

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Louisiana

January 2008

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. Fact sheets are updated annually. Updates can be sent to gic@aarp.org. This and other state fact sheets can be viewed and printed from www.grandfactsheets.org. Please write "State Fact Sheets" on your e-mail subject line.

In Louisiana...

- 117,859 children live in grandparent-headed households (9.7% of all the children in the state). There are another 26,691 children living in households headed by other relatives (2.2% of all the children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Louisiana, 64,866 are living there without either parent present.
- 67,058 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them (9,478 in New Orleans and 3,633 in Shreveport): 57% of these grandparents are African American; 2% are Hispanic/Latino; 43% are American Indian or Alaskan Native; 38% are White. 34% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 72% are under the age of 60; 30% 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

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Information Center of Louisiana

Contact: Dot Thibodeaux
Phone: 225-355-5442
Email: lagrparinfo@yahoo.com
Web: www.grgicl.org
Service area: Statewide



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Information Center of Louisiana (cont.)

Services offered:

- Legal support and referrals
- Monthly support group meetings
- Annual statewide conference
- Quarterly newsletter
- Information resource center

Louisiana Answers Aging & Disability Resource Center

Sponsoring Organization: Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs
Contact: ADRC Coordinators in regional offices
Web: www.LouisianaAnswers.com
Service area: Regional offices serve the entire state

Caddo ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center)

Irene Jackson

IJackson@caddocoa.org

1-800-793-1198

Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine and Webster parishes

Cajun ADRC

Lynda Southard

adrc@bellsouth.net

1-800-738-2256

Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary and Vermilion parishes

Calcasieu ADRC

Debbie Duhon

Dduhon264@calcoa.org

1-800-223-5872

Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, and Vernon parishes

Capital ADRC

Jan Latimer

jlatimer@capitalaaa.org

1-800-833-9883

225-925-7674

Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Point Coupee, St Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana parishes

Louisiana Answers Aging & Disability Resource Center (cont.)

Cenla ADRC

Crystal Price

CrystalPrice@cenlaaging.org

1-800-454-9573

Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides and Winn parishes

Jefferson ADRC

LeslieAnn Cioti

ADRC@jcoa.net

1-800-635-1437

Jefferson, St. Charles, St. James and St. John parishes

Orleans ADRC

Makitha Horton

mhorton@noco.org

1-888-922-8522

Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes

North Delta ADRC

Nicky Wallace

nicky@northdelta.org

1-800-707-2572

Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union and West Carroll parishes

Terrebonne ADRC

Cheryl Washington

Cheryl@triparish.net

1-800-353-3265

Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes

Services offered:

- Information and referrals
- Personal assistance with your concerns about aging or living with a disability

Recycled Parent Program

Sponsoring Organization: Ouachita Council on Aging

Contact: Shirley Cagle, Assistant Director

Phone: 318-387-0535 x 204

Web: <http://www.ouachitacoa.com/aboutus.html>

Service area: Monroe area

Recycled Parent Program (cont.)

Services offered:

- Information and referrals
- Direct legal services
- Conferences and workshops
- Limited financial assistance

Children in Foster Care

State child welfare agencies sometimes place children in foster care with grandparents or other relatives. Louisiana calls these “relative placements.”

Numbers – November 2007

- 5,187 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the Louisiana Department of Social Services.

Preferences

- State policy requires that relative placement be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for an abused or neglected child.

Relative placement licensing

- No separate licensing for relative foster parents.
- Same licensing standards and training requirements as non-relative foster parents.
- Same foster care payment rate for relatives who are certified foster parents.

Kinship Care Subsidy Program

- Cash assistance for eligible children who reside with qualified relatives other than parents who have legal custody or guardianship.
- Limited assistance for relative caregivers who do not have legal guardianship.
- Child does *not* need to be in state custody to qualify for the program.
- Kinship Care Subsidy Program provides cash assistance of \$280 per month for each eligible child who resides with a qualified relative other than a parent.
- Contact
 - Office of Family Support in local parish
 - Web: http://www.dss.state.la.us/departments/ofs/Kinship_Care_Subsidy_Program.html
 - Darlene Thomas, Program Specialist
 - Phone: 225-342-0286
 - Email: dthomas4@dss.state.la.us

Kinship Care Information

- Contact: Toni Buxton, Foster Care Program Director
 - Phone: 225-342-4006
 - Email: tbuxton@dss.state.la.us

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 Louisiana's Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP).
 - Phone: 1-888-LAHELPU (1-888-524-3578)
 - Web: www.dss.state.la.us/department/ofs/cash_assistance.html

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps.
 - Phone: 1-888-LAHELPU (1-888-524-3578)
 - Web: www.dss.state.la.us/departments/ofs/Food_Stamp_Program.html

Health Insurance

- Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance through Louisiana's LaCHIP program.
 - Phone: 1-877-2-LACHIP (1-877-252-2447)
 - Web: www.lachip.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.

Education and Medical Consent

La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9:975

- Permits designated caregivers without legal custody or guardianship to consent to medical and educational services on behalf of a child in their care.

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