

SUPPORTING KINSHIP FAMILIES: FUNDING CALL

Expression of interest guidance

Application deadline: 12:00 (noon) Thursday 28 November 2024



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST GUIDANCE: SUPPORTING KINSHIP FAMILIES FUNDING CALL

Foundations, the national What Works Centre for Children & Families, invite Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from organisations seeking grant funding to deliver programmes which support kinship families and participate in evaluation. We are particularly interested in organisations delivering programmes aligned with one or more recommendations of the [Kinship Care Practice Guide](#), offering direct support to kinship carers and the children in their care and/or are engaging with kinship carers from black and minoritised ethnic groups.

Following the publication of the [Kinship Care Practice Guide](#), our aim is to continue to build upon and strengthen the evidence base about what works to support kinship families, which will help to increase the availability of the right support to kinship families in England. Your EOI will enable us to map existing service providers and programmes within the sector. This will inform our efforts to identify and fund interventions that support kinship carers and the children in their care, and to commission independent research and evaluation of these programmes.

This is a three-stage application process. Following submission of an EOI, selected applicants will be invited to submit a detailed proposal. Finalists will then be invited to participate in an interview (please see further details below).

Ultimately, with this opportunity we aim to fund one or more programmes to fulfil the following objectives:

- To commission a large-scale impact evaluation of a programme and/intervention(s) that directly support kinship families. We are particularly interested in kinship navigator programmes.
- To support initiatives that are working towards reducing racial inequality in kinship care and addressing the needs of minority ethnic kinship families.

If you are interested in applying for this fund and taking part in evaluation, please express your interest by completing the [application form](#) and submitting it to the [application portal](#) by **12:00 (noon) Thursday 28 November 2024**.

Please note, we will be reviewing applications **on a rolling basis**, so we therefore encourage you to submit your application as soon as you are able.



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1. Background

1.1 Context

Over 130,000 children formally in care in England are being placed in the care of family or close friends, known as kinship care or connected care, rather than with unrelated foster carers.^{1,2} Kinship carers and the children they care for often face a range of unmet needs, as they are more likely than non-kinship foster carers to live with disabilities, experience financial difficulties, or be single caregivers. However, research shows that when adequately supported, kinship care can lead to better long-term outcomes in areas such as health, income, and family stability compared to other forms of non-parental care (Winokur et al. 2014, Winokur et al. 2018).^{3,4}

Kinship care is a policy priority for the UK Government. The Department for Education has recently issued Kinship Care Statutory Guidance which will help local authorities better support kinship families. The Government has also announced the appointment of the first National Kinship Care Ambassador, whose role is to advocate for kinship carers and children in kinship care and work directly with local authorities to improve services.

1.2 The Kinship Care Practice Guide

Foundations has recently published a Kinship Care Practice Guide to support senior leaders and commissioners in local areas to develop and commission effective services for kinship families. You can find the link to the Kinship Care Practice Guide [here](#).

The Practice Guide Principles and Recommendations

The Practice Guide centres on two key elements: **Principles** and **recommendations** for supporting kinship carers and families in the UK.

- Key Principles summarise kinship families' needs, experiences, and preferences, alongside evidence on effective service design and implementation. These form the basis for accessible and effective interventions.
- Recommendations highlight evidence-based interventions to improve outcomes, derived from rigorous impact evaluations of interventions for kinship families.

¹ Department for Education (2023, December 15) England's first ever kinship care strategy launches. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/englands-first-ever-kinship-care-strategy-launches>

² Kinship (2024) Out of Order. The Case For Boosting Financial Support For Kinship Arrangements Outside The Care System. <https://kinship.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/out-of-order-2024.pdf>

³ Winokur, M., Holtan, A., & Batchelder, K. E. (2014) Kinship care for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children removed from the home for maltreatment. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 10(1), 1-292.

⁴ Winokur, M., Holtan, A., & Batchelder, K. E. (2018) 'Systematic Review of Kinship Care Effects on Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being Outcomes', *Research on Social Work Practice.* 28(1), 19–32.



The Kinship Care Practice Guide is grounded in empirical evidence and lived experiences and provides a comprehensive approach to enhancing support for kinship families. Below are the three key principles outlined in the Practice Guide.

