

# GrandFacts

## A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

### Nebraska

April 2008



The Brookdale Foundation  
Group  
www.brookdalefoundation.org



The AARP Foundation, The Brookdale Foundation Group, Casey Family Programs, Child Welfare League of America, Children's Defense Fund, and Generations United have partnered to produce fact sheets for grandparents and other relatives raising children that include state-specific data, programs, and public policies. This and other state fact sheets can be viewed and printed from the website at [www.grandfactsheets.org](http://www.grandfactsheets.org). Fact sheets are updated annually. Updates can be sent directly from the website via email. Please write "State Fact Sheets" on your e-mail subject line.

### In Nebraska

- There are 13,976 children living in grandparent-headed households (3.1% of all children in the state). There are 4,825 children living in households headed by other relatives. Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Nebraska, 8,321 are living there without either parent present.
- 8,454 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them (2,592 in Omaha): 12% of these grandparents are African American, 8% are Hispanic/Latino; 2% are Asian; 5% are American Indian or Alaskan Native; and 72% are White. 41% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 72% are under the age of 60; 11% live in poverty.
- Additional data on grandparents raising children are available from the United States Census at <http://factfinder.census.gov> or <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t17.html>.

### Programs That Can Help

#### Grandparent Resource Center

- Sponsoring Organization:** Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging  
**Contact:** Nancy Fullwood  
**Phone:** 402-470-0098  
**Email:** [Nancy.Fullwood@dhhs.ne.gov](mailto:Nancy.Fullwood@dhhs.ne.gov)  
**Web:** <http://www.enoa.org/>  
**Service Area:** Douglas, Sarpy, Dodge, Washington, Cass Counties  
**Services Offered:**
- Information and referral
  - Monthly support group meeting with expert speakers
  - Newsletter
  - Legal assistance

## Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

**Phone:** 1-877-257-0176  
**Email:** [nfapa@alltel.net](mailto:nfapa@alltel.net)  
**Web:** <http://www.nfapa.org/>  
**Service Area:** Statewide  
**Services Offered:**

- Educational conferences and trainings
- Resource publications
- Newsletter
- Mentors

## Children in Foster Care

Sometimes state child welfare agencies place children in foster care with grandparents or other relatives. This is often called “kinship care.”

### Numbers – March 2008

- There were 6,943 children under the care of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services in out of home placements. Of these, 987 children were placed with relatives.

### Preferences and licensing

- State policy requires that kin be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under the Department’s care.
- There is no separate licensing program for kinship foster parents.
- Training requirements may be waived if the waiver does not compromise the child’s safety.
- The state recommends licensing kinship caregivers, but does allow for approval of relatives in lieu of licensing.
- Payment for relatives is the same as for foster parents providing non-kinship care.

### Subsidized Guardianship

- Nebraska’s subsidized guardianship program is funded by the state and is provided for children who have finalized guardianship with a relative or foster parent. The program is encouraged for older children (age 12 and older) but may be possible for younger children as well.
- Available only if child is under the care of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services at the time the guardianship is finalized.
- Contact: Margaret Bitz
  - Phone: 402-471-9457
  - Email: [Margaret.bitz@dhhs.ne.gov](mailto:Margaret.bitz@dhhs.ne.gov)

## Public Benefits

### Financial Assistance

- Cash payments may be available to children and their grandparents through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program
  - Phone: 402-471-6035 OR 1-800-254-4202

- Web: [www.hhs.state.ne.us/fia/adc.htm](http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/fia/adc.htm)

## Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps to help meet the needs of children in their care.
  - Phone: 402-471-6035 OR 1-800-254-4202
  - Web: <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/fia/fstamps.htm>

## Health Insurance

- Free or low-cost health insurance may be available for children through the Nebraska Medicaid and Kids Connection Children's Health Program
  - Phone: 1-877-632-5437 or 402-471-8845
  - Web: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/med/Kidsconx.htm>

## Benefits QuickLINK

- Screens you and/or the children you are raising for 15 major public benefits for older adults and families with children
  - Web: [www.aarp.org/quicklink](http://www.aarp.org/quicklink)

## Other Benefits – child care, disabilities, special education, older adult benefits, etc.

- Children's Defense Fund benefit guides for grandparents and other relatives for information about state and federal benefits
  - Phone: 202-662-3568
  - Web: [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org) (Kinship Care Resource Kit)
- National Council on Aging – Benefits CheckUp [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org)

## State Laws

The following state laws may be helpful to grandparents and other relatives raising children<sup>1,2</sup>

### Standby Guardianship

#### Neb. Rev. State 30-2608c

- Authorizes court to provide standby-by guardian for a child whose parent is chronically ill or near death. The authority of the stand-by guardian takes effect when the parent dies, becomes mentally incapacitated, or becomes physically debilitated and consent to the guardianship.

<sup>1</sup>Laws change and are subject to different interpretations. These general descriptions are not intended as legal advice in any particular situation.

#### Disclaimer:

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