

New Hampshire

March 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. 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 New Hampshire...



- There are 10,119 children living in grandparent-headed households (3.1% of all children in the state). There are 2,339 children living in households headed by other relatives. Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in New Hampshire, 3,869 are living there without either parent present.
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- 4,534 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them (436 in Manchester): 1% of these grandparents are African American, 3% are Hispanic/Latino; 2% are Asian; and 94% are White. 40% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 76% are under the age of 60; 8.2% 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 New Hampshire

Contact: Kelly Clark
Phone: 1-866-542-8168
Email: kclark@aarp.org
Service Area: Statewide
Services Offered:

- Information and referral



Family Resource Connection

Sponsoring Organization: New Hampshire State Library
Contact: Nancy Cristiano
Phone: 603-271-7931
Email: ncristiano@library.state.nh.us
Web: <http://www.nh.gov/nhsl/>
Service Area: Statewide
Services Offered:

- Information and referral
- Lending library including books and videos specifically for grandparents
- Clearinghouse that mails materials to callers who provide self-addressed, stamped envelopes

Grandparents as Parents Support Group

Sponsoring Organization: Dame School in Concord and Riverbend Parent-Child Centers
Contact: Cynthia Langevin, Coordinator
Phone: 603-226-7510 x 4322
Email: ctaylor@riverbendcmhc.org
Web: www.riverbendcmhc.org
Service Area: Concord and surrounding communities
Services Offered:

- Peer support
- Parenting education
- Support groups

Monadnock Family Services Family Resource Center

Contact: Elizabeth Raposa, Coordinator, Parent Outreach Program
Phone: 603-283-1562
Email: eraposa@mfs.org
Web: www.mfs.org
Service Area: Monadnock region
Services Offered:

- Support Group (Off our Rockers)
- Family outreach services
- Connections to other area resources

New Hampshire Family Voices

Contact: Martha-Jean Madison, Co-Director
Phone: 603-271-4525 or 1-800-852-3345 x 4525
Email: nhfv@yahoo.com
Web: www.nhfv.org
Service Area: Statewide

New Hampshire Family Voices – cont.

Services Offered:

- Family to Family Health Information Center supports families with children having special needs, emotional, physical or chronic illnesses and disabilities
- Database of resources and lending library (more than 1,600 books, videos, audio tapes)
- Specializes in helping families with healthcare financing for children
- Quarterly newsletter
- Referral to services and grandparent support groups

Relatives as Parents (RAPP)

Sponsoring Organization: HUB Family Resource Center

Contact: Lisa Paone

Phone: 603-749-9754

Email: lpaone@hubfamilies.org

Web: www.hubfamilies.org

Service Area: Dover

Services Offered:

- Support group at the McConnell Center deals with legal, financial and social issues (child care and light supper provided)
- Training in how to work with schools, developmental stages in children

ServiceLink of New Hampshire

Phone: 1-866-634-9412

Web: www.nh.gov/servicelink

Service Area: Statewide

Services Offered:

- Community-based network of connections for elders, adults with disabilities and their children
- 10 community-based resource centers and 40 satellite offices provide information/referral
- Some support groups

University of New Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension

Contact: Charlene Baxter, Program Leader, Family and Consumer Resources

Phone: 603-862-2485

Email: Charlene.Baxter@unh.edu

Web: extension.unh.edu

Service Area: Statewide

Services Offered:

- Parenting education, workshops
- Age-based newsletters on infant and toddler care and development
- Assistance to start support groups, educational programming for support groups
- Fact sheets and publications on website
- Leadership to statewide coalition for kinship care families

Children in Foster Care

- Sometimes state child welfare agencies place children in foster care with grandparents or other relatives. This is often called “kinship care.”

Numbers – December 2006

- There were 1,022 children under the care of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families are in out of home placements.
- Of these, 140 children were placed with relatives.

Preferences and licensing

- State policy requires that kin be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under the Department’s care.
- Kin do not have to be licensed to care for children, but they must be approved by the Division for Children, Youth and Families. (use Kinship Interim Care Checklist, Form 2273)
- Kin who wish to qualify as a fully-licensed foster family must meet same requirements as non-kin.

Subsidized Guardianship

- New Hampshire does not currently have a subsidized guardianship program

Contact

- Janet Kohlhase-Purdy, Kinship Specialist
 - Phone: 603-271-4451 (Mon, Wed, Thur)
 - Email: Janet.Kohlhase@dhhs.state.nh.us
 - Web: www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/FCADOPTION/default

Public Benefits

Financial Assistance

- Cash payments may be available to children and their grandparents through New Hampshire’s Family Assistance Program (FAP)
- Contact:
 - Phone: 800-852-3345 x 4238
 - Web: www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/DFA

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps to help meet the needs of children in their care.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 800-852-3345 x 4238
 - Web: www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/FOODSTAMPS

Health Insurance

- Free or low-cost health insurance may be available for children through the New Hampshire’s Healthy Kids Gold and Healthy Kids Silver programs.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 877-464-2447
 - Web: www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/MEDICAIDPROGRAM/targeted-services.htm

Other Benefits

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

New Hampshire currently does not have any state laws specifically directed at kinship care families.

Disclaimer:

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