

# GrandFacts

## A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Michigan

September 2007



The Brookdale Foundation  
Group  
[www.brookdalefoundation.org](http://www.brookdalefoundation.org)



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 Michigan...

- There are 143,523 children living in grandparent-headed households (5.5 % of all children in the state). There are another 40,098 children living in households headed by other relatives (1.5 % of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Michigan, 71,200 are living there without either parent present.
- 70,044 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [17,086 in Detroit]: 36% of these grandparents are African American; 4% are Hispanic/Latino; 1% are Asian; and 55% are White. 33% of these grand-parents live in households without the children's parents present. 73% are under the age of 60; 14% 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

#### Elder Law Center – Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren Program

**Sponsoring Organization:** Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services  
**Contact:** Linda White, Office Manager  
**Phone:** 313-937-8291  
**Email:** [lwhite@wcnls.org](mailto:lwhite@wcnls.org)  
**Service area:** Wayne County except Detroit and Eastside  
**Services offered:**

- Information/referral
- Legal assistance for grandparents raising grandchildren (age 60 or above)

## Grandparents as Parents Program (GAP)

**Sponsoring Organization:** Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County

**Contact:** Sue Monet, GAP Program

**Phone:** 734-712-3625

**Email:** [smonet@csswashtenaw.org](mailto:smonet@csswashtenaw.org)

**Service area:** Washtenaw County

**Services offered:**

- Support groups
- Home visits
- Monthly newsletter with parenting and self-care tips, information on group activities
- Referrals for basic needs (food, clothing, financial assistance, legal services, counseling)

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Adrian

**Sponsoring Organization:** Lenawee Department on Aging

**Contact:** Sharon Guild, Founder/Director

**Phone:** 517-592-8742

**Email:** [trampslady@frontiernet.net](mailto:trampslady@frontiernet.net)

**Service area:** Adrian

**Services offered:**

- Support group
- Grandparent appreciation activities
- “Camperships” (scholarship) for grandchildren to go to summer camp
- Hot meals, child care

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren/ Relatives as Parents Program

**Sponsoring Organization:** Region IV Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

**Contact:** Camellia Pisegna, Director

**Phone:** 269-983-7058

**Warmline:** 877-660-2725 or 269-983-7058 (Patricia Herrelko)

**Email:** [camelliapisegna@areaagencyonaging.org](mailto:camelliapisegna@areaagencyonaging.org)

**Service area:** Berrien, Cass, Van Buren Counties

**Services offered:**

- Support groups (Breakfast Bunch and “The Party Line” – telephone support via conference calls)
- Kinship Care Resource Directory, library materials on loan
- Family recreational events
- Newsletter
- Information/referrals for legal, financial, parenting, education and health assistance
- Childcare and mileage reimbursement provided for all meetings and events

## Grandparents and other Relatives As Parents - Jackson County

**Contact:** Jennifer Guthrie

**Phone:** 517-788-4364

**Email:** [jguthrie@co.jackson.mi.us](mailto:jguthrie@co.jackson.mi.us)

**Service area:** Jackson County

## Grandparents and other Relatives As Parents - Jackson County (cont.)

### Services offered:

- Assistance with access to resources, guardianship/adoption information
- Family/parenting education
- Lending library
- Family activities and events
- Support group for adults and children
- No minimum age requirements

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program – Macomb County

**Sponsoring Organization:** Macomb County Department of Senior Citizens

**Contact:** Mary Potts

**Phone:** 586-469-3615

**Email:** [mary.potts@macombcountymi.gov](mailto:mary.potts@macombcountymi.gov)

**Service area:** Macomb County

### Services offered:

- Support groups
- Family activities, holiday parties
- Educational speakers
- Holiday parties
- All kinship caregivers in Macomb County eligible for service regardless of age
- All program offerings are free of charge

## Grandparent Resource Center of Life Guidance services

**Contact:** Sarah Stephan, Coordinator

**Phone:** 616-954-1992

**Website:** [www.lifeguidanceservices.org](http://www.lifeguidanceservices.org)

**Service area:** Western Michigan

### Services offered:

- Six-week support group offered twice a year (child care, dinner provided)
- Grandchildren's support groups for children age 6-12 and adolescents
- Quarterly newsletter

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Southeast Michigan

**Sponsoring Organization:** Adult Well-Being Services

**Contact:** Erroll Young

**Phone:** 313-925-1135

**Service area:** Southeast Michigan

### Services offered:

- Information/referral
- 6-8 week education courses
- Monthly support meetings
- Respite care and mental health services
- Activities for children – tutoring, events

## Kinship Care Resource Center

**Contact:** Ama Agyemang, MSC, Coordinator  
**Phone:** 517-355-9600  
**Email:** [kinship@msu.edu](mailto:kinship@msu.edu)  
**Hotline:** 800-535-1218  
**Service area:** Statewide

**Services offered:**

- Information/referrals at Hotline phone number
- Resource Center provides technical assistance and training, program development, grantwriting (curricula for support groups, workshops)
- Legislative task forces help grandparents become active advocates
- Information booklet that lists resources by county

## Kinship Care Support Services

**Contact:** Melodie Valvano  
**Phone:** 989-797-6884  
**Email:** [mvalvano@saginawcounty.com](mailto:mvalvano@saginawcounty.com)  
**Service area:** Saginaw County

**Services offered:**

- Support groups (child care provided)
- Monthly newsletter
- Educational opportunities for adults and children
- Information/referrals for case management, respite, recreational events

## Kinship Update Newsletters

**Contact:** Helene Ellis  
**Phone:** 517-256-3277  
**Email:** [hellis7@msn.com](mailto:hellis7@msn.com)  
**Web:** [www.kincare.blogspot.com](http://www.kincare.blogspot.com)  
**Service area:** Statewide

**Services offered:**

- Newsletter with information on activities, program updates, opportunities for conferences and funding
- Helene Ellis is author of an upcoming book *Grandparents (and Other Relatives) as Parents- A Kinship Guide to Rescuing Children*

## Legal Hotline for Michigan Seniors

**Phone:** 800-347-5297  
**Service area:** Statewide

**Services offered:**

- Free legal advice on kinship care issues for residents 60 years and older

## Project GUIDE

**Sponsoring Organization:** Harper-Gratiot Multi-Service Center

**Contact:** Brenda Staples

**Phone:** 313-933-2583 or 313-923-5050

**Email:** [bstaples@nso-mi.org](mailto:bstaples@nso-mi.org)

**Service area:**

**Services offered:**

- Specialized respite care
- Support groups
- Family life education
- Recreational and retreat activities
- Advocacy

## Second Time Around Program

**Sponsoring Organization:** Michigan State University Extension

**Contact:** Joyce Stout, Coordinator

**Phone:** 269-384-8054

**Email:** [stoutjo@msu.edu](mailto:stoutjo@msu.edu)

**Service area:** Kalamazoo County & surrounding counties in Southwest Michigan

**Services offered:**

- 8-week, curriculum-based information series
- Support groups and educational workshops (child care provided)
- Lending library
- Newsletter
- Family events
- Advocacy opportunities for volunteer grandparents

## Children in Foster Care

### Numbers – June 2007

- 17,110 children in out-of-home placements under supervision of Michigan's Bureau of Children's Services in the Department of Human Services.
- Of these children, 7,236 were placed with relatives.

### Preferences

- State policy requires that relatives be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under the care of the state.
- Relative care providers must meet the same licensing standards as non-relative foster parents. Once relatives are licensed, they are eligible to receive a foster care payment if the child is active in the foster care system. Other relative care providers must meet assessment standards that are different than those for non-relatives. Once they meet the assessment standards, they are eligible to receive a Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) child-only grant.

## Subsidized guardianship

- Not available in Michigan

## State kinship care information

- Mary Chaliman, Foster Care Manager
  - Contact: 517-335-4652
  - Email: [chalimann2@michigan.gov](mailto:chalimann2@michigan.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 payments may be available to children who live with a relative through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program:
  - Contact: 517-373-2035
  - