to the grandparents to know that they are recognized and valued.”***

- ★ Served 15 kinship caregivers and 31 children.
- ★ Provided gift cards to a kinship support group focusing on technology and AI for caregivers.

## **4 The Love of Kinship**

***“Because of these gatherings and resources, I feel more supported and less alone in raising my grandchildren.”***

- ★ Served 100 kinship families with 50 children.
- ★ Provided meals, educational support, program resources, and created outreach materials designed to kinship caregivers.

## ***Kinship Voices: Additional Reflections***

***“My grandson told me on the way here tonight that he likes coming because he sees that he is not the only one being raised by a grandmother”***

***“We now have enough fuel to make it back and forth for her cancer treatments.”***

***“This will help provide the last bit of funds we needed to get our littles sensory swing.”***

# APPENDIX: PARTNER NARRATIVES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

*The following narratives provide additional context on how funds were used across communities. These summaries highlight how local partners responded to the needs of kinship caregivers in their regions.*

## North Idaho Caregiver Group (Relatives As Parents Inc.)

### **Overview:**

Funds were used to provide direct assistance to kinship families through a lottery-based gift card distribution.

### **Partner Narrative:**

Families identified groceries, gas, medical supplies, and adaptive equipment as their most immediate needs. Because resources could not meet every request of their 95 eligible families, the organization developed a lottery system for 50 families to distribute support quickly and fairly. Families selected gift cards based on their specific needs, including food, fuel, and essential household items. For those not selected, staff connected families to additional community resources to ensure continued support. This approach allowed the organization to respond rapidly while maintaining equity and care for all families involved.

## Area 5 Agency on Aging - Many Lodges, One Fire

### **Overview:**

Funds supported introductory kinship gatherings in Fort Hall with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

### **Partner Narrative:**

The funding supported two introductory gatherings designed to bring kinship caregivers together in a welcoming and culturally respectful environment. Meals, space, and materials helped create a setting where caregivers and children could connect comfortably. These events focused on building relationships, reducing isolation, and introducing available supports. For many participants, this was the first opportunity to engage with other kinship caregivers in their community, laying the groundwork for continued connection and future programming.

## Area 6 Agency on Aging - Kinship Support Group

### **Overview:**

Funds supported caregiver education and a community-building gathering.

### **Partner Narrative:**

Caregivers were provided with the book *Grandparents as Parents*, which became a shared resource for discussing legal and emotional aspects of kinship care. During a group gathering, participants engaged in a kintsugi activity that encouraged reflection on resilience and healing. The experience created space for meaningful conversation and connection, reinforcing shared experiences among caregivers. Follow-up efforts ensured that caregivers who could not attend still received materials and opportunities to participate.

# APPENDIX: PARTNER NARRATIVES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

## American Falls Joint School District

### **Overview:**

Funds were used to remove a financial barrier to legal guardianship for a kinship family.

### **Partner Narrative:**

Funding was used to cover legal filing fees that had prevented a young caregiver from securing guardianship of her younger sibling. Despite years of providing care, the cost of formalizing the arrangement had been a barrier. With this support, the guardianship process was completed, creating long-term stability and security for the family. This intervention addressed a critical gap and ensured a safer, more permanent caregiving arrangement.

## Idaho Hispanic Foundation Kinship Group

### **Overview:**

Funds supported culturally responsive kinship programming for Latino families.

### **Partner Narrative:**

Resources were used to support ongoing monthly gatherings that provided meals, materials, and culturally responsive services for kinship caregivers. These sessions created a consistent and welcoming space where families could connect, access information, and receive support. The program emphasized trust, accessibility, and cultural relevance, helping strengthen engagement and promote stability for both caregivers and children.

## 4 The Love of Kinship

### **Overview:**

Funds supported meals, education, outreach, and program resources to strengthen caregiver support and connection.

### **Partner Narrative:**

Funding supported a range of activities, including caregiver gatherings, educational opportunities, and outreach efforts. These efforts were designed to reduce caregiver stress, strengthen family connections, and increase access to information and resources. The organization also used funding to expand its reach within the community, engaging more caregivers and creating additional opportunities for connection and support.

## Area 3 Agency on Aging - Mountain Home Kinship Caregiver Support Group

### **Overview:**

Funds supported a caregiver meeting that combined education and direct assistance.

### **Partner Narrative:**

Caregivers participated in a group meeting that included a technology-focused training and direct financial support through gift cards. The combination of practical education and immediate assistance helped address both short-term needs and longer-term capacity building. The support also reinforced a sense of recognition and appreciation among caregivers, contributing to increased engagement and connection within the group.