

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

California

October 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. Fact sheets are updated annually. Updates can be sent directly from the website via email. Please write "State Fact Sheets" on your Email subject line.

In California...

- There are 625,934 children living in grandparent-headed households (6.8% of all the children in the state). There are another 327,623 children living in households headed by other relatives (3.5% of all the children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in California, 389,631 are living there without either parent present.
- 294,969 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [30,511 in Los Angeles and 8,840 in San Diego]: 12% of these grandparents are African American; 42% are Hispanic/Latino, 9% are Asian, 1% are American Indian and Alaskan Native and 33% are White. 25% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 67% are under the age of 60; 16% 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

Advocates 4 Family Caregivers

Sponsoring Organization Office of Samoan Affairs Community Center
Address: 20715 S. Avalon Blvd. #210 Carson, CA
Contact Person: Betty Halle
Phone: 310-538-8099
Email: a4fc@osacommunity.org
Service Area: South Bay area of Los Angeles
Services Offered:

- Support groups/support services for children and grandparents
- Specializes in families involved with Probate Court, Department of Children and Family Services or Family Court

BANANAS, Inc.

Contact Person: Arlyce Currie, Prog. Director
Phone: 510-658-7353
Email: BANANAS@bananasinc.org
Service Area: Northern Alameda County (based in Oakland)
Services Offered:

- Childcare information and referral

California Coalition of Grandparents & Relative Caregivers (CCG/RC)

Sponsoring Organization Statewide coalition of support groups started in 1
Contact Person: Lenora Poe, Ph.D.
Phone: 510-845-7189
Email: lenorapoe@sbcglobal.net
Service Area: Alameda, Costa Contra Counties
Services Offered:

- Networking with other kinship caregivers and state legislators
- Meets twice yearly in Sacramento
- Information sharing and advocacy
- Grandparents as Parents Support Group
- Tutoring for grandchildren
- Legal services for prisoners with children

California Community Colleges

Sponsoring Organization State Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges
Contact Person: Lucy Berger, Coordinator of Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE)
Phone: 916-323-5276
Email: Lberger@cccco.edu
Service Area: 64 participating community colleges throughout the state
Services Offered:

- Education and workshops for kinship caregivers

Carson Family Resource Center

Sponsoring Organization California Family Resource Association
Contact Person: Josefina Dhungana
Phone: 310-513-8070
Find Local jdhungana@yahoo.com
Coordinator:
Service Area: Carson and the South Bay area
Services Offered:

- Information and referral
- Support group

Casey Family Programs

Contact Person: Ruth Gonzalez
Phone: 323-750-1171
Email: rgonzalez@casey.org
Service Area: Pasadena, South Los Angeles
Services Offered:

- Information and referral by telephone
- Support groups – in person and by telephone
- Family group conferencing to maintain kinship care

Edgewood Center for Children and Families Kinship Support Network

Sponsoring Organization Collaboration between San Francisco and San Mateo Departments of Social Services
Contact Person: Falope Fatunmise, Regional Director
Phone: 415-375-7600
Email: falopef@edgewoodcenter.org
Service Area: San Francisco and San Mateo
Services Offered:

- Support groups
- Case management
- Emergency response services
- Recreation and respite
- Advocacy
- Mental health assessments
- Home health visits
- Family conferences

Family Ties, Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP)

Sponsoring Organization Kinship Center & Monterey County Dept. of Social Services
Address: 124 River Rd, Salinas, CA
Phone: 800-454-6744
Email: info@kinshipcenter.org
Website: www.kinshipcenter.org
Service Area: Salinas, San Jose, Santa Ana, Pasadena, Redlands
Services Offered:

- Food bank, clothes closet, holiday gifts and meals
- Summer camp and recreational activities
- Assistance with adoption and guardianship
- Outreach social workers
- Mental health services

Focus on Kinship

Contact Person: Sylvia Nelson
Phone: 619-962-4470
Email: sjnelson1@hotmail.com
Service Area: South Bay San Diego County
Services Offered:

- Caregiver-led advocacy, support and outreach

Grandma's House

Sponsoring Organization Children's Institute International (CII)
Contact Person: Frances Crawford, Program Coordinator
Phone: 213-807-1821
Email: fcrawford@childrensinstitute.org
Website: www.childrensinstitute.org
Service Area: Los Angeles area
Services Offered:

