

# A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

## Missouri

April 2008



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](http://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 Missouri...

- There are 77,857 children living in grandparent-headed households (5.5 % of all children in the state). There are another 18,555 children living in households headed by other relatives (1.3 % of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Missouri, 39,188 are living there without either parent present.
- 43,907 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [4,671 in St. Louis and 4,411 in Kansas City]: 25% of these grand-parents are African American; 2% are Hispanic/Latino; and 70% are White. 40% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 70% are under the age of 60; 15% 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 Missouri

**Phone:** 1-866-389-5627  
**Email:** [moaarp@aarp.org](mailto:moaarp@aarp.org)  
**Web:** <http://www.aarp.org/states/mo/>  
**Service Area:** Statewide  
**Services Offered:**

- 2007 research report *Missouri Grandparenting Issues: A Survey of AARP Members* available online at [http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/general/mo\\_grandparent\\_2007.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/general/mo_grandparent_2007.pdf)
- GrandLinkers - AARP volunteers who work to connect grandparents who are raising their grandchildren with resources for themselves and the children they are raising (see also ParentLink below)

## Annie Malone Home

**Contact:** Karen Martin  
**Phone:** 314-382-5560  
**Address:** 2612 Annie Malone Dr, St. Louis, MO 63113  
**Service Area:** St. Louis  
**Services Offered:**

- Respite care for grandparents raising grandchildren

## Boone County Council on Aging

**Contact:** Senior Service Specialist  
**Phone:** 800-829-2114  
**Email:** [bcca03@centurytel.net](mailto:bcca03@centurytel.net)  
**Service Area:** Boone County  
**Services Offered:**

- Information and referral for grandparents raising grandchildren

## Cardinal Ritter Senior Services

**Sponsoring Organization:** Brookdale Foundation Group - Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)  
**Contact:** Kathleen McAleenan, MSW, LCSW, Outreach Social Worker  
**Phone:** 3314-961-8000 Ext. 302  
**Email:** [kmcaleenan@ccstl.org](mailto:kmcaleenan@ccstl.org)  
**Web:** [www.ccstl.org](http://www.ccstl.org)  
**Service Area:** Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles, St. Louis Counties and St. Louis City  
**Services Offered:**

- Two support groups (Keepers of the Flame, Proud Grandparents)
- Educational services, emotional support
- Warmline for caregivers at 314-961-8000 x 242

## Community Counseling Center

**Contact:** Carolyn Thomas, Supervisor, Children's Services  
**Phone:** 573-334-1100  
**Email:** [cthomas@cccntr.com](mailto:cthomas@cccntr.com)  
**Web:** [www.cccntr.com](http://www.cccntr.com)  
**Service Area:** Cape Girardeau, Bollinger, Madison, Perry, Ste Genevieve Counties  
**Services Offered:**

- Psychiatric services and therapy for adults, children, families
- Child Targeted Case Management for children with severe emotional issues
- Respite care and family assistance for qualifying children
- Payment through Medicare, Medicaid, third-party insurance and Missouri Children's Services; sliding scale for individuals without these resources

## Disabilities Advocacy and Support Network

**Contact:** Jason Lillard, Director of Program Services  
Ginger Wilkerson, respite coordinator

**Phone:** 417-890-1820 or 1-866-607-3250

**Fax:** 417-877-8355

**Web:** [www.dasnetwork.org](http://www.dasnetwork.org)

**Email:** [jason@dasnetwork.org](mailto:jason@dasnetwork.org)

**Service Area:** Springfield, Missouri area

**Services Offered:**

- Services for grandparents and other relatives raising children with developmental disabilities
- Respite care
- Grandparent to grandparent mentoring
- Assistance with conference and training expenses

## Family Caregiver Support Program –Southeast Missouri

**Sponsoring Organization:** Southeast Missouri Area Agency on Aging

**Contact:** Kathy Bullis

**Phone:** 573-335-3331

**Email:** [kbullis@semoaaa.org](mailto:kbullis@semoaaa.org)

**Web:** [www.semoaaa.org](http://www.semoaaa.org)

**Service Area:** Southeast Missouri

**Services Offered:**

- Information and referral
- Legal advice
- Kinship Care Network for educational events and support groups

