

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Washington

September 2007

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 Washington...

- There are 61,905 children living in grandparent-headed households (4.1% of all the children in the state). There are another 24,086 children living in households headed by other relatives (1.6% of all the children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Washington, 35,761 are living there without either parent present.
- 35,341 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [7,903 in King County and 5,364 in Pierce County]: 6% of these grandparents are African American; 10% are Hispanic/Latino; 5% are American Indian or Native Alaskan; and 48% are White. 39% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 71% are under the age of 60; 13% live in poverty.
- Additional national and state data on grandparents raising children is available on AARP's website at www.aarp.org/grandparents/

Programs That Can Help

Casey Family Grandparents Reparenting Group

Sponsoring Organization: Casey Family Program Seattle Division

Contact: Abbey Moon

Phone: 206-731-2557

Email: abbey.moon@metrokc.gov

Service Area: Seattle

Services Offered:

- Support group – well-established but welcomes new members; child care offered
- Expert speakers



Casey Family Programs Yakima Division Office

Sponsoring Organization: Casey Family Programs, Yakama Nation, Catholic Family & Child Service, Children's Administration/Department of Children and Family Services; Area Agency on Aging; Opportunities Industrialization Center)

Phone: 509-457-8197 or 877-3065

Contact: Grace Smith, Supervisor of Community Programs

Email: gsmith@casey.org

Contact: Jenece Yeahpau Howe, Community Specialist

Email: jhowe@casey.org

Service area: Yakama Nation

Services offered:

- Case management
- Support meetings using culturally-integrated curriculum
- "Powerful Families" training
- KINdred Spirits – Families Helping Families
 - Collaboration formed in 2006
 - Bimonthly newsletter for caregivers
 - Annual kinship conference
 - Support groups./educational classes
 - Contact:
 - Mary Pleger, Catholic Family & Child Service 509-965-7100
 - Grace Smith, Casey Family Programs 509-457-8197

Catholic Community Services in Mt. Vernon

Contact: BJ Johnson

Phone: 360-416-7546

Email: bette@miravistarehab.com

Service area: Mt. Vernon

Services offered:

- Information and referral by telephone
- Support group meetings with child care
- Respite care
- Regular newsletter

Children's Home Society and Aging and Adult Care

Contact: Juanita Echelbarger, Facilitator

Phone: 509-886-9027

Email: jechelbarger38@aol.com

Service area: Wenatchee/East Wenatchee and Chelan/Douglas Counties

Services offered:

- Support group with child care and youth activities
- Information and referral by telephone
- Respite care
- Regular newsletter
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Clark County Kinship Care Coalition

Contact: Bridge McLeman
Phone: 360-695-1325
Email: bridgetm@chs-wa.gov
Service area: Clark County
Services offered:

- Coalition to provide information sharing and networking
- Referrals and resources

Columbia Legal Services and the Northwest Justice Project

Contact: Columbia Legal Services at 206-464-5911
Contact: Northwest Justice Project CLEAR Line
1-888-201-1014 or 1-888-387-7111
Web: www.washingtonlawhelp.org
Service area: King County – Columbia Legal Services
All other counties – Northwest Justice Project
Services offered:

- Legal assistance to kinship caregivers
- Information, referral

Cowlitz/Wahkiakum County Kinship Care Coalition

Contact: Robert Mumford
Phone: 360-501-2555
Email: MUBO300@dshs.wa.gov
Contact: Sandy Junker
Phone: 360-442-2801
Service area: Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties
Services offered:

- New coalition to encourage information sharing, networking and development of kinship care resources
- Maintains support group connections for kinship caregivers
- Information and resources for professionals working with families

Family Education and Support Services

Contact: Shelly Willis, Program Director
Phone: 303-754-7629
Email: olympiaparented@aol.com
Service area: Lewis, Thurston, Mason Counties
Services offered:

- Kinship Care Support Program – support groups with child/youth activities
- Kinship Navigator Program – resources and referrals
- *Voices of Children Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives* Annual Contest coordination

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Sponsoring Organization: Northwest Washington Area Agency on Aging
Contact: Ethyl Warbus, Coordinator, Northwest Regional Council
Phone: 360-676-6749
Email: WarbuEd@dshs.wa.gov
Service area: Northwest Washington

Services offered:

- *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* - resource guide on Indian Child Welfare Act, self-care, grief, chemical dependency; distributed to six tribes in two-county northwest area
- Legal assistance
- Tribal Outreach Coordinator can assist with starting a local Kinship Talking Circle

Grandparents Support Group

Sponsoring Organization: East County Senior Center
Contact person: Jacob McGee
Phone: 360-794-6359
Email: Jacob@eastcountyseniorcenter.org
Service area: Eastern Snohomish County

Services offered:

- Support group for kinship caregivers; child care provided
- Respite activities
- Education opportunities
- Speakers at support meetings

Kent Youth and Family Service

Contact: Kristie Lund
Phone: 206-371-6642
Email: jazzsma@yahoo.com
Service area: Kent area

Services offered:

- Relatives as Parents Project
- Support group meetings with child care
- Information and referral by telephone
- Newsletter
- Conferences, workshops, training

King County Kinship Collaboration

Sponsoring Organization: Casey Family Programs
Contact: Barb Wiley, Coordinator
Phone: 206-268-6785
Email: barbaraw@seniorservices.org
Service area: King County

King County Kinship Collaboration – cont.