- Drop-in counseling and assessments
- Support groups meet weekly
- Social/recreational activities for relative caregivers and children
- Referrals for child care, legal aid, medical and mental health services

Grandparent Advocacy Network of Northern California (NorCal)

Contact Person: Sandy Weiss
Phone: 530-756-0183
Email: WeissSBK@cs.com
Service Area: Northern California counties
Services Offered:

- Advocacy to local officials, social agencies and public about needs of relative caregivers
- Information about resources, services, events and pertinent legislation and judicial decisions to relative families
- Community forums, workshops, discussion groups
- Monthly activities for families, holiday events
- Monthly "grandparents night out"

Grandparent Project

Sponsoring Organization Senior Legal Hotline of Legal Services of California
Phone: 1-800-222-1753 or 916-551-2140
Email:
Website: www.seniorlegalhotline.org (see "History...and Activities")
Service Area: Statewide; some services Sacramento County only
Services Offered:

- Legal advice by phone or email from website
- Assistance with guardianship petitions
- Clients must be over age 60 (no income restrictions) or low-income residents of Sacramento County of any age
- Booklet on grandparent rights (custody/visitation)
- Training and mentoring for advocates

Grandparent Support Group – Contra Costa County

Sponsoring Organization Early Childhood Mental Health Program
Contact Person: Barbara Grotjahn
Phone: 510-412-9200
Email: cfrank@ecmhp.org
Service Area: West Contra Costa County
Services Offered:

- Support group

Grandparents as Parents (GAP)

Contact Person: Madelyn Gordon, Exec. Dir. (P: 818-264-0880)
Phone: Sylvie de Toledo at 818-789-1177, 562-421-7991, 310-839-2548
Email: Madelyn@grandparentsasparents.org
Website: www.grandparentsasparents.org
Service Area: Los Angeles area
Services Offered:

- Counseling, guidance, referral to services to meet urgent or ongoing needs
- Support groups (Carson, Compton, Inglewood, Long Beach, Panorama City, Pasadena, Pamona, Santa Fe Springs, Sherman Oaks, Woodland Hills)
- Newsletter, quarterly
- Family social events
- Educational events, including annual conference
- Clothing exchange

Grandparents Parenting...Again (GPA)

Contact Person: Anne Pierce
Phone: 707-566-8676
Email: grands@sonic.net
Service Area: Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Lake & Mendocino Counties
Services Offered:

- Support groups (8 groups in Sonoma County)
- Self-help guardianship clinics (held in partnership with Sonoma County Superior Court)
- Relative Resource Workshops on issues important to caregivers
- Family gatherings (children's holiday party, annual kinship care conference)

Grandparents, Relatives and Neighbors Raising Children

Sponsoring Organization Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
Contact Person: Mary Jane Ryan-Connelly
Phone: 530-478-6400 x 210
Email: maryjane@nevco.k12.ca.us
Service Area: Nevada County
Services Offered:

- Information and referral during the school year
- Support group – in person and by telephone
- Seasonal events

Grandparents & Relatives as Second Parents (GRP)

Address: 274 Eastmont Town Center Oakland, CA 94605
Contact Person: Julienne Brown, MSW, Executive Director (P: 510-567-1163)
Phone: Warm line number: 510-568-7786
Email: gaspoaklnd@aol.com
Service Area: Northern California/East Bay
Services Offered:

- Support group meets weekly in Oakland

Jewish Family Service of LA, South Bay Counseling & Resource Center

Contact Person: Karen Tobias, RAPP Program Coordinator
Phone: 310-373-0321 x 103
Email: ktobias@jfsla.org or jfssouthbay@jfsla.org
Website: www.jfsla.org
Service Area: Los Angeles
Services Offered:

- Support groups meet weekly during school months
- Educational forums twice a year for all kinship caregivers
- Individual/family counseling
- Information/referral

Kids and Families Together

Sponsoring Organization County of Ventura Human Resources, Area Agency on Aging
Contact Person: David Friedlander, Exec. Dir.
Phone: 805-643-1446 x1
Email: TheDavid@aol.com
Service Area: Ventura County
Services Offered:

- Information and referral by phone or in person
- Support group
- Activities for families
- Kinship Support Service Provider
- Se habla Español

