GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

AARP FOUNDATION
www.aarp.org

The Brookdale Foundation Group
www.brookdalefoundation.org

casey family programs
www.casey.org

CWLA CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
Making Children a National Priority
www.cwla.org

Children's Defense Fund
www.childrensdefense.org

generations united
Because we're stronger together
www.gu.org

Delaware

November 2007

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 e-mail subject line.

In Delaware…

- There are 13,726 children living in grandparent-headed households (7.1% of all children in the state). There are another 3,743 children living in households headed by other relatives (1.9 % of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Delaware, 7,803 are living there without either parent present.

- 7,204 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them: 40% of these grandparents are African American; 6% are Hispanic/Latino; and 52% are White. 38% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 73% are under the age of 60; 13.8% 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

Delaware Health and Social Services Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities

Contact:	Carol Boyer, Joining Generations
Phone:	302-255-9390 or 1-800-223-9074
Email:	carol.boyer@state.de.us
Web:	www.dhss.delaware.gov/dsaapd
Service area:	Statewide

Delaware Health and Social Services Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities – cont.

Services offered:

- Grand Time Off (GTO) – as-needed childcare administered by the Family & Workplace Connection at 1-800-537-5557
- Camp Respite (CR) – summer and school holiday camp administered by YMCA of Delaware and Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware
- Publications:
    - *Grandparents Raising and Nurturing Dependent Children (GRAND)*
    - *Delaware's Legal Handbook for Grandparents & Other Relatives Raising Children*

GrandParents United DE

Contact: Tina Light, President
Phone: 302-239-2525 (New Castle County)
Email: CL0802@aol.com
Contact: Debbie Fales, Vice President
Phone: 302-628-6892 (Sussex County)
Email: Dfales0356@aol.com
Contact: Shirley Crockett, Workshop Coordinator
Phone: 302-284-3648 (Kent County)
Email: saintdog1@PeoplePc.com
Web: www.grandparentsunitedde.org
Service area: Statewide
Services offered:

- Legislative advocacy
- Formed Kinship Care Task Force to lobby for expanded financial assistance
- Delawaregrands – online support group; join at delawaregrands-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- Delaware Grand Navigator Program in New Castle, Kent, Sussex Counties
    - 24-hour phone line staffed by relative caregivers
    - 302-628-6892 or 302-239-2526
- Pro Bono legal pilot program in New Castle County – training for attorneys and paralegals who wish to represent grandparents
- Quarterly newsletter
- Bi-weekly support group in all counties
- Case management
- Information/referral

Grandparent Resource Center

Sponsoring Organization: Wilmington Senior Center
Contact: Patricia L. Anderson, Director
Phone: 302-651-3420
Email: caregiving@wilmingtonseniorcenter.org
Web: www.wilmingtonseniorcenter.org/grc.html
Service area: Wilmington
Services offered:

- Weekly support group
- Case management
- Information/referral
- Monthly newsletter

Children in Foster Care

Numbers – July 2006

- 810 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families.
- 74 of these children were placed with relatives. Of the 80 relative providers, one is a Foster Care Approved Relative.

Preferences

- State policy requires that kin be considered first for out-of-home placements.
- 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.
- Any person applying to become a foster parent must complete 27 hours of pre-service training. Additional parent training required each year.

Contacts

- John Bates, Foster Care Program Manager
    - Phone: 302-633-2665
    - Email: john.bates@state.de.us

Subsidized guardianship

- Delaware does not currently have a subsidized guardianship program but continues to support families who participated in the federally-funded subsidized guardianship demonstration project.

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 Delaware.

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their relative caregivers through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - Phone: 800-464-4357
  - Web: www.delawarehelpline.org/helpline/index.jsp
- Kinship Care Program assists non-parent caregivers during a child's initial transition into the caregiver's home by meeting a child's immediate need for clothing, shelter, health, safety and educational supplies. Eligibility based on caregiver's family income.
  - Phone: 800-464-4357 (Delaware Helpline)
  - Web: www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dsaapd/relative.html

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps.
  - Phone: 800-372-2033
  - Web: www.state.de.us/dhss/foodstamps.html

Health Insurance

- Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance through Delaware Medicaid and Healthy Children program.
  - Delaware Medicaid
    - Phone: 800-372-2022
    - Web: www.state.de.us/dhss/dss/medast.html
  - Healthy Children program
    - Phone: 800-996-9969
    - Web: www.state.de.us/dhss/dhcp.html

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 Law

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

Medical Consent **(Del. Code Ann. Tit. 13 § 707)**

- Allows parents to sign a consent form authorizing grandparent or relative caregiver to consent to medical care on behalf of a child. Relative caregiver must have a notarized *Caregivers Medical Authorization* affidavit.

Educational Consent **(Del. Code Ann. 14, § 202)**

- Allows a child who resides with anyone other than the parents to be enrolled in a school district based on the residence of the child's guardian with a proper *Caregivers School Authorization* affidavit.

Guardianship and Permanent Guardianship **(Del. Code Ann. Tit. 13 § 23)**

- Provides a framework for filing, granting and modifying guardianships in Family Court; creates new legal status of permanent guardian, assuring permanency for older foster children for whom adoption is not possible or appropriate.

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