## Family Friends Grandparent/Relative Caregiver Support Group

**Contact:** Lynn Vanderweel

**Phone:** 816-415-4144 or 816-868-7241

**Email:** [rvanderweel@cmh.edu](mailto:rvanderweel@cmh.edu)

**Service Area:** Kansas City

**Services Offered:**

- Support groups meet in a variety of locations around Kansas City Metro Area
- St. James United Methodist Church, 5540 Wayne Ave, Kansas City, MO 64110
  - Contact: Mary Campbell
  - Phone: 816-921-4299
- Palestine Neighborhood Development Corp., 3445 Indiana Ave, Kansas City, MO 64128
  - Contact: Debi Lee
  - Phone: 816-726-6532
- Community Assistance Council, 10901 Blue Ridge, Kansas City, MO 64134
  - Contact: Beatrice Mack
  - Phone: 816-861-5718
- North Cross United Methodist Church, 1321 NE Vivion Rd, N. Kansas City, MO 64118
  - Contact: Lynn Vanderweel
  - Phone: 816-415-4144

## Family Friends Grandparent/Relative Caregiver Support Group – cont.

- Christian Fellowship Baptist Church, 4509 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64110
  - Contact: Debra Watson
  - Phone: 816-358-4142
- NCADD, 633 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> St, Kansas City, MO 64132
  - Contact: Debi Lee
  - Phone: 816-726-6532

## Family Nutrition Education Program

**Sponsoring Organization:** University of Missouri Extension  
**Contact:** Denise Schmitz  
**Phone:** 816-482-5854  
**Email:** [schmitzda@missouri.edu](mailto:schmitzda@missouri.edu)  
**Service Area:** Kansas City area  
**Services Offered:**

- Lessons on family nutrition, budgeting, food safety, etc.

## Family Support Network – St Louis

**Contact:** Sue Didier, Program Supervisor  
**Phone:** 314-644-5055  
**Email:** [sdidier@familysupportnet.org](mailto:sdidier@familysupportnet.org)  
**Web:** [www.familysupportnet.org](http://www.familysupportnet.org)  
**Service Area:** St Louis City and County

**Services Offered:**

- In-home family therapy and parenting support
- Services to assist with communication, discipline, expectations, behavior management
- Services provided by licensed professionals at no cost to caregivers

## Foster Grandparent Program

**Contact:** Lucy Haston  
**Phone:** 660-584-7421  
**Email:** [fgp@ctcis.net](mailto:fgp@ctcis.net)  
**Service Area:** Higginsville, MO

**Services Offered:**

- Senior Volunteer Corp program that services youth
- Low income seniors age 60+ may receive a stipend for their volunteer work
- Includes reading to young children and serving as a teacher's aide in classrooms

## Gateway Grandparents/Kinship Network

**Contact:** Elizabeth J. Reinsch Ph. D.  
**Phone:** 314-615-2911  
**Email:** [reinsche@missouri.edu](mailto:reinsche@missouri.edu)  
**Web:** <http://extension.missouri.edu/ecregion/grandparent>  
**Service Area:** St. Louis region

## Gateway Grandparents/Kinship Network – cont.

### Services Offered:

- Support groups sponsored by local extension offices; some groups specifically to address needs in rural communities
- Workshops, conferences statewide
- Resource guides

## Grandfamilies Support Group

**Contact:** Diane Mitchell, Jacque Castenada

**Phone:** 573-624-1607

**Service Area:** Dexter

### Services Offered:

- Support Group meets for lunch at 119 E. Vine Street, Dexter, MO 63841

## Grandparent and Relative Caregivers Program of Family Friends

**Sponsoring Organization:** Children's Mercy Hospital

**Contact:** JoAnn Stovall, Program Coordinator

**Phone:** 816-234-3309 or 234-3676

**Email:** [jstovall@cmh.edu](mailto:jstovall@cmh.edu)

**Service Area:** Kansas City

### Services Offered:

- Caregiver support groups (meet bi-weekly)
- Individualized services for grandparents and children
- Annual caregiver conference
- Respite care program

## Grandparents' Circle – Parenting a Second Time Around

**Contact:** Willistean Fulks

**Phone:** 314-383-0836

**Address:** Ford Elementary School, 1383 Clare, St. Louis. MO 63112

**Service Area:** St. Louis

### Services Offered:

- Support group 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at Ford Elementary School

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Butler County

**Sponsoring Organization:** University of Missouri Extension Service

**Contact:** Phyllis Flanigan

**Phone:** 573-686-8064

**Email:** [flaniganp@missouri.edu](mailto:flaniganp@missouri.edu)

**Service Area:** Butler, Ripley, Wayne and surrounding counties

### Services Offered:

- Support group meets second Wednesday of each month in Poplar Bluff
- includes educational program plus sharing

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren –Cape Girardeau County

**Sponsoring Organization:** University of Missouri Extension Service

**Contact:** Mary Gosche

**Phone:** 573-243-3581

**Email:** [goschem@missouri.edu](mailto:goschem@missouri.edu)

**Service Area:** Cape Girardeau County

**Services Offered:**

- Support group meets monthly in Jackson, Missouri (child care available on request) – includes educational program plus sharing

