

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Kentucky

January 2008

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 Kentucky...

- 57,141 children live in grandparent-headed households (5.7% of all the children in the state). There are another 12,294 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 Kentucky, 30,241 are living there without either parent present.
- 35,818 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them 3,061 in Louisville and 1,946 in Lexington/Fayette): 15% of these grandparents are African American; 1% are Hispanic/Latino; 82% are White. 45% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 74% are under the age of 60; 22% 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

Big Sandy Family Caregiver Support Group

Contact: Melissa King
Phone: 606-886-2374
Email: Melissa.king@bigsandy.org
Service area: Johnson, Martin, Floyd, Magoffin, Pike Counties
Services offered:

- Information/referrals
- Support group meetings (transportation to and from meetings)
- Before and after-school care under special circumstances

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Bluegrass Region Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference

Sponsoring Organization: Bluegrass Area Development District

Contact: David Bassoni

Phone: 859-258-3806

Email: dbassoni@bgadd.org

Web: www.bgadd.org

Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Annual kinship care conference in March

Family Caregiver Program – Kentucky River

Sponsoring Organization: Kentucky River Area Development District, Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living

Contact: Stacie Nobel

Phone: 606-436-3158

Email: Stacie@kradd.org

Service area: Leslie, Letcher, Knott, Perry, Lee, Owsley, Breathitt, Wolfe Counties

Services offered:

- Monthly support group (child care and youth activities offered) in Lee, Owsley, Perry Counties
- Training
- Information and referrals
- Regular newsletter

Family Caregiver Program – Lake Cumberland

Sponsoring Organization: Lake Cumberland Area Development District

Contact: Kim Foley

Phone: 270-866-4200 or 1-800-916-7092

Email: kim@lcadd.org

Web: www.lcadd.org

Service area: Adair, Casey, Cumberland, Green, McCreary, Pulaski, Russell, Taylor, Wayne Counties

Services offered:

- Monthly in person support group meetings in 6 counties
- Information/referral
- Funds for supplemental supplies (clothing, shoes, etc.)

Family Caregiver Support Program – Lincoln Trail

Contact: Monica Ruehling

Phone: 270-769-2393

Email: monica@ltadd.org

Service area: Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson and Washington Counties

Services offered:

- Database of support groups and other services
- Information and referrals
- Conferences, workshops, training for caregivers and professionals

Family Caregiver Program – Mayfield

Sponsoring Organization: Purchase Area Development District

Contact: Nancy Harper

Phone: 270-247-7171

Email: Nancy.Harper@purchaseadd.org

Service area: Mayfield

Services offered:

- Information/referral
- Database of support groups and other services
- Conferences, workshops, training for caregivers and professionals

Family Resource Youth Services Center (FRYSC) Grandparents' Group

Contact: Julie Stone, Coordinator
Murray City Schools Family Resource Youth & Youth Services Center

Phone: 270-759-9592

Email: Julie.Stone@murray.kyschools.us

Service area: Murray and Calloway Counties

Services offered:

- Support group
- Referrals for a variety of kinship care services, including health care, legal services, home health and mental health services

Grandparent Support Group – Meade County

Sponsoring Organization: Meade County Family Resources/Youth Services Center (FRYSC)

Contact: Andrea Pike-Goff

Phone: 270-422-7512

Email: andrea.pikegoff@meade.kyschools.us

Service area: Meade County

Services offered:

- Support group

Grandparent Support Group - Southern Hardin County

Sponsoring Organization: Creekside Elementary Family Resources/Youth Services Center

Contact: Debbie Cox

Phone: 270-369-6238

Email: debbie.cox@hardin.kyschools.us

Service area: Southern Hardin County

Services offered:

- Support group

Grandparents & Relatives Raising Children Support Group

Sponsoring Organization: Kenton County Cooperative Extension Service

Contact: Joan Bowling

Phone: 859-356-3155

Email: jbowling@uky.edu

Service area: Kenton area

Grandparents & Relatives Raising Children Support Group – cont.