- Key Principle 1: Support for kinship carers should take into account the specific needs and strengths of kinship carers.
- Key Principle 2: One-to-one relationships and high-quality casework should be at the heart of support for kinship families.
- Key Principle 3: Kinship families need to be made aware of the support that they are entitled to, and local authorities should actively work to address barriers to carers accessing support.

And the Recommendations are as follows:

1. Offer kinship carers specialist support to learn about, navigate and access the support that they are entitled to.
2. Offer parenting support when a child or young person is demonstrating behaviours that challenge their kinship carer(s) on a frequent basis
3. Make services available to facilitate peer support groups to improve kinship carers' wellbeing
4. Make Cognitive Behavioural Therapy available to kinship carers who have been assessed as in need of therapeutic support because, for example, the child or young person in their care is demonstrating behaviours that challenge the kinship carer.
5. Offer kinship carers training in self-care to support their emotional health, wellbeing and quality of life.
6. Offer financial allowance to kinship carers to increase placement permanency, reduce the likelihood of placement disruption and improve the likelihood of permanent guardianship

The development of the Kinship Care Practice Guide was informed by a commissioned systematic review. This review highlighted the resilience of kinship carers while also identifying critical areas where additional support could significantly improve outcomes.^{5,6,7,8} Drawing on qualitative research evidence which explored the views and experiences of kinship carers in the UK, the review revealed substantial unmet needs among kinship carers, particularly due to gaps in the support provided by local authorities. Kinship carers emphasised the lack of comprehensive parenting support tailored to their specific circumstances, as well as difficulties in accessing mental health

⁵ Welch, V. (2018) Supporting Kinship Families: Final Report from the Evaluation of the Notre Dame Centre's Support Programme for Kinship Families. Centre For Excellence For Children's Care And Protection. <https://pureportal.strath.ac.uk/en/publications/supporting-kinship-families-final-report-from-the-evaluation-of-t>

⁶ Starks, L. & Whitley, J. (2020) An evaluation of Kinship Connected for Grandparents Plus. London: Nesta/Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Available at <https://kinship.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Kinship-Connected-Evaluation-FINAL-Sept-2020-1.pdf>.

⁷ Whitley, J., Fischer, F., Van Zanten, R., & Kelson, M. (2023) Kinship Connected: The feasibility of a pilot randomised controlled trial investigating mental health outcomes for children in care. <https://whatworks-csc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Kinship-Connected-the-feasibility-of-a-pilot-randomised-controlled-trial-investigating-mental-health-outcomes-for-children-in-kinship-care-FINAL.pdf>

⁸ Schroer, S. & Samuels, J. (2019) Accessing and Receiving Support A Research Report from Special Guardians and Adopters Together. <https://specialguardiansandadopterstogether.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/accessing-and-receiving-support.-a-research-report.-30.5.19.pdf>



services for children, financial assistance, housing, and legal guidance. The qualitative evidence highlighted the importance of peer support and of practitioners building a trusting relationship with kinship carers, as well as the need for interventions to be recipient-centred in both its content and implementation, including addressing accessibility.

Although the evidence base for effective kinship care support is growing and shows promising results, further investment and research are required. Based on the systematic review findings and stakeholder discussions, we aim to continue to strengthen the evidence by evaluating interventions that help kinship families navigate services, address the complex challenges they face, and provide specialised support for emotional difficulties linked to raising children who have experienced trauma or adversity.

We are therefore seeking to evaluate programmes or interventions that respond to these needs and align with the principles and recommendations of the Kinship Care Practice Guide.

2. Scope of the call

2.1 Population

Kinship care is any situation where a child is being raised in the care of a friend or family member who is not their birth parent. The arrangement may be temporary or longer term. Local authorities may have different eligibility criteria for support based on the type of kinship care arrangement. For this call, we seek to evaluate evidence-based interventions that support one or more the following kinship care arrangements:

- **When a child is in the care of the local authority and placed with kinship foster carers:** Kinship foster carer is when a friend or family member becomes a foster carer for a child. This is different to other forms of kinship care as the child is then considered a child in care, and the carer will not have parental responsibility. In these arrangements kinship carers are trained and receive the fostering allowance and the same level of support as other foster carers.
- **Kinship Carers subject to a Special Guardianship Order:** A Special Guardianship Order (SGO) is a family court order that places a child or young person in long-term care with someone other than their parent(s). The person(s) with whom the child lives with will become the child's 'Special Guardian' (Coram Child Law Advice)⁹. The Special Guardian will have parental responsibility for the child until they turn 18 and shares parental responsibility for the child with the parents but has 'enhanced' parental responsibility which in practice means that they can make nearly all decisions about the child. Local authorities have discretion to provide a financial allowance.
- **Kinship Carers on a Child Arrangements Order:** A Child Arrangement Order (CAO) is a type of legal order from the family court setting out arrangements for where a child is to live or who a child can spend time with and for long. Where a child arrangements order sets

⁹ Coram (2023) Special Guardianship. <https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/special-guardianship/>



out with whom a child is to live, that person will be granted parental responsibility, which is on an equal level to that of the parent (Coram Child Law Advice)¹⁰. The local authority has discretion to provide a financial allowance.

- **Informal Kinship Arrangements:** Informal kinship care is where a person is looking after a child, but they have not been granted parental responsibility through the courts, this is usually a family member. The child is not ‘looked after’ by the local authority and informal arrangements are made between the child’s parents (or someone else who has parental responsibility for them) and the kinship carer, although the child can in theory be helped under Section 17 Child in Need provisions. Where support services are identified as necessary to meet the child’s needs or to prevent the need for a child to enter local authority care, these should not be withheld merely because the child is living with a carer under an informal arrangement rather than in a formal arrangement.

2.2 Types of interventions

We are seeking to build on the recommendations of the Kinship Care Practice Guide; as such **we are particularly interested in continuing to strengthen the evidence base by evaluating the following interventions.** These have been drawn from robust impact evaluations of interventions sourced via the systematic review and have been shown to have positive outcomes for kinship carers or the children they look after in the UK or similar contexts. In addition, we are interested in programmes that target children in kinship care specifically.

Navigator programmes

Navigator programmes aim to help kinship carers navigate the complex landscape of available services, resources, and support systems. These programmes provide targeted assistance to kinship families, through dedicated staff and infrastructure, to enhance placement stability, promote permanency, and improve both carer and child outcomes.

Core components:

- **Individualised Guidance:** Each carer is paired with a dedicated support worker who helps them understand and access the services they are entitled to, including financial, legal, and emotional support.
- **Peer Support:** Peer support networks offer kinship carers the opportunity to connect with others who are in similar circumstances, providing mutual emotional support and practical advice.
- **Service Coordination:** Navigator programmes focus on ensuring that all necessary services, such as social care, legal advice, and educational support, are coordinated effectively for the family.

¹⁰ Coram (2023) Explaining the legality of a Child Arrangements Order. <https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/explaining-the-legality-of-a-child-arrangements-order/>



Enhanced navigator programmes

Enhanced navigator programmes build on the core framework of traditional navigator programmes by offering additional layers of support, aimed at improving outcomes for kinship families facing particularly challenging situations. These programmes are designed to provide more intensive, personalised, and specialised forms of guidance.

Core components:

- **Extended Support:** In addition to basic navigation services, enhanced programmes provide more in-depth and frequent touchpoints between the carer and the navigator.
- **Specialist Interventions:** Enhanced programmes often include access to specialists, such as mental health professionals, educational consultants, or financial advisers, who can provide tailored support based on the family's specific needs.
- **Targeted Peer Support:** These programmes may include more structured peer support groups that focus on particular issues relevant to kinship carers, such as managing children with complex trauma or navigating the legal system.
- **Increased Monitoring and Follow-up:** There is a stronger emphasis on regular follow-up visits and check-ins to ensure the carer and child's needs continue to be met effectively.

Therapeutic support for kinship carers

Therapeutic approaches for carers involve structured psychological or emotional support programmes that are aimed at improving the parental practices and wellbeing of kinship carers. These interventions help carers cope with the challenges of raising children who have often experienced significant trauma or adversity.

Our Practice Guide identified a promising evidence base for **Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)**. CBT is a well-established approach used to help kinship carers manage stress, anxiety, and depression. It focuses on teaching carers to reframe negative thoughts and develop coping strategies for challenging caregiving situations.