Services offered:

- 12 key agencies signed charter in 2005; 35 organizations along with kinship caregivers and support group leaders participate in a variety of work groups
- Services to kinship care providers
- Collaboration works to provide comprehensive and coordinated services, improve access to existing resources and educate the community about kinship care issues

Kinship Care Solutions Project

Sponsoring Organization: King County Bar Association
Contact: Lawyer Referral Service
Phone: 206-267-7010 to request intake interview
Service area: King County

Services offered:

- Screens cases for referral to volunteer attorneys in Nonparental Custody cases
- Clients must be income eligible and have a case pending in King County Superior Court

Kinship Caregivers Support Program (KCSP)

Sponsoring Organization: Aging and Disability Services Administration
Phone/Fax: 800-422-3263
Web: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare/>
Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Support for kinship caregivers who are not involved with the formal child welfare system
- Financial help for clothes, food, car seats, etc.
- Referral to other sources of financial support

National Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP)

Web: <http://www.aasa.dshs.wa.gov/pubinfo/help/agencies.htm>
Click on “local FCSP” (Family Caregiver Support Program)”

Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Services for relative caregivers age 55 and older who are caring for children ages 18 and under
- Support groups
- Parenting classes and resource materials
- Services vary by geographic area

Olympic Area Agency on Aging

Contact: Carolyn Lindley
Phone: 360-452-3221
Email: lindlcl@dshs.wa.gov
Service area: Sequim

Olympic Area Agency on Aging – cont.

Services offered:

- Support group with guest speakers
- Information and referral by telephone
- Monthly newsletter for families in Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties
 - To subscribe: grg@parentingmatters.org
 - Published in cooperation with Parenting Matters Foundation (<http://www.parentingmatters.org>)

Parents Again: Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Contact: Viola Hansel, Program Coordinator

Phone: 360-695-1325

Email: violah@chs-wa.org

Service area: Clark, Cowlitz Counties

Services offered:

- Support groups
- Bimonthly newsletter
- Information and referral
- Library of kinship case materials
- Children's therapy groups
- Limited respite care, advocacy
- Parenting classes provided for relatives raising relative children
- Quarterly activity for relative respite (includes children's activity)

Pierce County Relatives Raising Children

Sponsoring Organization: Pierce County Aging and Long Term Care (PCRRC)

Contact: Edith Owen, Coordinator

Phone: 253-565-4484, ext 104

Email: edith@cfgcpc.org

Service area: Pierce County

Services offered:

- Support
- Education
- Advocacy
- Partnerships with community service providers, schools, faith community
- Kinship Navigator Program – resources and referrals

Relatives Raising Relatives

Sponsoring Organization: Children's Home Society/support from Brookdale Foundation

Contact: Betsy Blake

Phone: 509-747-4174

Email: betsyb@chs-wa.org

Service area: Spokane

Relatives Raising Relatives – cont.

Services offered:

- Support groups
- Counseling
- Information and referral
- Respite care and activity days

Washington Kinship Navigator Program

Contact: Hilari Hauptman

Phone: 1-800-422-3263

Email: haupthp@dshs.wa.gov

Web: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare/>

Service area: Six programs which serve 24 counties can be found on the website under the link “Resource Persons and Support Groups” or by calling the number above.

Services offered:

- Assistance in navigating system of services for children in out-of-home care including information and referral, advocacy and support

Washington State Kinship Care Website

Web: <http://www1.hshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare>

Services offered:

- Information on financial resources, child care, health, food, foster care, kinship navigators, support groups
- Online applications for some services
- Related books and websites

Washington State Aging and Disability Services Administration of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

Contact: Hilari Hauptman, MSW, Kinship and Family Caregiver Program Mgr.

Phone: 800-422-3263

Email: haupthp@dshs.wa.gov

Services offered:

- *Relatives as Parents: A Resource Guide for Relatives Raising Children* (publication # DSHS 22-996x – revision 9/05) – Contact Department of Printing at www.prt.wa.gov or fax 360-586-8831 – provide publication number, quantity desired, mailing address and phone number.

