

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children



The Brookdale Foundation
Group
www.brookdalefoundation.org



New Mexico

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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 Mexico...

- There are 41,085 children living in grandparent-headed households (8.1% of all children in the state). There are another 10,572 children living in households headed by other relatives (2.1 % of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in New Mexico, 21,279 are living there without either parent present.
- 24,041 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [4,272 in Albuquerque]: 2% of these grandparents are African American; 53% are Hispanic/Latino; 20% are American Indian or Alaskan Native; and 23% are White. 30% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 73% are under the age of 60; 27% live in poverty.
- Additional national and state 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 Mexico

- Contact:** Stan Cooper, AARP New Mexico State Director
Phone: 505-946-3601
Email: aarpm@aarpm.org
Service area: Statewide
Services offered:
- Information and referral

FOCUS

- Sponsoring Organization:** University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center,
Center for Development and Disabilities
- Contact:** Harrie Freedman
- Phone:** 505-272-0325 or 505-272-3459
- Email:** hfreedman@salud.unm.edu
- Service area:** Bernalillo County, Valencia County, Sandoval and Torrance Counties
- Services offered:**
- Case management
 - Typical clients include grandparents whose grandchildren are affected by prenatal substance abuse or those who are abused, neglected or dealing with HIV
 - Health and developmental services (early intervention)

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Center

- Sponsoring Organization:** Advocates for Children and Families of Doña Ana County
- Contact:** Yolanda Borunda, Liaison Coordinator
- Phone:** 505-525-1060
- Service area:** Doña Ana County
- Services offered:**
- Information and referral
 - Support groups
 - Social events for grandparents and grandchildren

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

- Sponsoring Organization:** Outcomes, Inc.
- Contact:** Sheila Genoni
- Phone:** 505-243-2551
- Email:** dtrujillo@outcomesnm.org
- Web:** <http://www.outcomesnm.org>
- Service area:** Albuquerque and surrounding areas
- Services offered:**
- Free Grandparent discussion groups with childcare provided
 - Free monthly Grandparent University, topics and social hour
 - "Parenting Again" classes, counseling sessions and social events as funding allows

National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA)

- Contact:** Jolene Herrera
- Phone:** 505-292-2001
- Email:** Jolene@nicoa.org
- Web:** <http://www.nicoa.org>
- Service area:** Statewide
- Services offered:**
- Advocacy
 - Employment training
 - Information and referral

- Data support
- Services American Indian and Alaska Native elders

New Mexico Guardianship Project of Advocacy, Inc.

Contact: Gini Silva
Phone: 505-266-3166 or 1-866-376-9625
Email: kids@nmadvocacy.org
Web: <http://www.nmadvocacy.org>
Service area: Statewide
Services offered:

- Guardianship & adoption legal services for grandparents and other relatives
- Assistance in obtaining health, financial and food support for children and families
- Services offered on a sliding scale, often at no cost

Children in Foster Care

Numbers – December 2006

- 2,244 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department
- 1,529 of these children were placed with relatives

Preferences

- State policy requires that kin be considered first for out-of-home placements.
- Licensing standards may be waived if they do not affect the safety of the child.
- Licensed kin receive the same foster care payment as non-kin foster parents.

Contact

- New Mexico State Central Intake – Children Youth and Families Department
 - Phone: 1-800-432-2075

Subsidized guardianship

- New Mexico no longer operates a subsidized guardianship program. Those enrolled before the elimination of the program will continue to receive support.
 - Contact: Andrea Poole, Bureau Chief
 - Phone: 505-827-8400
 - Email: Andrea.Poole1@state.nm.us

Public Benefits

Children are often eligible for state and federal benefits even if their caregivers do not have legal guardianship or custody. The following public benefits programs are offered in New Mexico:

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their relative caregivers through the NMWorks – Temporary Cash Assistance Program.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 1-800-432-6217
 - Web: <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/isd/tanf.html>

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 1-800-432-6217
 - Web: <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/isd/fs.html>

Health Insurance

- Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance through NewMexiKids.
- Contact Medicaid/NewMexiKids:
 - Phone: 1-888-997-2583
 - Web: <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/mad/newmexikids/>

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

The following state laws may be helpful to grandparents and other relatives raising children¹

Medical Consent

N.M. Stat. Ann. § 24-10-2

- Allows a child’s parent or guardian to designate a third-party caregiver who does not have legal custody or guardianship to consent to medical care on behalf of a child

Kinship Guardianship Act

N.M. Stat. Ann. § 40-10B1 – 40-10-B1

- Allows a relative or other caregiver to petition for guardianship of a child who has been left behind by a parent and in care for another for 90 consecutive days

Multi-Agency Task Force for Relative Caregivers

- The Legislature of the State of New Mexico passed a Joint Memorial requesting that the New Mexico Human Services Department, the Aging and Long-Term Services Department, the Children, Youth and Families Department, and the Department of Health and Public Education convene a multi-agency task force to assess the needs of grandchildren and grandparents and ensure that grandparent-headed households have access to the educational, social, medical and mental health services to which they are entitled.

Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit

N.M. Stat. Ann. § 40-10B-15

- Allows a grandparent or other relative caring for a child to gain access to school and medical care for a child based on the relative's sworn statement that the child resides with them.

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

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