However, we understand that local areas provide other types of support for kinship carers, including programmes underpinned by other therapeutic models, self-care training, trauma-informed care or support, and peer led support. We would be interested in knowing more and building a stronger evidence base about these programmes.

We understand that services will support a broad range of carers and parents and that they may not be designed or organised to support kinship carers only. However, the scope and remit of this call is aimed at programmes supporting kinship families only, so we can only fund programmes that are designed to support those families.

Support for children in kinship care

To avoid duplicating existing guidance, our Kinship Care Practice Guide refers users to existing [NICE guidelines for children and young people's mental health](#). The systematic review underpinning the Kinship Care Practice Guide did not identify any programmes for children in informal kinship care. We are therefore interested in understanding whether programmes



specifically for children in kinship care exist and whether we can grow the evidence base which underpins these programmes.

Programmes may include therapeutic support or other forms of support. Therapeutic support for young people in kinship care is designed to address the psychological and emotional needs of children who have experienced adverse childhood events. These interventions focus on improving emotional regulation, behaviour, and overall wellbeing.

We understand that many services will support children in a broad range of living arrangements beyond kinship care and that they may not be designed or organised to support children in kinship care only. However, the scope and remit of this call is aimed at programmes supporting kinship families, so we can only fund programmes that are exclusively designed to support these children and families.

Please note that if your proposed intervention does not fit into the above categories but directly responds to and is aligned with the Kinship Care Practice Guide recommendations and kinship carers are a key population of interest, we encourage you to reach out to us at programmes@foundations.org.uk for an informal discussion.

2.3 Addressing racial inequalities in kinship care

Existing evidence shows that children from Black, Asian, Mixed, and other minoritised ethnic backgrounds make up about 19% of children living in kinship care.¹¹ On average, children from these backgrounds are more likely to be in informal kinship care. For example, only 6% of Black children are in kinship foster care or on Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs), whereas Black children represent 7% of all children in care. In addition to this, only 4% of Asian children are reported to be living in a kinship foster care arrangement and 2% are living with kin via an SGO, yet they make up 4% of all children in care.

These findings carry significant implications. Despite growing attention to kinship care, the needs of kinship carers from minoritised ethnic backgrounds are often neglected. Our kinship care systematic review found that kinship carers from minoritised ethnic backgrounds experience structural inequities and racism when accessing services and support, which limits their engagement with services. As a result, kinship families from minoritised ethnic backgrounds face a disproportionately higher risk of missing out on essential support.

To address these issues, the National Kinship Care Strategy aims to equalise financial support, training, and resources between kinship and foster carers, ensuring fairer treatment for families from minoritised ethnic backgrounds. Additionally, the strategy includes creating a National Kinship Care Advisory Board to improve local practices and investing in peer support networks to help overcome barriers. While these steps are positive, further reforms are still necessary to fully support kinship families from minoritised ethnic backgrounds.

¹¹ Office for National Statistics (2023). Kinship care in England and Wales: Census 2021
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/articles/kinshipcareine nglandandwales/census2021>



At Foundations, our goal is to be a leader in all aspects of equality, diversity, inclusion and equity (EDIE). We are committed to considering what can be learnt about racial disparity in every study we carry out. In order to support this goal, we are particularly keen to evaluate interventions and support applicants that are working to drive inclusion for kinship carers from minoritised ethnic backgrounds. For this reason, we will consider setting specific targets for recruitment of participants from minoritised ethnic backgrounds for the interventions and evaluations we fund.

We recognise the unique challenges faced by minoritised ethnic kinship carers and we are committed to funding interventions that specifically target their needs. To this end, we are keen to identify and work with specialist by and for organisations, small scale programmes and targeted interventions. By prioritising the funding and evaluation of these interventions, we aim to generate robust evidence on how to effectively support kinship carers from minoritised backgrounds. This will help ensure that these carers receive tailored support, empowering kinship carers to overcome challenges and barriers, ultimately leading to improved outcomes for the children in their care.

3. Evaluation

As part of this funding opportunity, participation in a robust evaluation is required to understand the impact and effectiveness of your intervention. We understand that evaluation may be new to some delivery partners, so we want to provide a high-level overview of what this entails. More detail and support to understand the expectations and requirements involved in taking part in an independent evaluation will be provided at the next stage.

