

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Maryland

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 Maryland...

- 98,836 children live in grandparent-headed households (7.3% of all the children in the state). There are another 30,651 children living in households headed by other relatives (2.3% of all the children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Maryland, 54,323 are living there without either parent present.
- 50,974 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them (13,707 in Baltimore): 56% of these grandparents are African American; 3% are Hispanic/Latino; 3% are Asian; and 36% are White. 34% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 69% 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

Baltimore Grandfamilies

Contact:	Duane St. Clair
Phone:	410-381-4800
Email:	duanestclair@gmail.com
Web:	www.baltimoregrandfamilies.org
Service area:	Baltimore area



Baltimore Grandfamilies

Services offered:

- Support groups
- Database of local services
- Information and referral
- Newsletter
- Conferences, workshops, training for grandparenting professionals
- Grandparent Resource Exchange for clothes, toys and books for grandparents

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Maryland

Contact: Natalie Meade, Director of Program Services
Phone: 410-243-4000 x 224
Email: nmeade@biglittle.org
Web: <http://www.biglittle.org/>
Service area: Baltimore City, Central Maryland, Salisbury, Lower Eastern Shore
Services offered:

- Support groups
- Case management (referrals, individual counseling)

Caregiver Support Program – Frederick County

Sponsoring Organization: Frederick County Department of Aging
Contact: Mindy Lohman-Hinz, Caregiver Program Coordinator
Phone: 301-600-6001
Email: mlohman@fredco-md.net
Contact: Mary Collins, Caregiver Program Coordinator
Phone: 301-600-6001
Email: mcollins@fredco-md.net
Web: www.co.frederick.md.us/da
Service area: Frederick County
Services offered:

- Database of local services – information/referral
- Education and training in coordination with other organizations
- Respite services – one time assistance of up to \$250
- Supplemental Service funds for specialized medical equipment, personal hygiene items, etc.
- Resource library

Family Tree

Contact: Carolyn Finney, Director of Programs and Services
Phone: 410-889-2300 or 1-800 243-7337
Email: carolynfinney@familytreemd.org
Web: www.familytreemd.org
Service area: Baltimore metro area
Services offered:

- Education and support for grandparents raising children

- Guest speakers on topics such as financial assistance, advocacy, adoption, substance abuse

Grandparent Family Connections

Sponsoring Organization: University of Maryland School of Social Work
Ruth H. Young Center for Families and Children
Contact: Frederick H. Streider, Ph.D. LCSW-C Program Director
Phone: 410-706-8716 or 410-706-3672
Email: fstrieder@ssw.umaryland.edu
Web: www.family.umaryland.edu
Service area: Baltimore area

Services offered:

- Free services for eligible families in Baltimore (grandparents are not required to have custody and guardianship)
- In-home community based services
- Advocacy/assistance in obtaining health care, mental health, legal, housing, financial and education services
- Individual, group and family counseling
- Information/referral for child care, housing, substance abuse treatment, literacy, job training

Grandparents & Other Relative Caregivers

Sponsoring Organization: Family Matters
Contact: Annette Saunders
Phone: 410-225-2600 x 111
Email: asaunders@lighthouse.org
Service area: Baltimore

Services offered:

- Support groups (child care provided)
- Sites in West Baltimore and Cherry Hill

Grandparents as Parents of Howard County (GAP)

Contact: Duane St. Clair
Phone: 410-381-4800
Email: duanestclair@gmail.com
Service area: Howard County

Services offered:

- Monthly meetings to discuss issues like behavior and discipline, communication with parents, legal options
- Children's activities provided during adult meetings

Grandparents Resource Directory

Sponsoring Organization: Maryland Department of Human Resources and the Department of Aging
Web: www.mdoa.state.md.us/gpintro.html
Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Information about social services, support groups, educational programs, legal services, child care,

health services, recreational activities

Grandparents Supporting Grandparents

Sponsoring Organization: Baltimore County Department of Social Services

Contact: Ann Abramson

Phone: 410-853-3888

Email: aabramson@dhr.state.md.us

Contact: Marty Zimmerman

Phone: 410-853-3903

Web: mzimmerm@dhr.state.md.us

Service area: Baltimore County area

Services offered:

- Monthly support group meetings
- Newsletter

Kinship Care Resource Center of Maryland

Contact: Dr. Earlene Merrill

Phone: 410-951-4177 or 1-888-951-4177

Email: emerrill@coppin.edu

Web: <http://www.coppin.edu/kinshipcare/>

Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Helps develop and facilitate support groups
- Maintains kinship care information and statistics for legislators and policy makers
- Transportation to medical and other appointments for grandparents or children
- Family outings

Maryland Department of Human Resources, Social Services Administration

Kinship Care Program

Contact: Deborah Joyce, LCSW-C

Phone: 410-767-7912

Email: djoyce@dhr.state.md.us

Web: <http://www.mdoa.state.md.us/services.html>

Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Supports new and existing kinship care support groups throughout the state
- Quarterly newsletter *Kinship Care Connections*

Progressive Life Center Kinship Care Program

Address: 8800 Jericho City Dr., Landover, MD 20785

Contact: Evette Clark, Program Director

Phone: 301-773-1701

Email: evette@ntuplc.org

Web: www.ntuplc.org

Service area: Prince George's County and surrounding area

Progressive Life Center Kinship Care Program – cont.

