

A Second Chance, Inc. (ASCI) is a nationally recognized model, pioneer and leader in the provision of kinship care. We are the only known organization in America that exclusively engages in kinship case management and support services to the entire kinship triad of the child, caregiver and birth parents.

We believe the best placement for children is with their relatives, family friends or others with whom they have existing positive relationships, when they are unable to remain in the homes of their birth parents—this is kinship care.

Innovations in Practice and Content

Case management specific to the kinship triad

Point of Contact (POC) is a full-service case management model designed for kinship care. This model empowers the family to ensure safety for the child, maintain family well-being and plan for permanency, concurrently certifying that the placement meets the requirements of the respective federal, state and local oversight authorities.

Kinship caregiver training through enrichment

Standards for Assessing and Recognizing Kinship Strengths (SARKS)[™] is an experienced-based curriculum designed specifically for kinship caregivers. It is compatible with the requirements of other states and highly adaptable to any region or jurisdiction in the nation. It is fully compliant with federal requirements under Title IV-E regulations.

Funding the Model
We believe in public-private partnerships as a means to strengthen a kinship care response.

Allegheny County DHS	Kinship care/case management
Philadelphia DHS	Foster care services & FGDM
Berks County	Foster care services
Mercer County	Kinship care/case management
Diakon-SWAN	Adoption services
Delaware County	FGDM
Westmoreland County	Kinship care/case management
Washington County	Stepping Into Families & placement
Elk County	Kinship care/case management
Wayne County	Home study/case management
Bradford County	Kinship care/case management
Cambria County	Kinship care/case management
Clinton County	Kinship care/case management

Strength and capacity of the ASCI model:	28,000 Children we have serviced
30,000 Birth parents we have serviced	10,000 Caregivers we have serviced
195 Pittsburgh corporate staff	115 Philadelphia regional staff

A National Presence
ASCI provides technical assistance, training and assessment. Contracts include:

- Los Angeles County, CA
- West Virginia
- Georgia
- Washington, DC
- New York, NY
- Northern Virginia
- Colorado Springs, CO.
- Arizona
- Tennessee

A nonprofit recognized for setting standards in public-private partnerships

We have raised the practice of Kinship Care in Allegheny County from 10% to 67% (with a goal of 70%). Before the implementation of IOC (Improving Outcomes for Children) in Philadelphia, we had taken Kinship Care from 5% to 47% (with a goal of 55%).

Innovations in Assessment and Placement

Assessment tools designed for kinship care

The Kinship Strength Assessment (KSA)™ is a tool used to assess and plan for the permanency needs of the child. We designed the tool to evaluate the kinship triad from a strength-based approach. Using this tool is vital in helping the family identify their strengths.

Integrated approaches to kinship care placements

Our Kinship Navigation program is a placement process where the family can accumulate knowledge, confidence and thus, self-determination for the planning of out-of-home care for a child/youth. It is family-driven and a multi-dynamic process that empowers the entire triad so that every voice is heard and all options are explored. The program coordinates well with POC case management.

Building Relationships to Better Serve Families

Committed to local growth

We believe that kinship care is a community-based response. As such, we have built relationships with the Pittsburgh Foundation community to strengthen this response.

- Eden Hall Foundation - capital and programming
- Heinz Endowment - programming
- Hillman Foundation - capital and programming
- PNC Foundation - programming
- A Second Chance Charitable Foundation - programming

Dedicated to a national response

We believe we must change the narrative of how children in the child welfare system are treated, as we know through research and data that those in kinship care experience better outcomes. Our relationship to these foundations support this belief.

- The Annie E. Casey Foundation: R&D, capacity, national curriculum
- Casey Family Programs: national engagement with states
- Kresge Foundation: succession planning in organizations of color
- Kellogg Foundation: capacity building
- The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation: system change in Los Angeles County

A case study perspective...

From Pa. to L.A., a Gold Standard Process for kinship care

ASCI has been providing technical assistance, training and coaching through a contract with Los Angeles County. The original scope of work was to assist the county in reducing a backlog of relative caregivers requiring foster care certification. ASCI continues to work with L.A. in adapting their Gold Standard Process (GSP) of family engagement. Developed by ASCI, the GSP is a start-to-finish practice for kinship home approval that maximizes caseworker engagement through timelines, due diligence and accountability measures.

Outcome	National Average	A Second Chance, Inc. Average
Length of stay for youth discharged to reunification	7.6 Months	6.2 Months
Length of stay for children discharged to adoption	29.4 Months	21.3 Months
Children subjected to substantiated abuse in care	.34%	0% Statistically less than 1%
Period of time to SPLC	24 Months (Legal)	17.9 Months
Youth in care who graduate high school	50%	95%
Youth who change schools when first entering care	56%	5%
Kinship Homes licensed	90 - 180 Days on Average	92% in 45 - 60 Days on Average
Female pregnancy rates for foster youth	33%	1% Following entry to ASCI