We are interested in evaluating interventions:

- That work ‘in theory’, i.e.
 - That are described with enough details to enable their replication,
 - That are based on a credible theory of change,
 - That collect some data about participants, delivery and outcomes
- But for which there is no or insufficient evidence that it works ‘in practice’, i.e. that it does improve outcomes for specific groups, in specific contexts and in accordance with the theory of change.

All our evaluations aim to answer the following questions:

- Are participants’ outcomes after the intervention better than they would have been without the intervention?
- Did the outcome(s) differ across different groups and locations?
- Did the programme succeed in recruiting and retaining the expected number of beneficiaries?
- Did the programme correctly identify, and effectively address, any obstacles to recruitment?
- Was the intervention implemented as intended?
- Did the intervention work as intended?
- Is the cost of delivering the intervention as expected?
- Does the intervention deliver value-for-money?



- Can the intervention be improved?

Importantly, we do not expect all interventions to have reached a stage where all these questions can be answered with a high level of confidence. We will commission feasibility studies or pilot evaluations in cases where a full-scale evaluation is not considered viable.

It is important to note that, as part of this funding opportunity, your participation in an evaluation is a requirement of any grant award. At the call for proposals stage, applicants will be asked to demonstrate their commitment to an evaluation and their capacity to take part in an evaluation. Foundations will provide funding, training and ongoing support to make sure that Delivery partners are fully equipped.

4. The funding call

We are seeking EOIs from all organisations that deliver a programme that supports kinship families, provided that they meet our eligibility criteria detailed below. At this early stage, we are looking to understand what your programme is, the extent to which your programme has already been delivered (including to whom, where and for how long), and finally how your programme engages with and addresses the needs of kinship carers from black and/or other minoritised ethnic groups.

Following the submission of an EOI we will review all submissions, and the selected applicants who meet the assessment criteria will be invited to submit a full Stage 2 Application.

4.1 Eligibility

Programme eligibility

- You can demonstrate a track record of delivering this programme to kinship carers.
- Your programme is aligned with one of the specified intervention categories outlined in Section 2.2 above.
- Your programme is committed to engaging with and, ideally, has experience working with and supporting black and/or other minoritised kinship carers, or shows a clear plan to do so.
- Your programme has the potential to be scaled and evaluated to assess broader impact on kinship carers and the children they care for.

Applicant eligibility

- Applications can be submitted by local authorities, charities, third sector organisations, universities, social enterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which will act as the beneficiary of the funds and will oversee the delivery of the programme. We can only accept applications from legally constituted organisations, and not from individuals.
- Organisations do not have to be based in England, but the programme delivery must take place in England.
- Applicants must be willing and have the capacity to fully participate in an evaluation of their programme.



4.2 Budget envelope

We have up to £1 million available and anticipate being able to award and fund 2-3 projects. Budgets for individual grants will depend on the programme's scale, and potential impact. For applicants that we invite to Stage 2, we will expect all cost proposals to be proportionate to the programme's scope and objectives, and for these budgets to reflect the type of evaluation we will be able to conduct. For example, where a programme is best suited to a feasibility study, we will expect the requested programme costs to be less than a programme which is ready to be scaled up and/or to be evaluated using a randomised controlled trial design.

4.3 Indicative project timelines

Please see a proposed timeline for the full life cycle of the projects we are looking to assess, fund and evaluate. This timeline is indicative only and is subject to change.

Activities	Timeline
Call for programmes	October 2024 – April 2025
Call for evaluation proposal	May – July 2025
Full grant award and decisions	July 2025
Project set up	July – December 2025
Project delivery and evaluation live	January 2026 – June 2027
Final evaluation reports	September – December 2027

4.4 Funding call process

Funding call timelines

Please see the table below for a timeline of the key activities in this funding call. This timeline is indicative only and is subject to change.