KinCare Program

Sponsoring Organization California Family Life Center (CFLC)
Contact Person: Tricia Lande, Program Manager
Phone: 951-791-3587
Email: tellande@aol.com
Service Area: Riverside County
Services Offered:

- Assistance with legal guardianship
- Information and referral/support groups
- Mediation and counseling
- Tutoring and mentoring
- Parenting classes
- Respite care

Kinship Care Resource Center

Sponsoring Organization Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
Contact Person: Andrea Villasenor-Perry,MSW Division Director, Youth & Family Services
Phone: 408-325-5194
Email: avillasenor-perry@ccsj.org
Service Area: Santa Clara County
Services Offered:

- Information and referrals
- Support groups
- “Warmline” telephone support
- Case management and advocacy
- Health screenings
- Resource library
- Educational seminars
- Recreation and respite activities
- Assistance with legal guardianship processes
- Independent Living Skills Program for adolescents living w/ relative caregivers

Kinship Education, Preparation and Support (KEPS)

Sponsoring Organization Crystal Stairs
Contact Person: Denise Campos-Araujo
Phone: 323-421-1247 English/ 323-421-1347 Spanish
Email: flopez@crystalstairs.org
Website: <http://www.crystalstairs.org/>

Kinship Care Services

Sponsoring Organization Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
Contact Person: Jennifer Lopez, Division Chief
Phone: 562- 777-1746
Website: <http://lacdcfs.org/kinshippublic/default.html>
Service Area: Los Angeles County
Services Offered:

- KEPS – Kinship Education, Preparation and Support Training
- Information/referral
- Permanency planning
- Support groups
- Respite/Recreation
- Kin Assistant Training through Community and Senior Services
- Transportation

Kinship in Action – South Los Angeles Kinship Support Program

Sponsoring Organization Community Coalition and Casey Family Programs
Contact Person: Debra Lee
Phone: 323-750-8036
Email: debra@ccsapt.org
Service Area: South Los Angeles

Services Offered:

- Information, referral resources
- Education and training
- Respite and group advocates
- Advocacy
- Support – one-on-one and in groups

Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP)

Sponsoring Organization California Department of Social Service
Contact Person: Carole Minchew, Kinship Care Policy and Support Unit
Phone: 916-657-1858
Email: carole.minchew@dss.ca.gov
Website: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cfsweb/KinshipCar_343.htm
Service Area: Sites in 14 counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Monterey, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Ventura

Services Offered:

- State funds provided to counties to augment other funding
- Encourages collaborations among county social service departments, private non-profit agencies and community based organizations
- Support services to relative caregiver families whose children are dependents of county social services/juvenile court system or are at risk of delinquency or dependency

Lilliput Children's Services

Sponsoring Organization KinNet
Contact Person: Karen Alvord
Phone: 916-830-7722
Email: kalvord@lilliput.com
Service Area: Sacramento

Services Offered:

- Referrals
- Reference library
- Periodic support groups
- Training for child welfare professionals

Lincoln Child Center Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP)

Contact Person: Sara Lamnin
Phone: 510-583-8026
Email: saralamnin@lincolncc.org
Website: www.lincolncc.org/kinship
Service Area: Alameda County (central, southern, eastern)
Services Offered:

- Information and referral
- Education
- Advocacy
- Case management
- Support groups
- Recreational activities/respice care
- Kin Navigators

Los Angeles Department of Aging

Contact Person: Jane Stumbo, Gerontologist
Phone: 213-252-4034
Find Local jane.stumbo@lacity.org
Coordinator:
Service Area: Los Angeles
Services Offered:

- Kinship Care Resource Guide 2007
- Caring for a Relative Child: A Guide for Kinship Caregivers in Los Angeles County
- Counseling for kinship caregivers 55 years or older
- Family Development Network case management

Sonoma Kinship Family Center (KSSP Program)

Sponsoring Organization Sunny Hills Services
Contact Person: Susie McGavin, Director
Phone: 707-569-0877 x11
Email: smcgavin@sunnyhillsservices.org
Website: www.SonomaKinship.org
Service Area: Sonoma County
Services Offered:

- Bilingual support groups and workshops
- Guardianship and public benefit eligibility assistance (completing forms, understanding processes and eligibility criteria)
- Recreational activities for caregivers and children; homework center/tutoring
- Advocacy and legal referrals
- Se habla Español