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Charleston

**Contact:** Mary Engram

**Phone:** 573-683-6129

**Service Area:** Charleston

**Services Offered:**

- Support group meets first Monday of each month at Charleston Library, except during summer
- Educational programs, sharing

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Columbia

**Contact:** Art Schneider

**Phone:** 660-882-5661

**Address:** 1121 Business Loop 70 East, Columbia, MO 65201

**Email:** [schneidera@missouri.edu](mailto:schneidera@missouri.edu)

**Web:** [http://outreach.missouri.edu/cooper/cyf/grandparents\\_raising\\_grandchildren.htm](http://outreach.missouri.edu/cooper/cyf/grandparents_raising_grandchildren.htm)

**Service Area:** Columbia

**Services Offered:**

- Support group meets on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at Columbia Senior Center

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Macon County

**Contact:** Jane Hunter

**Phone:** 660-385-2173

**Email:** [hunterej@missouri.edu](mailto:hunterej@missouri.edu)

**Service Area:** Macon County

**Services Offered:**

- Support group at First Christian Church, 806 E. Briggs Dr, Macon, MO

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Mid-East

**Sponsoring Organization:** Mid-East Area Agency on Aging

**Contact:** Margi Valleroy

**Phone:** 800-243-6060 or 636-207-1323 x 110

**Email:** [mvalleroy@mid-eastaaa.org](mailto:mvalleroy@mid-eastaaa.org)

**Web:** [www.mid-eastaaa.org](http://www.mid-eastaaa.org)

**Service Area:** Jefferson, Franklin, St. Charles, St. Louis Counties

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Mid-East – cont.

### Services Offered:

- Financial assistance for grandparents over the age of 60 raising grandchildren (for energy assistance, appliances, other necessities)
- Case management
- Reading is Relative – a new program that will focus on family reading; a Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) funded by the Brookdale Foundation Group

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Mississippi County

**Sponsoring Organization:** University of Missouri Extension Service

**Contact:** Mary Engram

**Phone:** 573-683-6129

**Email:** [engramm@missouri.edu](mailto:engramm@missouri.edu)

**Service Area:** Mississippi County

### Services Offered:

- Support group meets first Monday of the month in Charleston, Missouri at the Mississippi County Library – 30' educational program plus sharing

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Poplar Bluff

**Contact:** Phyllis Flanigan

**Phone:** 573-686-8064

**Service Area:** Poplar Bluff

### Services Offered:

- Support groups meets on second Wednesday of each month at First United Methodist Church in Poplar Bluff (500 N. Main St.)

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

**Sponsoring Organization:** University of Missouri County Extension Services

**Service Area:** Crawford and Franklin Counties

**Contact:** Pat Snodgrass

**Phone:** 573-775-2135

**Email:** [snodgrassp@missouri.edu](mailto:snodgrassp@missouri.edu)

**Service Area:** Pulaski, Camden, Laclede, Maries, Miller, Phelps, & Pulaski Counties

**Contact:** Sarah Raaf, Human Development and Family Studies Specialist

**Phone:** 573-774-6177

**Email:** [raafs@missouri.edu](mailto:raafs@missouri.edu)

**Service Area:** Phelps County

**Contact:** Chantae Alfred, Family Financial Education

**Phone:** 573-458-6260

**Email:** [alfredec@missouri.edu](mailto:alfredec@missouri.edu)

### Services Offered:

- Information and referral
- Educational programs on request

## Kansas City Grandparents Warmline

**Sponsoring Organization:** Collaboration of local agencies serving grandparents raising children, including AARP Missouri  
**Phone:** 816-444-0660  
**Service Area:** Kansas City Metro area  
**Services Offered:**

- Resource and referral

## Listening Place

**Contact:** Diane Mitchell  
**Phone:** 573-820-3100  
**Email:** [diane.mitchell@newwavecomm.net](mailto:diane.mitchell@newwavecomm.net)  
**Service Area:** Dexter  
**Services Offered:**

- Informal relative caregiver group meets at the Dexter Municipal Building, second Thursday of the month (Lunch included) – information, emotional support, educational speakers

## Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association

**Contact:** Shandra Chapman  
**Phone:** 816-350-0215  
**Email:** [shandra@mfcaa.org](mailto:shandra@mfcaa.org)  
**Web:** [www.mfcaa.org](http://www.mfcaa.org)  
**Service Area:** Statewide  
**Services Offered:**

- Training
- Monthly meetings
- Food pantry and clothes closet
- Statewide legislative advocacy

## ParentLink Warmline

**Contact:** Meg Roodhouse  
**Phone:** 573-884-4382  
**Email:** [roodhousem@missouri.edu](mailto:roodhousem@missouri.edu)  
**Warmline:** 800-552-8522/ Spanish – 888-460-0008  
**Web:** <http://extension.missouri.edu/parentlink/grandlinker.htm>  
**Service Area:** Statewide  
**Services Offered:**

- Information and referral
- Lending library
- Coalition agency

## Parenting Life Skills Center

**Phone:** 417-831-9596  
**Service Area:** Springfield area  
**Services Offered:**

- Parenting classes provided at Grace Methodist Church, 600 S. Jefferson St.



