

# GrandFacts

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

### Alabama

August 2007



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 Alabama...

- There are 92,648 children living in grandparent-headed households (8.2% of all the children in the state). There are another 20,475 children living in households headed by other relatives (1.8% of all the children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Alabama, 51,486 are living there without either parent present.
- 56,369 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [4,764 grandparents in Birmingham and 2,825 in Mobile]: 50% of these grandparents are African American; 1% are Hispanic/Latino; and 48% are White. 40% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 71.5% are under the age of 60; 25.9% live in poverty.
- Additional national and state data on grandparents raising children is available on AARP's website at [www.aarp.org/grandparents/](http://www.aarp.org/grandparents/)

### Programs That Can Help

#### Alabama Cares

**Sponsoring Organization:** Alabama Department of Senior Services  
**Address:** 770 Washington Avenue, Suite 470  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
**Contact person:** Letha Stuckey  
**Phone/Fax:** 334-242-5743 or 1-877-425-2243 ph/334-242-5594 fax  
**Find Local Coordinator:** 1-800-243-5463  
**Email:** [letha.stuckey@adss.alabama.gov](mailto:letha.stuckey@adss.alabama.gov)  
**Web:** <http://www.AlabamaApline.gov>

## Alabama Cares – cont.

**Service area:** Statewide via Area Agencies on Aging

**Services offered:**

- Information and assistance
- Counseling in support groups
- Training/problem solving
- Respite care
- Open to grandparents 55 and over caring for grandchild 18 years or under, or grandchild of any age with a disability

## Alabama RAPP (Relatives As Parents Program)

**Sponsoring Organization:** Alabama Cooperative Extension System

**Address:** P. O. Box 967 Normal, AL 35762

**Phone/Fax:** 256-372-4960 ph/ 256-372-5840 fax

**Email:** Wilma Ruffin [wruffin@aces.edu](mailto:wruffin@aces.edu)

**Service area:** Statewide

**Services offered:**

- Database or listing of other support groups, services, or information in your area
- Information and referral by phone, mail, in-person
- Newsletter
- Conferences, workshops or other training for grandparents or professionals
- Legislative advocacy
- Financial support and assistance to organize support groups
- Support Group Meetings monthly
- Legal assistance
- Spanish speaking staff (Se habla Español)

## RAPP – Madison and Limestone Counties

**Sponsoring Organization:** Alabama Cooperative Extension System

**Address:** 819 Cook Avenue Huntsville, AL 35801

**Contact person:** Sylvia Oakes

**Phone/fax:** P: 256-532-1578, x 16/F: 256-532-1581 fax

**Email:** [oakessg@auburn.edu](mailto:oakessg@auburn.edu)

**Service area:** Madison, Limestone Counties

**Services offered:**

- Information and referral by phone, mail or in person
- Newsletter
- Quarterly support group meetings

## RAPP – Tuscaloosa

**Sponsoring Organization:** The University of Alabama, Psychology

**Contact person:** Martha Crowther

**Phone:** 205-348-7802

**Email:** [mrcrowther@as.ua.edu](mailto:mrcrowther@as.ua.edu)

## RAPP – Tuscaloosa – cont.

**Service area:** Tuscaloosa County (city of Tuscaloosa and neighboring cities)

**Services offered:**

- Skill-building support group, educational seminars
- Recreational activities
- Newsletter
- Resource book

## Birmingham Support Group

**Sponsoring Organization:** Jefferson County Office of Senior Citizen Services

**Contact person:** Barbara Shores

**Phone:** 205-3225-1416

**Email:** [barbara.shores@adss.alabama.gov](mailto:barbara.shores@adss.alabama.gov)

**Service area:** Jefferson County

**Services offered:**

- Weekly meetings (Wednesday 12-1)

## KinShare Program

**Sponsoring Organization:** Alabama Department of Human Resources

**Contact:** Jackie Moffitt, KinShare Program Specialist

**Phone:** 334-737-1192

**Email:** [Jackie.Moffitt@dhr.alabama.gov](mailto:Jackie.Moffitt@dhr.alabama.gov)

**Service area:** Statewide

**Services offered:**

- Comprehensive support to relatives responsible for children at risk of entering foster care system
- Respite care
- Clothing, furniture, emergency services
- Counseling and referrals for financial, legal, medical, mental health services
- Employment assistance

## Grandparents Empowering through the Millennium (GEM)

**Sponsoring Organization:** Jefferson County Committee for Economic Development Head Start- Early Head Start Program

**Address:** 300 Eighth Avenue West, Birmingham, AL 35204

**Contact person:** Mary Russell, Parent Involvement Coordinator

**Phone:** 205-327-7570

**Email:** [mrussell@jcceo.org](mailto:mrussell@jcceo.org)

**Web:** <http://www.jcceo.org>

**Service area:** Birmingham

## Grandparents Empowering through the Millennium (GEM) – cont.

### Services offered:

- Support group for grandparents whose grandchildren are in Head Start-Early Head Start
- Information and referral by phone, mail, in-person
- Newsletter
- Conferences, field trips other training for grandparents or professionals
- Legal assistance from qualified professionals
- Spanish speaking staff (Se habla Español)

