

Online Certificate in Grandfamilies Leadership

Training for Professionals Working with Kinship Families

The University of Maine Center on Aging is pleased to offer an online certificate program for professionals and volunteers who work with grandfamily caregivers. The online Certificate in Grandfamilies Leadership program provides core education, technical support, and leadership development for professionals delivering grandfamily and kinship programming across the country.

Gain a Higher Level of Expertise

Professionals completing the Certificate in Grandfamilies Leadership course will achieve three levels of expertise in grandfamily service provision:

- Accurately assessing the needs of grandfamilies and identifying resources to meet those needs
- Essential skills needed to deliver high-quality services
- Competencies to ensure sustainable programming

Train with National Experts in Kinship Caregiving

Partnering faculty for this program are nationally recognized experts in grandfamilies issues and programming. The course is delivered by experts in social service provision, policy, and relevant specialized topic areas.

For more information or to register for the Certificate in Grandfamilies Leadership, please visit our website:

kinshipcert.org

For questions or to request reasonable accommodation, contact Anna Shantz, anna.shantz@maine.edu and 207-581-2059



Become Part of a Growing Cohort of Grandfamilies Professionals

Professionals in the Certificate in Grandfamilies Leadership program will participate in a national online community, sharing experiences and gaining insights from one another.



How to Sign Up

- The Fall 2026 course will run September 14th to December 14th, 2026.
- Space is limited, and participation is on a first-come, first served basis. Visit kinshipcert.org to reserve your spot for Fall 2026
- Registration will be capped to allow participants the opportunity for online discussion with colleagues in the field.
- Participants will complete 11 modules over a 14-week period.
- Break weeks are built in to accommodate busy work schedules.

Obtain Affordable CEUs

This program is being offered for a low registration fee of \$85. Participants receive a certificate of completion documenting 12 hours of continuing education time.

In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and pursuing its own goals of diversity, the University of Maine System does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship status, familial status, ancestry, age, disability physical or mental, genetic information, or veterans or military status in employment, education, and all other programs and activities. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Director of Equal Opportunity and Title IX Services, 5713 Chadbourne Hall, Room 412, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469-5713, 207.581.1226, TTY 711 (Maine Relay System).

Course Agenda

Module One

Introduction and General Resources for Families

Module Two

Legal Information and Supports

Module Three

Mental Health and Special Needs

Module Four

Substance Use Disorder and Its Impact on Families

Module Five

Identifying and Supporting Grief and Loss for Children, Families, and Caregivers

Module Six

Cultural Humility, Inclusion, and Diversity

Module Seven

Caregiving Across the Life Span

Module Eight

Professional Under Pressure: Use of Self-care to Reduce Burnout and Secondary Trauma

Module Nine

Support Groups for Grandfamilies and Kinship Caregivers

Module Ten

Program Development

Module Eleven

Program Sustainability