

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children



Idaho

December 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 Idaho....

- 13,636 children live in grandparent-headed households (3.7% of all the children in the state). There are another 4,128 children living in households headed by other relatives (1.1% of all the children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Idaho, 7,087 are living there without either parent present.
- 8,110 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them (717 in Boise): .2% of these grandparents are African American; 12% are Hispanic/Latino; 1% are Asian; 4% are American Indian or Alaskan Native; 70% are White. 43% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 72% are under the age of 60; 14% 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

AARP Idaho

Contact: Cathy McDougall, Associate State Director for Community Outreach
Phone: 208-855-4003
Web: www.aarp.org/families/grandparents
Service area: Statewide
Services offered:

- Establishes and aids support groups
- Legislative advocacy

Grandparents as Parents – Treasure Valley

Contact: Tracee Crawford
Phone: 208-323-7538
Email: craw2@qwest.net
Web: www.idahograndparentsasparents.org
Service area: Southwest Idaho

Services offered:

- Newsletter
- Support group
- Events for children to meet other children raised by someone other than their parents
- Advocates for legislation on behalf of kinship care families

Grandparents as Parents – Twin Falls

Sponsoring Organization: College of Southern Idaho Area IV Agency on Aging
Contact: Shawna Wasko
Phone: 208-736-2122 or 800-574-8656
Email: swasko@ooa.csi.edu
Service area: Twin Falls/Burley

Services offered:

- Information/referral
- Support groups
- Conferences/workshops for caregivers and professionals

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren of Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership

Sponsoring Organization: Community Action Partnership, Area VI Agency on Aging
Contact: Emily Hoyt
Phone: 208-522-5391 or 1-800-632-4813
Email: ehoyt@eicap.org
Service area: Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties

Services offered:

- Monthly support group to share concerns about legal, medical, behavioral and school issues; guest speakers as needed
- Community Advisory Council

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Southeast Idaho

Sponsoring Organization: Southeast Idaho Council of Governments and Area V Office on Aging
Contact: Dorothy Martin, Older Worker VISTA and Friendly Visitor
Phone: 208-233-4032
Email: vista@sicog.org
Service area: Southeast Idaho – Bannock, Bingham, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, Power counties

Services offered:

- Information and referral

Idaho Commission on Aging

Contact: Holly Player
Phone: 1-877-471-2777
Web: www.idahoaging.com/programs/ps_GAPkincare.htm
Service area: Statewide
Services offered:

- Information and referral
- Consultation and technical assistance in program development and expansion

Idaho KinCare Coalition

Sponsoring Organization: Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho (CAPAI)
Member Agencies: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare; Eastern Idaho Community Action; AARP Idaho; Idaho Legal Aid; Idaho Commission on Aging; Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho, CAPAI; CCOA Aging Weatherization and Human Services; Relatives /Grandparents as Parents, Coeur d'Alene; Casey Family Programs-Boise; University of Idaho Extension; Grandparents As Parents, Treasure Valley; CSI Office on Aging; Region II Kinship Care Coalition; Idaho Child Welfare Research and Training Center (ICWRTC), Office of Congressman Mike Simpson

Contact: Robin Sanchez, Chair
Phone: 208-377-1771 x 27458
Email: rsanchez@casey.org
Web: www.idahokincarecoalition.org
Service area: Statewide

- Services offered:**
- Education, training, community development to promote community partnerships with kinship caregivers that improve, expand and sustain programs and services
 - Advocacy for legislation and social policy and improves outcomes for kinship families

Region II Kinship Care Coalition - Lewiston

Contact: Tanya McElfresh
Phone: 208-799-4408
Email: McElfreT@dhw.idaho.gov
Service area: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce Counties

- Services offered:**
- In development

Relatives as Parents Support Groups and Services

Sponsoring Organization: CCOA Aging, Weatherization and Human Services, Inc.
Contact: Linda Dripps
Phone: 208-459-0063
Email: ldripps1@msn.com
Web: www.kincaregrandparents.org
Service area: Adams, Boise, Canyon, Gem, Elmore, Owyhee, Payette, Washington, Valley Counties

