

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children



The Brookdale Foundation
Group
www.brookdalefoundation.org



Indiana

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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. Fact sheets are updated annually. Updates can be sent to gic@aarp.org. This and other state fact sheets can be viewed and printed from www.grandfactsheets.org. Please write "State Fact Sheets" on your e-mail subject line.

In Indiana...

- 81,537 children live in grandparent-headed households (5.2% of all the children in the state). There are another 18,767 children living in households headed by other relatives (1.2% of all the children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Indiana, 39,180 are living there without either parent present.
- 48,181 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them (8,141 in Indianapolis): 20% of these grandparents are African American; 4% are Hispanic/Latino; 43% are American Indian or Alaskan Native; and 74% are White. 39% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 76% are under the age of 60; 12% 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

Family Connection Network

Sponsoring Organization: The Villages
Contact: Tawanna Clarke
Phone: 1-800-874-6880
Web: <http://www.villages.org/kinship.php>
Service area: Indianapolis

Family Connection Network (cont.)

Services offered:

- Support groups
- Respite care
- Youth scholarships
- Annual kinship care conference
- Skill building workshops
- Links to service providers

Foster, Adoption, Kinship Training (FAKT) Program

Sponsoring Organization: Children's Bureau
Contact: Intake Specialist
Phone: 317-545-5284 x226
Web: www.childrensbureau.org
Service area: Marion and surrounding counties

Services offered:

- Provides 20-hour pre-service training for foster/kinship caregivers of children under the supervision of the Indiana Department of Child Services

Grandfamilies Indiana

Contact: William Cassel, Director
Address: 411 Donmoyer St, South Bend, IN 46544
Phone: 574-231-0777
Email: grandfamiliesin@yahoo.com

Services offered:

- Educational support group meetings
- Legal advice
- Food and clothing assistance

Grandparents As Parents - GAP

Sponsoring Organization: Area Five Agency on Aging and Community Service
Contact: Cindy Wagoner
Phone: 574-722-4451
Email: cindy@areafive.com
Service area: Fulton, Cass, Howard, Miami, Wabash Counties

Services offered:

- Information/referral
- Support groups (youth activities and child care provided)
- Legal advice
- Legislative advocacy
- Family Caregiver Program

Grandparents/Relatives as Surrogate Parents

Sponsoring Organization: Lifespan Resources
Contact: Frankie Able
Phone: 1-888-948-8330
Email: fable@lsr14.org
Web: www.lifespanresources.org
Service area: Clark, Harrison, Scott, Floyd Counties
Services offered:

- Information/referral
- Newsletters
- Conferences and workshops for caregivers and professionals
- Support group meetings (transportation provided)

Kinship Navigator Project

Sponsoring Organization: Indiana Department of Child Services
Contact: Ann Houseworth
Phone: 317-234-4484
Email: Ann.Houseworth@dcs.IN.gov
Service area: Statewide
Services offered:

- Pilot project enacted May 2007

Purdue Extension

Contact: Dreama (Dee) Love, Extension Specialist
Phone: 765-494-2933
Email: loved@purdue.edu
Web: www.ces.purdue.edu/cfs/topics/HD/index.htm
County offices: www.ces.purdue.edu/extsite/counties.shtml
Service area: Statewide (*specific services vary by county*)
Services offered:

- Research-based educational programs and resources
 - **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Legal and Policy Challenges (CFS-725)**
Program for grandparents raising grandchildren and the professionals who work with them (*produced by Purdue Extension and University of Wisconsin Extension*)
 - Overview and order form: <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/cfs/topics/HD/GRGlapc.htm>
 - Phone: 765-494-2933
 - **Adult Children/Aging Parents: Conversations Between Generations**
Curriculum encourages families to talk about and plan for changing needs in later life and strengthens family relationship between generations
 - Obtain copies through local county office (see above)
 - **Nutrition and Aging**
 - Publication on how aging affects nutritional needs.
 - Available online at www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/CFS/CFS-605-W.pdf

Relatives as Parents Program – RAPP –Marion

Sponsoring Organization: Family Service Society, Inc.

Contact: Sandra Wade

Phone: 765-662-9971

Email: swade@famservices.com or famservices@famservices.com

Web: www.famservices.com

Service area: Grant County

Services offered:

- Coalition offering a range of services to Grant County grandparents and other relatives raising children

Second Time Around: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Contact: Joshua Kupke

Phone: 317-923-4581 x 223

Email: JKpuke@MLK-MSc.ORG

Web: www.mlk-msc.org

Service area: Indianapolis

Services offered:

- Counseling
- Support groups
- Recreational and respite activities

Children in Foster Care

State child welfare agencies sometimes place children in foster care with grandparents or other relatives. Most state agencies call these placements “kinship care.”

Numbers – October 2007

- 13,476 children under the supervision of the Indiana Department of Child Services
- 2,117 of these children were placed with relatives.

Preferences

- The court is required to consider placing a child in the home of an appropriate family member before any other type of placement.
- There is no separate licensing or payment program for kinship foster parents.

Subsidized guardianship

- Indiana has an Assisted Guardianship Program for children under the state’s supervision
- Available to eligible children age 13 and under
- Relative must meet specific eligibility requirements
 - Contact: Jeannie Darden
 - Phone: 317-234-5128
 - Email: Jeanie.Darden@dcs.in.gov

Training and Support

- Indiana Foster and Adoption Association
 - Phone: 800-468-4228 or 317-524-2600
 - Web: www.ifcaa.org

Public Benefits

Children are often eligible for state and federal benefits even if their caregivers do not have legal guardianship or custody.

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their relative caregivers through the Indiana Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program.
 - Phone: 1-800-433-0746 or 1-800-622-4932
 - Web: www.in.gov/fssa/family/tanf/index.html

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps.
 - Phone: 1-800-622-4932
 - Web: www.in.gov/fssa/family/stamps/index.html

Health Insurance

- Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance through Indiana’s Hoosier Healthwise program
 - Phone: 1-800-889-9949
 - Web: www.in.gov/fssa/maternal/hoosier_healthwise/

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

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

Medical Consent

Ind. Code § 16-36-1-5

- Allows a person acting in the place of a parent to consent to health care if no guardian has been appointment or the guardian is unavailable or refuses to act

DeFacto Custody

Ind. Code § 31-9-2-35.5 et seq.

- Eligible grandparents shall be entitled to apply for custody if a judge deems it in the best interest of the child. Eligible grandparents or other relatives must have been the primary caregiver of a child for six months (if child is under 3 years old) or 12 months (if child is over 3). This statute has been challenged in the courts.

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