Activities	Key dates
Stage 1: Expression of Interest live	Friday 25 October 2024
Deadline for Expressions of Interest	Thursday 28 November 2024, 12:00 pm (noon) We will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis, so we recommend that you submit your EOI as soon as you are able.
Stage 2: All applicants notified of outcome, and shortlisted applicants will be invited to complete a Stage 2 Application	Mid- January 2025
Deadline for Stage 2 applications	Late February 2025
Stage 3: Interview stage (shortlisted applicants)	Late March 2025
Full grant award decisions	Late April 2025

Stage 1: Expressions of Interest

Purpose

We are seeking to enhance our understanding of the programmes that are currently being delivered to kinship carers and by whom. We will use the information gathered at this stage to map providers, which will feed into our overall understanding of the policy and practice landscape and inform both this funding call as well as Foundations' future work.

We hope this encourages as many delivery partners and providers as possible to register their interest. The questions we are asking at this stage are to understand the core components of the interventions, the applicant's track record of delivery to kinship carers specifically, and how EDIE is embedded within all projects.

Support

We will hold a series of drop-in sessions that you can sign up for if you would like to have an informal conversation with the Foundations team regarding your programme. These sessions are scheduled for:

- **Monday 4 November, from 14:00 to 15:00**



- **Thursday 7 November, from 11:00 to 12:00**
- **Monday 11 November, from 14:00 to 15:00**
- **Thursday 14 November, from 13:00 to 14:00**

Please sign up for the drop-in session [here](#). In case you are not able to participate in these but are interested in doing so, contact us at programmes@foundations.org.uk

Assessment

We will review expressions of interest to ensure that they meet the eligibility criteria outlined above, and we aim to invite as many eligible applicants to the second stage as possible. We intend to provide feedback to applicants invited to second stage to help tailor their full application or to explain where an application was not taken forward.

During this stage, we may reach out to applicants to discuss their submissions. While we cannot provide direct assistance with applications, there may be instances where we seek to learn more about a proposed programme or its context. For example, for a newer or less well-developed programme, we may encourage collaborations between applicants with complementary skills or resources. Our aim is to promote innovation and maximise impact within our funding framework.

Stage 2: Full programme application

Purpose

The Stage 2 Application invites applicants to provide a comprehensive overview of their proposed projects, including objectives, detailed delivery plans, and expected outcomes. This application also allows you to showcase your organisational capacity by highlighting your team's qualifications and experience, as well as the resources available to support the project. This information is essential for us to assess your ability to achieve the proposed aims.

Additionally, the full application stage serves as a platform for addressing any clarifications or follow-up questions that may arise from your initial expression of interest. Given the substantial risks and complexities associated with conducting research on interventions involving vulnerable populations, this stage is crucial for evaluating your readiness for delivery and evaluation.

Support

We will hold a webinar for all applicants invited to apply for the Stage 2 Application outlining the call and providing an overview of the application process. In addition to this, we will provide comprehensive guidance document.

Assessment

Full assessment criteria will be shared with applicants invited to Stage 2 alongside the application form and guidance circulated at that time.

Applications will be reviewed by members of Foundations' internal Evidence and Impact directorates, and will look at potential for impact, evaluability, and feasibility of delivery. Ethics, EDIE and Safeguarding will be assessed by our external assessors.



Stage 3: Interviews

Purpose

Shortlisted Stage 2 Applicants will be invited to participate in an interview. The purpose of this is to begin to develop a relationship between the funders and the applicants, facilitating an opportunity for both parties to get to know one another. In addition to this, these interviews will serve as a 'rebuttal' stage, allowing us to scrutinise the information provided in the applications and further assess the alignment between the organisation, the specific programme, and the grant's strategic objectives.

The questions posed to applicants will be tailored to each applicant, drawing from the information provided in their submissions. Whenever possible, we will explore the option of conducting these interviews as part of a site visit.

Support

All invited applicants will be provided with a list of themes to discuss in advance of the interview.

5. The application

We will ask you to submit your Expression of Interest [application form](#) via the Monday.com link ([here](#)), and as part of this, we will ask you to respond to three sets of questions:

- Checklist questions, where we expect a simple yes or no response.
- Application questions are to be completed within the specified word limit.
- Operational questions about your programme costs.

5.1 Short checklist questions

Please note that if you tick "no" to any of the following questions, it will not automatically disqualify you from consideration. We understand that organisations vary in their approaches and capacities, and answering "no" simply helps us understand where further discussion or clarification may be needed. You are also welcome provide further detail or justification for your answers within the allocated space and word limit.