Services offered:

- Support group
- Referrals for a variety of kinship care services
- Grandparent/Relatives Raising Children Resource Guide

Greenup County Caregiver Support Group

Sponsoring Organization: FIVCO Area Agency on Aging, Greenup County Schools Students in Transition Program, Family Resources Youth Services Center (FRYSC)

Contact: Kim Hogg King

Phone: 606-929-1366

Email: Kimberly@fivco.org

Web: <http://www.fivco.org/>

Service area: Greenup, Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Lawrence Counties

Services offered:

- Quarterly support group with speakers in Greenup County
- Referrals for a variety of kinship care services
- Conferences and workshops for grandfamilies

Kentucky Caregiver Support Program

Sponsoring Organization: Kentucky Department for Aging and Independent Living

Contact: Carol Hall

Phone: 502-564-6930

Email: carol.hall@ky.gov

Web: www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/dail

Service area: Statewide through 15 Area Agencies on Aging and Independent Living

Services offered:

- Services for grandparents of any age who are Kentucky residents, meet income requirements and serve as primary caregiver to a child 18 years or younger who does not live in the same home as a parent
- Information, assistance in accessing services, counseling, support groups training
- Financial assistance up to \$750 per child for clothing, respite care, educational supplies, required legal services, mental and dental services, other expenses

Kentucky Family Caregiver Program

Sponsoring Organization: Bluegrass Area Development District

Contact: Emily Christian

Phone: 859-258-3806 x 224

Email: echristian@bgadd.org

Web: www.bgadd.org

Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Direct services for eligible grandparents of any age caring for children under the age of 18

Kentucky Resource Market

Phone: 1-877-293-7447

Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- One-stop shop for resources, referrals, information, assistance at the state or local level

Kincare Statewide Steering Committee

Sponsoring Organization: Kentucky Department for Aging and Independent Living

Contact: Carol Hall

Phone: 502-564-6930

Email: carol.hall@ky.gov

Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Advocates for relative caregivers
- Advises the Department for Aging and Independent Living on the needs of relatives and grandparent caregivers and represents Kincare issues at conferences and workshops
- Steering Committee includes state agencies, private social service agencies, consumer and other providers; meets quarterly to discuss needs of caregiver grandparents

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 – November 2007

- 7,284 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services
- 8,600 children were placed with relatives (foster and kinship care programs in Kentucky are separate)

Preferences

- State policy requires that kinship care be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under the Department’s care.

Kinship care licensing

- Kinship care providers are generally approved based on different standards than non-kin foster parents. Some may become licensed foster parents.
- Approved kinship caregivers receive a monthly payment through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Subsidized guardianship

- Subsidized guardianship is offered in Kentucky to kinship care providers willing to permanently care for children for whom reunification or adoption is not possible. It is considered an alternative to foster care.
- A child who has not been adjudicated abused or neglected is not eligible for the subsidized guardianship program in Kentucky unless both parents are deceased.
- Contact: Lisa Durbin, Branch Manager, Child Safety Branch
 - Phone: 502-564-2136
 - Email: LisaA.durbin@ky.gov
 - Web: <http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dcc/>

Public Benefits

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

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

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their relative caregivers through the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP).
 - Phone: 502-564-7050
 - Web: <http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/KTAP.htm>

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps.
 - Phone: 502-564-7050
 - Web: http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs.dfs/Food+Stamps_EBT.htm

Health Insurance

- Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance through Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP).
 - Phone: 1-877-524-4718
 - Web: <http://cfc.ky.gov/dms/KCHIP.htm>

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.

De Facto Custodian

Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 403.270

- Court may declare a relative or non-related caretaker as a child's custodian. The custodian must show that he/she has been primary caretaker and financial supporter of a child for six months or more (if the child is under 3) or one year if the child is older than 3 or has been placed by the Department for Community Based Services)

Kentucky Caregiver Support Program

910 Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1:260

Contact information listed above

- Established to assist grandparents of any age who are
 - the primary caregiver to a child 18 years of age or younger,
 - are Kentucky residents,
 - do not reside in the same home as the parents, and
 - meet certain income guidelines.
- Provides information, assistance in accessing services, counseling, support groups, training
- Financial assistance available up to \$750 per child for clothing, respite care, educational supplies, required legal services, mental or dental expenses, etc.

KinCare Support Program

- Centralized statewide service program for grandparents caring for minor grandchildren to provide information and referrals through the Kentucky Resource Market toll-free number at 1-877-293-7447.
- Information available on such services as Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program, Medical coverage (including Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program), educational services, child care, child support, support groups, housing assistance, legal services, respite care for low-income kinship caregivers.

Disclaimer:

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