## Kids & Kin

**Sponsoring Organization:** Family Guidance Center of Alabama  
**Address:** 2358 Fairlane Dr. Montgomery, AL 36116  
**Contact person:** Kathy Camp, Project Director  
**Phone/fax:** P: 334-270-4100 / F: 334-270-4104  
**Email:** [kcamp@familyguidancecenter.org](mailto:kcamp@familyguidancecenter.org)  
**Web:** <http://www.familyguidancecenter.org> (see Early Childcare)  
**Service Area:** 27 Counties: Autauga, Barbour, Butler, Butlock, Crenshaw, Choctaw, Coffee, Covington, Chilton, Dale, Dallas, Elmore, Escambia, Geneva, Greene, Henry, Houston, Jefferson, Lowndes, Marengo, Mobile, Macon, Montgomery, Pike, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, Wilcox

### Services offered:

- Serves adults caring for a grandchild, niece, nephew or sibling under the age of 13
- Contact information for participating counties
- Voluntary Certification Program – providers earn health/safety items, books, learning materials for attending free training on quality child care
- Information and referral by phone, mail, in-person
- Newsletter
- Conferences, workshops or other training for grandparents or professionals
- Support Group Meetings every other week
- Services provided to relative child care providers who are not legal guardians or foster parents

## Senior Caregiver Program

**Sponsoring Organization:** Central Alabama Aging Consortium and Family Guidance Center of Alabama  
**Address:** 2358 Fairland Dr, Bldg H Montgomery, AL 36116  
**Contact person:** Mary Louise Dabbs, Program Coordinator  
**Phone:** 334-270-4100  
**Email:** [kcamp@familyguidancecenter.org](mailto:kcamp@familyguidancecenter.org)  
**Web:** <http://www.familyguidancecenter.org> (see Early Childcare)  
**Service area:** Montgomery, Elmore and Autauga Counties

### Services offered:

- Information and referral by phone, mail, in-person
- Respite care (for example: before/after school care, camps for children, etc.)
- Health information
- Conferences, workshops or other training for grandparents or professionals
- Support Group Meetings monthly (child care and youth activities provided)

## Children in Foster Care

### Numbers – December 2006

- 6,796 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR)
- 112 of these children were placed with relatives
- An additional 780 children in DHR custody were in relative's homes *not* licensed as foster care homes.

### Preferences

- State policy requires that kin be considered first for out-of-home placements.
- Licensing standards may be waived if they do not affect the safety of the child.
- Licensed kin receive the same foster care payment as non-kin foster parents.

### Contact

- Andy Jackson, DHR foster care program specialist
  - Phone: 334-353-2087
  - Email: [ajackson@dhr.state.al.us](mailto:ajackson@dhr.state.al.us)

### Subsidized guardianship

- Ongoing subsidies to children who have left foster care to live permanently under the legal custody or guardianship of relatives.
- Not currently available in Alabama

### Training and support

- Alabama Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (AFAPA)
  - Phone: 888-545-2372 or 256-796-0582
  - Email: [afapa@afapa.org](mailto:afapa@afapa.org)
  - Web: <http://www.afapa.org>
  - Support for foster/adoptive parents, including kinship providers
- Alabama Post Adoption Connections (APAC)
  - Phone: Warm-line at 866-803-2722
  - Email: [info@casapac.org](mailto:info@casapac.org)
  - Web: <http://www.casapac.org>
  - Support to families after an adoption, including relatives who choose to adopt (support groups, lending library, crisis counseling)
  - In partnership with Alabama Department of Human Resources and Children's Aid Society

## Public Benefits

Children are often eligible for state and federal benefits even if their caregivers do not have legal guardianship or custody. The following public benefits programs are offered in Alabama:

### Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their relative caregivers through the Alabama Family Assistance Program.
- Contact:
  - Phone: 334-242-1950
  - Email: [fad@dhr.state.al.us](mailto:fad@dhr.state.al.us)
  - Web: [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov)

### Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps.
- Contact:
  - Phone: 334-242-1700
  - Email: [fs@dhr.state.al.us](mailto:fs@dhr.state.al.us)
  - Web: [www.dhr.state.al.us](http://www.dhr.state.al.us)

### Health Insurance

- Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance through Alabama Medicaid and/or the ALL Kids Program
- Contact Medicaid:
  - Phone: 800-362-1504
  - Web: [www.medicaid.state.al.us](http://www.medicaid.state.al.us)
- Contact ALL Kids
  - Phone: 888-373-KIDS (5437) - *Se Habla Espanol*
  - Web: [www.adph.org/allkids/](http://www.adph.org/allkids/)

### 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

Alabama currently does not have any state laws specifically directed at kinship care families.

**Disclaimer:**

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