Services offered:

- Counseling and supportive services
- Works to reduce dependence on public assistance
- Spiritually and culturally focused case management
- Parent and youth groups
- Respite care
- Family team meetings
- 24-hour crisis intervention/mental health services
- Peer support groups for grandparents

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) – Eastern Shore

Sponsoring Organization: MAC Inc
Contact: Helen Johnson
Address: 1504 Riverside Drive, Salisbury, MD
Phone: 410-742-0505 x 105
Email: hjl@macinc.org
Web: www.macinc.org
Service area: Eastern Shore

Services offered:

- Support group meetings – 1st Tuesday every month at 10:00 a.m.
- Advocacy
- Information/referral

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) – Somerset County

Sponsoring Organization: Catholic Charities – Seton Center
Contact: Sister Diane Moore
Phone: 410-651-9608
Email: setoncenter@comcast.net
Service area: Somerset County

Services offered:

- Information/referral
- Direct service, outreach and advocacy
- Works to strengthen caregiver families through partnerships with other agencies
- Educational enrichment programs

Rockville Senior Center's Grandparents to the Rescue

Sponsoring Organization: City of Rockville
Contact: Lorraine Schack, Coordinator
Phone: 240-314-8810
Email: lschack@rockvillemd.gov
Web: <http://rockvillemd.gov>
Service area: Rockville
Services offered:

- Support group
- Guest speakers

Solutions for Children and Caregivers of Maryland

Sponsoring Organization: Grandfamilies of America
Contact: Pat Owens, Executive Director
Phone: 301-898-8023
Email: owenspat@aol.com
Web: www.solutionsforchildrenandcaregivers.org
Service area: Statewide
Services offered:

- Information/referral
- Resources for support groups
- 24/7 Warm line at 301-898-8023
- Direct services, outreach and advocacy
- Educational enrichment programs

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 – December 2007

- 11,243 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the Maryland Department of Human Resources, Social Services Administration
- 1,490 are committed to local departments in formal kinship care placements

Preferences

- State policy requires that kinship care be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under the Department's care. The relative caregiver must provide a safe environment for the child and meet all the state's child protection standards.

Kinship care licensing and training

- Relative caregivers in Maryland can participate in the Kinship Care Program or become licensed as foster parents in the “restricted foster care” program.
- All kinship caregivers go through formal approval process, including child abuse and neglect clearance, health and sanitation check of the home, fingerprinting of all adults in the home.
- Same foster care payment rate and licensing requirements as non-relative foster parents.
- Contact: Deborah Joyce, LCSW-C
 - Phone: 410-767-7912
 - Email: djoyce@dhr.state.md.us

Subsidized guardianship

- Maryland 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.

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their relative caregivers through the Maryland Family Investment - Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) Program
 - Phone: 1-800-332-6347
 - Email: fiahelp@dhr.state.md.us
 - Web: <http://www.dhr.state.md.us/fia/index.htm>

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps.
 - Phone: 1-800-332-6347
 - Email: fiahelp@dhr.state.md.us
 - Web: <http://www.dhr.state.md.us/fia/index.htm>

Health Insurance

- Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance through Maryland Medicaid and Maryland’s Children Health Program
 - Phone: 1-800-456-8900
 - Web: <http://www.dhmd.state.md.us/mma/mchp/>

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 and Educational Consent

Md. Code Ann. (Educ.) § 7-101

- Allows grandparent or other relative to complete an affidavit allowing them to consent to health care on behalf of a child, apply for public assistant entitlements, enroll child in school.

Standby Guardianship

Md. Est. & Trusts Code Ann. §§ 13-903 and 13-904

- Allows parent to file a petition for judicial appointment of a standby guardian. Authority for the standby guardian effective upon the incapacity or death of the child’s parent.

Relative Notification by Child Welfare Agency

- Mandates notification of grandparents and certain other relatives within a stipulated period of time after child comes into state custody
- Requires efforts to locate and place child with qualified relatives
- Enforces documentation of reasonable efforts for the courts regarding such searches

Disclaimer:

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