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services – Children’s Administration

- *A Relative’s Guide to Child Welfare Services* (Publication Number DSHS 22-492X – 5/01) – resource guide focused on relative caregivers who are working with Child Protective Services or Child Welfare Services
 - Contact Department of Printing at fax 360-586-8831 or jenn@prt.wa.gov – provide publication number, quantity desired, mailing address and phone number

Washington State Kinship Oversight Committee

Contact person: Michael Luque, MSW, Foster Care & Kinship Care Manager
Phone: 360-902-7986
Email: lumi300@dshs.wa.gov
Service area: Statewide
Services offered:

- Legislatively mandated coalition of about 40 public and private organizations, kinship advocates and caregivers, child advocates, legislative staff, foster parents, state agencies, and tribes
- Addresses issues facing kinship caregivers statewide
- Develops information and expands public awareness
- Access Kinship Care Oversight Committee Reports at <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/legrel/LR/CIYA.shtm> (scroll down to Kinship Care)
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Other Resources

Voices of Children Annual Kinship Care Children's Contest

Contact: Shelly Willis
Phone: 1-877-813-2828
Email: olympiaparented@aol.com

- Contest for children living with a relative to express how that has made a positive difference in their life
- Children 5-19 may enter original drawings, poems or essays
- First 200 entrants receive special gifts
- Top two entries in each age division receive gift certificates from Twin County Credit Union
- All entries published annually in book – *Voices of Children Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives*

Videos

Legal Options for Grandparents and Relatives Raising Children in Washington State

- 1 hour, 25 minutes long
- Explains legal options including third party custody, guardianship, adoption
- Features Rebecca Morrow, former Kinship Legal Fellow with Columbia Legal Services in Seattle
- Available at 800-422-3263 or by emailing haupthp@dshs.wa.gov

Mediation for Kinship Caregivers: An Alternative to the Courtroom

- 10 minutes long
- Produced by State RAPP Coalition with Dispute Resolution Centers of Washington State
- Explains to relatives, support group leaders, mediators and parents how mediation can resolve family conflicts
- Available for purchase (\$27) from Hilari Hauptman, Aging and Disability Services Administration, P.O. Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600; 800-422-3263 or haupthp@dshs.wa.gov

Children in Foster Care

Numbers – July 2006

- 15,000 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Children’s Administration.
- 4,297 of these children were placed with relatives.

Preferences

- State law and policy require that when an out-of-home placement is necessary, the preference is to place the child with relatives or “other suitable persons” (person with a pre-existing relationship with the child or family) as long as safety concerns and the best interest of the child are primary considerations.
- No separate licensing program for kinship foster parents.
- Licensed kin receive the same foster care payment as non-kin foster parents.
- Resource Family Training Institute offers training to relative and kinship caregivers

Subsidized guardianship

- Washington does not have a subsidized guardianship program.

Contact:

- Michael Luque, MSW, Foster Care & Kinship Care Program Manager
 - Phone: 360-902-7986
 - Email: lumi300@dshs.wa.gov

Training and support

- Foster Parent Association of Washington State (FPAWS)
 - Works collaboratively with individuals and organizations on issues relating to kinship care and foster placement
 - Web: <http://www.fpaws.org/>
 - Phone: 800-391-2273

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 Washington:

Childcare Assistance

- Relative caregivers can qualify for Working Connections Child Care Program (WCCC) even if only one person in a couple is working.
- Contact:
 - Local Community Service Office
 - Web: <http://www.del.wa.gov/subsidy/subsidyInfo.shtml>

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their relative caregivers through Washington’s TANF program.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 1-877-980-9220 (automated; use website to find local office numbers)
 - Web: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov> (Find “Financial Assistance” in Topics on left)

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 1-877-980-9220 (automated; use website to find local office numbers)
 - Web: www1.dshs.wa.gov (Find “Food Stamps” in Topics on left)

Health Insurance

- Children who receive a TANF grant automatically receive medical coverage.
- Other children may receive free or low cost medical coverage from Children’s Medical Programs. In some cases, caregivers may be eligible for free coverage.
- Contact Healthy Kids Now
 - Phone: 1-800-562-3022
 - Web: <http://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/maa/index.html>

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.childrendefense.org (Kinship Care Resource Kit)
- National Council on Aging – Benefits CheckUp www.benefitscheckup.org

State Laws

Kinship Caregivers’ Consent for Mental Health Care of Minors (H.B. 3139)

- Competent adult responsible for the health care of a minor patient is able to consent to the mental health care of children in their care. Go to www.washingtonlawhelp.org for more information.

Washington’s Kinship Care Medical Care (SHB 1281)

- Allows relative caregivers access to appropriate medical care on behalf of children in their care, permitting them to give informed consent to medical care for those children. Go to www.washingtonlawhelp.org for more information.

Tribal Foster Care Licensing (H.B. 3182)

- Indian tribes in Washington may enter into agreements with the state to license agencies on or near federally recognized Indian reservations to care for children outside their own homes and arrange for the placement of children in foster care. Indian Tribes that do not have reservation land may license foster care homes within their service district.

Disclaimer:

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