Suddenly Parents

Sponsoring Organization Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center
Contact Person: Shawndi Johnson
Phone: 714-543-4333
Email: sjohnson@brightfutures4kids.org
Service Area: Orange County

Services Offered:

- Child care (limited to 4 hours per week)
- Transportation for minors to and from therapy
- Support group meets monthly
- Homework assistance
- Services available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese

Techniques to Wellness

Sponsoring Organization Bethany United Methodist Church in San Francisco
Contact Person: Jeannette Given
Phone: 415-647-8393
Email: tech2well@yahoo.com
Service Area: San Francisco

Services Offered:

- Computer training
- Fitness training
- Health education

Unplanned Parenthood

Sponsoring Organization Center for Aging Resources in Pasadena
Contact Person: Regina McClure, Ph.D
Phone: 626-577-8480
Email: rmcclure@cfar1.org
Service Area: Pasadena

Services Offered:

- Information and referral
- Support group
- Direct health services
- Se habla Español

Children in Foster Care

Numbers – April, 2007

- 84,551 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the California Department of Social Services (DSS)
- 30,411 of these children placed with relatives
- 13,897 children receiving KinGAP payments

Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program (KinGAP)

- Subsidized guardianship program for children in foster care who have lived with relatives for at least 12 months.
- KinGAP payments equal to basic foster care rate.
- Administered by counties with oversight and training from state.
- Enhanced KinGAP enacted in 2006
 - Extends eligibility to children supervised by juvenile delinquency court
 - Establishes parity with foster care placements by providing a clothing allowance to all children and a specialized care increment to eligible children
- Contact: Carole Minchew, Kinship Care Policy and Support Unit
 - Phone: 916-657-1858
 - Email: carole.minchew@dss.ca.gov
 - Web: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cfsweb/KinshipCar_343.htm

Preferences

- State law requires that when a child is placed in foster care by a county, a county social worker and court must give preference to certain relatives including grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings.
- A relative's home is exempt from foster home licensing but must be approved by a county social worker.

Public Benefits

Children are often eligible for state and federal benefits even if their caregivers do not have legal guardianship or custody.

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their relative caregivers through California's Cal Works program.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 916-654-0694
 - Web: www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/California_169.htm

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 916-654-0694 or send email from website
 - Web: www.dss.cahwnet.gov/foodstamps

Health Insurance

- Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance through Medi-Cal or Healthy Families programs. Caregivers may be eligible for free coverage through Medi-Cal.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 800-880-5305
 - Web: www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov/hf/hfhome.jsp

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

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.childrendefense.org (Kinship Care Resource Kit)
- National Council on Aging – Benefits CheckUp www.benefitscheckup.org

State Laws

These general descriptions are not intended as legal advice in any particular situation.¹

Kinship Adoption (Cal. Welfare and Institutes Code, Family Code, Education Code)

- Sets standards to guide social service agencies and the courts in determining when it is in the best interests of the child to place her/him with a relative caregiver.

Bridge Funding to Continue Foster Care Payments to Adopting Relatives

(CAL. WELF. & INST. CODE § 11404.2) (1995)

- When a child who qualifies for foster care is living with a relative, that relative is eligible for payments for the period between relinquishing parental rights and finalization of the adoption.

Medical Consent

(CAL. FAM. CODE, §§ 6550 & 6552) and Educational Consent (CAL. FAM. CODE, §§ 6550 & 6552; Education Code § 48204)

- Creates a “caregiver’s authorization affidavit” that gives the relative caregiver authority to request treatment by health care providers and enroll child(ren) in school.

Standby Guardianship

(CAL. PROB. CODE, § 2105)

- Provides for successor guardianships; caregiver may identify a preferred guardian upon her/his death or incapacity.

Probate Guardianship

(CAL. PROB. CODE, § 1514)

- Creates formal guardianship status for relative caregivers whose children are not in the state dependency system.

Welfare-to-Work Exemption

(CAL. WELF. & INST. CODE, § 11320.3 (b) (4))

- Certain relative caregivers may continue to receive welfare benefits without meeting work requirements.

Child Support Cooperation

(MPP § 82-510.5)

- A KinGAP, foster care or child-only welfare grant cannot be reduced if a caregiver relative refuses to cooperate with the state in locating the parent for purposes of collecting child support.

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

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