

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Colorado

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 Colorado...

- There are 51,325 children living in grandparent-headed households (4.7% of all children in the state). There are another 19,230 children living in households headed by other relatives (1.7 % of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Colorado, 28,185 are living there without either parent present.
- 28,524 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [4,710 in Denver]: 7% of these grandparents are African American; 34% are Hispanic/Latino; 2% are Asian; 2% are American Indian or Alaskan Native; and 53% are White. 35% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 75% are under the age of 60; 13% 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

Boulder Senior Services

Contact: Sandy Hollingsworth
Phone: 303-441-4388
Email: Hollingsworths@bouldercolorado.gov

Services Offered:

- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program provides information/referral for adults over the age of 60

Catholic Charities - Denver

Sponsoring Organization Archdiocese of Denver
Contact: Jeannie Berzinskas
Phone: 303-742-0828
Email: jberzinskas@catholiccharitiesden.com
Service Area: Denver Metro area

Services Offered:

- Support groups in five metro Denver locations – including meals and child care
- Adult educational speakers plus parent=child workshops
- Periodic family activities
- Limited case management and advocacy
- Monthly newsletters
- Several annual caregiver events including May Caregivers Day, legislative activity and holiday party

Catholic Charities – Weld County

Contact: Cheri L. Anderson, Program Manager
Phone: 970-353-6433
Email: ccncanderson@hotmail.com or
canderson@ccdenver.org

Service Area: Weld County

Services Offered:

- Kinship Support Group- Monthly Meeting with childcare.
- Case management (home visits, advocacy).
- Information/referral to other agencies in the community.

Denver Center for Crime Victims

Contact: Beth Llovet, MSW, Elder/Disability Specialist, (303) 860-0660 x 234
Phone: 24-hour hotline: 303-894-8000 (Eng), 303-718-8289 (Spanish),
303-860-9555 (TTY)
Email: bllovet@denvervictims.org
Website: <http://www.denvervictims.org/>
Service Area: Denver

Services Offered:

- Support program and seminars for kinship care providers, with child care and interpreters
- Parenting after Trauma workshops

Denver Grandparent and Kinship Program

Sponsoring Organization: Denver Human Services
Contact: Jamie Garcia
Phone: 720-944-3141
Service Area: Denver County

Services Offered:

- Professional and peer support
- Informational, educational, financial and advocacy services
- Clothing allowance as needed
- Referrals for legal assistance

El Paso County Kinship Support Services

Contact: Diana Wills
Phone: 719-444-5229
Email: paulawills@elpasoco.com
Service Area: El Paso County

Services Offered:

- Summer Family Day Trips
- Supportive Financial Services
- Grandparent advocate services
- “Warm-line” to provide information/referrals to community services

Families First

Contact: Sarah Hite, Coordinator
Phone: 877-695-7996 (toll free in Colorado) or 303-695-7996
Email: info@familiesfirstcolorado.org
Website: www.familiesfirstColorado.org

Services Offered:

- Information/referral for parenting classes, support groups, financial assistance, mental health, legal, educational and medical support services
- Free, non-medical, confidential help line offering information and response to concerns about child development and parenting issues. The Support line is answered by caring support line volunteers trained to give help and support during difficult parenting times. Available 7 days a week, 10am – 10pm.
- Spanish support line called Consejos Para Familias at 1-866-Las-Familias (1-866-527-3264)

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support – Brighton Senior Center

Address: 575 Bush, Brighton, CO 80601
Contact: Ernie Marquez
Phone: 303-655-2075
Email: emarquez@brightonco.gov
Service Area: Brighton area

Services Offered:

- Support group meetings monthly, child care provided
- Information/referral by phone or email
- Se habla Español

Grandparents Resource Center

Contact: Shirley Berens, Director
Phone: 303-980-5707
Email: grc4usa@aol.com
Service Area: Denver area

Services Offered:

- Educational/informational programs for kinship caregivers
- Pro Se Litigation training for caregivers representing themselves in court

Larimer County Kinship Program

Sponsoring Organization Larimer County Human Services
Contact: Jane Looney
Phone: 303-498-6586
Website http://www.co.larimer.co.us/fostercare/kinship_info.htm
Service Area: Larimer County

Services Offered:

- Support group
- Required training for kinship caregivers covers child welfare services, understanding healthy child development, identifying and meeting special needs, providing guidance and discipline, maintaining family connections, managing loss and family change

Lowry Family Center

Contact: Louise Moore
Phone: 303-307-0718
Email: lfclouise@qwest.net
Service Area: Denver and Aurora

Services Offered:

- Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) supported by Brookdale Foundation
- Counseling/referral on legal, financial, clothing, housing, health insurance, utility and subsidy services
- Kinship and foster parent training

Pikes Peak Family Connections

Contact: Sandy Watford
Phone: 719-596-3983
Email: sewatford@juno.com
Service Area: El Paso and Teller Counties

Services Offered:

- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group meets bi-weekly – child care provided
- Annual family events
- Information/referral for public benefits and legal assistance

Children in Foster Care

Numbers –2005

- 6,900 children per month in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the Colorado Department of Human Services.
- 510 per month of these children were placed in certified kinship care homes.
- 1,035 children were placed with kin in non-certified kinship care arrangements.

Preferences

- State policy requires that kin be considered first for out-of-home placements of children under the care of the Department of Human Services.
- There is no separate licensing program for kinship foster parents
- Kin must meet the same licensing standards and requirements and receive the same foster care payment rate as non-kin foster parents.

Contacts

- Foster Care/Kinship Care – Mary Griffin, Program Administrator
- Phone: 303-866-3546
- Email: mary.griffin@state.co.us
- Web: <http://www.changealifeforever.org/index.asp>

Subsidized guardianship

- There is no statewide subsidized guardianship program in Colorado although some counties offer this type of subsidy.

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 Colorado:

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their relative caregivers through the Colorado Benefits Management System or the Colorado Works Program.
- Contact Colorado Works:
 - Phone: 303-866-5700
 - Web: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/coworks/>
 - Email: coworks.issues@state.co.us
- Contact Colorado Benefits Management System:
 - Phone: 1-800-536-5298
 - Web: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/cbms/index.htm>

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food assistance.
 - Phone: 303-866-2536
 - Web: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/fap/>

Health Insurance

- Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance through Colorado Baby Care Kids Care or Child Health Plan (CHP+)
 - Phone: 1-800-359-1991
 - Web: <http://www.cchp.org/chpweb/mainpage.cfm>

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

State Laws

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

Immunization Consent Law (Colo. Rev. Statute 25-4-1704)

- Allows a parent, legal guardian or person with legal custody, or an adult relative of the first or second degree of kinship to consent to a child’s immunization verbally or in writing.

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