

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 13, 2018

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rebecca Vinroot, Director of Social Services

SUBJECT: Grant Award - Kinship Navigator Program - \$40,000

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James City County Department of Social Services (JCC DSS) has been chosen as an awardee of the Kinship Navigator Grant Program in the amount of \$40,000 by the Virginia Department of Social Services. These one-time, 100% reimbursable funds, are being made available to enhance Kinship Navigator Programs to assist kinship caregivers in utilizing services to meet the needs of the children they are raising and to promote effective partnerships among public and private agencies to ensure kinship caregiver families are served.

JCC DSS currently offers both formal and informal services and supports to kinship caregivers, such as case management to assess needs and arrange necessary services to provide support, education and information to caregivers. However, additional outreach is needed to ensure that all of the kinship caregivers in our area are aware of and have access to supportive services, such as financial benefits, therapeutic services and training.

JCC DSS plans to partner with Williamsburg Department of Human Services, York-Poquoson Department of Social Services, Williamsburg-James City County (WJCC) Schools, Colonial Behavioral Health, WJCC Community Action Agency, Peninsula Agency on Aging, the 9th District Court Services Unit and other local faith-based and non-profit organizations in the outreach and coordination efforts to ensure that all kinship caregivers have the services and support for the children in their care.

These funds are to be used for any activity related to enhancing our program, including hiring staff. Due to the anticipated increased volume in kinship caregivers needing assistance, JCC DSS is requesting the creation of a temporary part-time Kinship Navigator position. This position will be responsible for providing outreach to the community and establishing a more formalized network of support for local kinship caregivers.

Staff respectfully requests that the Board accept the allocation in the amount of \$40,000 and approve the creation of one new temporary part-time position for FY 19.

RV/nb  
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Attachment