

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Arizona

October 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 Email subject line.



In Arizona....

- 96,062 children live in grandparent-headed households (7.0% of all children in the state). There are another 36,720 children living in households headed by other relatives (2.7% of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Arizona, 54,833 have neither parent present.
- 52,210 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [13,262 in Phoenix and 4,995 in Tucson]: 5% of these grandparents are African American; 39% are Hispanic/Latino; 14% are American Indian and Alaskan Native; 1% are Asian; and 40% are White. 27% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 74% are under the age of 60; 19% 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

Arizona Children's Association's Gold Gate Community Center

Sponsoring Organization: KARE Intergenerational Program
Contact: Phyllis Habib, Prog. Supervisor
Phone: 602-233-0017x13
Email: phabib@arizonaschildren.org
Service Area: Western Phoenix
Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Case management
- Parenting education
- Se habla Español



Central Arizona Kinship Care Coalition

Sponsoring Organization Beatitudes Center for Developing Older Adult Resources (D.O.A.R.)
Contact: Donna Hepperman, Generations Director
Phone: 602-274-5022
Email: hepperman@centerdoar.org
Website: www.centerdoar.org
Service Area: Regional
Services Offered:

- Monthly meetings to share resources, collaborate to expand services
- Seasonal celebrations
- Annual Grandparent University (one-day seminar)

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Southern Arizona Coalition

Sponsoring Organization University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Contact: **Southern Arizona Contact:** Linda Block
Phone: 520-626-5151
Email: lblock@ag.arizona.edu
Central Arizona Contact: Jessica Sanchez-Jackson
Phone: 620-470-8086 x 12
Email: jessica@ag.arizona.edu
Northern Arizona Contact: Beth Tucker
Phone: 928-774-1868
Email: tucker@ag.arizona.edu
Website: www.ag.arizona.edu/grandparents
Service Area: Cochise, Coconino, Maricopa, Pima, Yuma counties
Services Offered:

- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource Notebook
- Referrals
- Information on legal options
- Parenting skills and support groups
- School resources
- Wellness centers
- Food banks

Grandparents United for Children's Rights, Inc.

Contact: Billy Wilda
Phone: 602-273-0004
Email: bwilda@qwest.net
Service Area: Statewide
Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Legal advice
- Support group workshops
- Courses for grandparents and other relative caregivers

Kinship Kare of Northern Arizona (KKONA)

Sponsoring Organization: University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Contact: Michele Lytle, KKONA Co-Coordinator
Phone: 928-774-1868 x 21
Email: mlytle@ag.arizona.edu
Contact: Delia Moder, KKONA Co-Coordinator
Phone: 928-774-1868 x 12
Email: tucker@ag.arizona.edu
Contact: Beth Tucker, Program Development
Phone: 928-774-1868
Service Area: Northern Arizona

Services Offered:

- Educational workshops including Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Simulation workshop for agencies
- Support groups: Flagstaff, Munds Park, Sedona, Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Holbrook
- Monthly family activities
- Grandchildren support activities
- Grandparent Mentors to accompany grandparents to hearings, fill out forms and speak on behalf of KKONA
- Volunteer Training of Trainers including Grandparent Mentors and Support Group Facilitators
- Research

Kinship and Adoption, Resource and Education (KARE) Family Center

Sponsoring Organization Arizona's Children Association, Casey Family Programs, Pima Council on Aging, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Arizona Department of Economic Security (Division of Developmental Disabilities, District II)
Phone: 520-323-4476
Email: kare@arizonaschildren.org
Service Area: Tucson

Services Offered:

- Legal support (guardianship, adoption, long term permanent choices)
- Support seeking financial benefits (health insurance, TANF kinship subsidy)
- Kinship support groups in Spanish and English; child care often provided
- Professional behavioral health counseling for families
- Case management (crisis management, navigating benefit systems)
- Emergency assistance with food/clothing
- Special services for caregivers over 60 caring for children under 18
- Recreation and wellness activities
- Tutoring, arts program, social and life skills training for youth
- Parenting classes/community education

National Family Caregiver Support Program

Sponsoring Organization: Area Agencies on Aging
Contact: Chris Andrews, Caregiver Programs Coordinator
Phone: 602-542-4446
Email: candrews@azdes.gov
Service Area: Statewide
Services Offered:

- Resources and referrals
- Education and training
- Support groups
- Respite care

Project GrandCare

Sponsoring Organization Beatitudes Center D.O.A.R. (Developing Older Adult Resources)
Contact: Patricia Domingues, Project GrandCare Coordinator
Phone: 602-274-5022
Email: dominguez@centerdoar.org
Website: www.centerdoar.org
Service Area: Phoenix
Services Offered:

- Entitlements and benefits counseling
- Legal guidance
- Monthly support groups
- Seminars, respite care, social activities
- Resource guide in Spanish and English: Helping to Raise Your Children's Children

Support Connections Program

Sponsoring Organization Catholic Social Service & Prescott Unified School District
Contact: Jean Jongsma
Phone: 928-778-2531
Email: jjongsma@cssaz.org
Service Area: Prescott
Services Offered:

- Educational support/workshops
- Newsletter
- Resource manual
- Recreational opportunities
- Comprehensive support

United Cerebral Palsy of Southern Arizona

Contact: Sharon Finefrock, Executive Assistant

Phone: 520-795-3108

Email: sfinefrock@ucpsa.org

Website: www.ucpsa.org

Service Area: Southern Arizona

Services Offered:

- Support for kinship caregivers raising children with disabilities
- Links to financial assistance, support groups
- Resource manual, video

Children in Foster Care

Numbers

- 9,895 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the Arizona Department of Economic Security. Of these children, 2,714 were placed with unlicensed kin and 174 children were placed with licensed kin.

Preferences

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

Kinship care licensing

- Kinship foster care parents are encouraged but not required to become licensed foster parents, enabling them to receive the same foster care payment rate as non-kin foster parents.
- No separate licensing program for kinship foster parents. Kin must meet the same licensing standards as non-kin foster parents.

Subsidized guardianship programs

- Provides cash assistance to relatives who become the legal guardians of children who are in the Department's custody and have been in the guardian's custody for at least nine months. The Permanent Legal Guardian must first apply for any federal and state benefits that the child may be eligible to receive.
- Contact: Warren Davison, Foster Care/Adoption Recruitment Coordinator
 - Phone: 602-542-1356
 - Email: wdavison@azdes.gov
- Contact for kinship care/training information
 - Lauri Devine:
 - Phone: 602-542-2419
 - Email: ldevine@azdes.gov

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 assistance may be available to children and their grandparents and other relative caregivers through the Cash Assistance Program.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 800-352-8401
 - Web: www.de.state.az.us/faa/cash.asp

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.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 800-352-8401
 - Web: www.de.state.az.us/faa/food.asp

Health Insurance

- Grandparents and other relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost Medical Assistance on behalf of the children they are raising through the Department of Economic Security (DES) Family Assistance Administration.
- Caregivers may also be eligible for free coverage under Medicaid.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 800-352-8401
 - Web: www.de.state.az.us/faa/medical.asp

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

- Arizona currently does not have any state laws specifically directed at kinship care families.

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