

# 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](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 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/](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:gsmith@casey.org)

**Contact:** Jenece Yeahpau Howe, Community Specialist

**Email:** [jhowe@casey.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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@cfgepc.org](mailto:edith@cfgepc.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](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.childrendefense.org](http://www.childrendefense.org) (Kinship Care Resource Kit)
- National Council on Aging – Benefits CheckUp [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://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](http://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](http://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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