You may wish to provide a short explanation or justification for your answers, please limit this to 100 words per question.

1. Which category of intervention does your project align with, based on the descriptions in [Section 2.2](#) of the Expression of Interest Guidance: Support Kinship Families? Please tick all that apply.
2. Is your programme already being delivered in its current form?
3. Is your programme delivered to kinship carers (either exclusively or as part of your target population), and can you demonstrate a track record of successfully delivering your intervention to them?



4. Has your programme previously been evaluated? (If yes, please provide links to or attach relevant reports)
5. Does your programme already have a theory of change? (If yes, please link to or attach your theory of change)
6. Are you happy to partner with another organisation?
7. This question looks at your willingness to collaborate with other organisations, whether through sharing resources, expertise, or working on joint initiatives to better support kinship carers and children. A "yes" means you're open to potential partnerships, which can help expand reach and impact. A "no" won't disqualify you—some organisations may prefer to work independently due to their structure or goals. We're simply trying to gauge your flexibility around collaboration and identify opportunities where partnerships might add value.

5.2 Application questions

Question 1: Please provide a brief summary of your programme or intervention (600 words max)

In your answer, you may consider including the following:

- What are the core components or main activities of your intervention?
- What are your intervention's outcomes of interest and what is the (potential) impact of your intervention?
- Who delivers your intervention?
- How/to what extent is your programme aligned to the Kinship Care Practice Guide recommendations?

Question 2: Describe to what extent your programme or intervention has already been delivered (600 words max)

We want to begin to understand your track record of delivery, and the level of maturity of your intervention. In your answer, you may consider including the following:

- Where has the programme been delivered (locations and types of settings)?
- For how long it has been delivered, either in its current form or other similar forms?
- Who is your target population?
- What proportion of the population you have worked with in the past are kinship carers, and please make sure you include details about what you know about them (informal or formal kinship carers, special guardians, self-referred or referred by local authorities or other statutory services, etc)?



Question 3: How does your programme engage with and support kinship carers who are from Black and minoritised ethnic groups? How do you ensure that your programme is actively engaging with these families? (700 words max)

We expect applicants to outline clearly how they intend to embed considerations around equality, diversity, inclusion and equity, with particular focus on addressing racial inequalities. Applicants should outline their approach for engaging with carers from minoritised ethnic backgrounds in programme delivery and evaluation. Please provide previous examples of how you have engaged with this population group in your proposal.

In your answer, you may consider including the following:

- What strategies or methods does your programme use to reach and Black and minoritised ethnic groups?
- How are the specific needs of Black and minoritised ethnic groups integrated into your programme design and services? Are there specific initiatives, resources, or services tailored for these groups?
- How do you ensure that the support offered is culturally sensitive and responsive to the diverse needs of Black and minoritised ethnic carers?
- What barriers have you identified that prevent informal kinship carers and carers from Black and minoritised ethnic groups from accessing your services? What steps have you taken to address or reduce these barriers?
- Does your programme collaborate with other organisations or stakeholders to better engage with informal kinship carers or those from Black and minoritised ethnic groups?
- Given the demographics of the areas where you have already delivered your interventions, please provide what the proportion of recipients of the intervention have been from Black and minoritised ethnic groups.

5.3 Operational questions

Question 4: Costs

Please answer the following questions:

1. Please provide a high-level overview of your programme's delivery costs over the past year, using [this template](#)
2. If you were taken forward to Stage 2, please indicate what proportion of the total project delivery cost you expect to request from Foundations to enable delivery as outlined in the previous question?
3. Please include a description of the current funding model for this project. For example, do you receive or have you previously received public funding, grant funding or corporate sponsorship to support the delivery of your programme. Please indicate if and when this is due to end.



This information is intended to provide Foundations with a preliminary understanding of the costs required to deliver your programme/intervention on an annual basis. Please use the linked template provided to answer Questions 1 and 2 detailed above, and use the application form to respond to question 3.

Please note, although we are currently only asking about your historical costs, Stage 2 will involve a proposal for future work, in which you will need to submit a detailed budget including set-up costs and delivery costs within the context of an evaluation.