## Parenting the Second Time Around

**Sponsoring Organization:** University of Missouri Extension  
**Contact:** Leanne Spengler  
**Phone:** 573-324-5464  
**Email:** [spenglerl@missouri.edu](mailto:spenglerl@missouri.edu)  
**Service Area:** Bowling Green

## Parenting the Second Time Around – cont.

### Services Offered:

- Workshops held at Pike County courthouse, 115 W. Main, Bowling Green, MO 63334
- Resources for restructuring family relationships

## Parents and Grandparents of Drug Abusers (PAGODA)

**Contact:** Eddie Mae Binnon  
**Phone:** 314-569-1304  
**Service Area:** St. Louis area

### Services Offered:

- Support group meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 6pm at the
- Kingdom House, 1321 S. 11<sup>th</sup> St, St Louis

## Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) – Putnam County

**Sponsoring Organization:** Putnam Family and Community Services  
**Contact:** Sue Schukin  
**Phone:** 845-225-2700 x 180  
**Email:** [sschukin@pfcinc.org](mailto:sschukin@pfcinc.org)  
**Service Area:** Putnam County

### Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Monthly multi-generational support group offered (dinner served and children's activities available)

## Children in Foster Care

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

### Numbers – December 2006

- 9,946 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
- Of these children, 2,376 were placed with kin while 454 were placed with non-related kin (Missouri's definition of non-related kin includes persons not related by blood, marriage or adoption but who have a close relationship. Examples of non-related persons include godparents, neighbors, teachers, close family friends, and fellow church members.)

## Preferences

- State policy requires that kin be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under the Department's care.

## Kinship care licensing

- There is no separate licensing program for kin foster parents. Kin have to meet the same licensing standards and requirements and receive the same foster care payment rate as non-kin foster parents.

## Subsidized guardianship

- Missouri has a state-funded subsidized guardianship program, the Non-Parent Caretaker Relative (NPCR) Program, which provides an ongoing permanency assistance payment to eligible kin (defined to include an adult sibling, an aunt, uncle, or grandparent) who becomes the legal guardians of a child. The permanency assistance payment is the same as the foster care payment (Mo. Rev. Stat., § 453.072).
- Contact: Find the local office of the Department of Social Services, Children's Division online
  - Web: <http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/adopt/masp.htm>

## Public Benefits

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

### Financial Assistance

- Cash payments may be available to children and their grandparents and other relative caregivers through the Temporary Assistance Program.
  - Phone: 573-751-3221
  - Web: [www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/tempa.htm](http://www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/tempa.htm)

### Food Stamps

- Based on the family's income, kinship care families may also be eligible for food stamps to help meet food and nutrition needs.
  - Phone: 573- 751-3221
  - Web: [www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/fstamp/index.htm](http://www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/fstamp/index.htm)

### Health Insurance

- Grandparents and other relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance on behalf of the children they are raising through the Missouri Health Net for Kids.
- In some cases, caregivers may also be eligible for free health coverage under Medicaid.
  - Phone: 1-888- 275-5908
  - Web: <http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhk/index.htm>

## 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](http://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](http://www.childrensdefense.org) (Kinship Care Resource Kit)
- National Council on Aging – Benefits CheckUp [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org)

## State Laws

The following state laws may be helpful to grandparents and other relatives raising children<sup>1,2</sup>

### Medical consent (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 431.058 and Mo. Rev. Stat. § 431.061)

- A grandparent, brother or sister, aunt or uncle, or stepparent of a child who is the child’s primary caregiver may delegate in writing the authority to consent to immunization to another adult.
- Oral or written consent for other medical and surgical procedures can be given by persons acting in loco parentis.
- Adult siblings and grandparents can also consent if the parent is absent.
- 

### Educational Enrollment (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 167.151 )

- Allows the following categories of children to attend the public schools of any district in the state in which they have a permanent or temporary home without paying a tuition fee: orphan children, children with only one parent living, and children whose parents do not contribute to their support – if the children are between the ages of 6 and 22 and are unable to pay tuition.

<sup>1</sup>Laws change and are subject to different interpretations. These general descriptions are not intended as legal advice in any particular situation.

### Disclaimer:

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