Services offered:

- Information/referral
- Monthly support groups
- Conferences and training on the needs of kinship families
- Community networking and advocacy

Relatives/Grandparents as Parents – Coeur d’Alene

Sponsoring Organization: Kootenai Alliance for Children and Families
Contact: Glenda Weaver
Phone: 208-769-7096
Email: glendainidaho@hotmail.com
Service area: Kootenai County

Services offered:

- Two monthly support groups
- Information/referral
- Guest speakers on topics of interest
- Community Advisory Council

University of Idaho Extension

Contact: Harriet Shaklee
Margaret Ritchie School of Family and Consumer Science
Phone: 208-364-4016
Email: hshaklee@uidaho.edu
Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Educational programs – parenting, nutrition

Children in Foster Care

State child welfare agencies sometimes place children in foster care with grandparents or other relatives. Most state agencies call these placements “kinship care.”

Numbers – State Fiscal Year 2007

- 3,241 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- 14-15% of these children were placed with relatives.

Preferences

- State policy requires that placement priority be given to relatives or immediate family, next- to-extended family and then non-family members with a significant established relationship with a child.
- Same licensing standards, training requirements and payment rates as non-kin foster parents.

Subsidized guardianship

- Idaho’s Department of Health and Welfare provides guardianship assistance benefits to children under the care of the Department whose parents have had their parental rights terminated and there is documentation of efforts to place the children for adoption.
- Guardianship Assistance pays for one-time costs to finalize the guardianship and related benefits (Medicaid) plus a negotiated monthly cash payment that cannot exceed the amount the child was receiving in a foster family.
- Contact: Kathy McCarroll, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
 - Phone: 208-334-5697
 - Email: McCarro2@dhw.idaho.gov

Training and support for kinship foster parents

- Contact: Shirley Alexander, Child Welfare Program Manager
 - Phone: 208-334-6618
 - Email: alexande@idhw.state.id.us

Public Benefits

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

Navigation Services

- Kinship care families are eligible for Department of Health and Welfare Navigation Services throughout the State of Idaho.
- Family may be eligible for in-kind services and resources
- Contact: Ken Perry, Specialist, Service Integration Team
 - Phone: 1-800-926-2588 in Idaho 211 (Idaho CARELine) or 208-332-7382

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their relative caregivers through the Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI):
 - Phone: 800-926-2588 (Idaho CareLine)
 - Web: www.idahochild.org

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps.
 - Phone: 800-926-2588 (Idaho CareLine)
 - Web: www.idahochild.org

Health Insurance

- Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance through Idaho's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
 - Phone 800-926-2588
 - Web: www.idahochild.org

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.

Medical Consent

Idaho Code Ann. § 39-4303

- Allows parent, spouse or legal guardian to give sent to health care. If there is no parent, spouse or legal guardian available, the next living relative may consent to medical procedures on the child's behalf.

Testamentary Appointment of Guardian Minor

Idaho Code Ann. § 39-15-5-202

- Allows parents to provide in their will for a guardian for their child. Guardian must accept this appointment with the court if the will is probated for the guardianship. A child over 14 may contest the process.

Delegation of Powers by Parent or Guardian

Idaho Code Ann. § 15-5-104

- Allows parent or guardian to delegate to another person the powers regarding care, including medical and educational care; this power may be delegated for no longer than 6 months (12 months for military personnel serving outside the United States).

DeFacto Custodianship

Idaho Code 15-5-207 and 15-5-213

- Court will recognize a de facto custodian who has resided with a child for 1 year (6 months if the child is under age 3) and has served as the primary caregiver and primary financial supporter of the child.
- Court will recognize a de facto custodian if it is in the best interests of the child.
- Idaho law provides that a de facto custodian has the same standing given to a parent in a guardianship action.

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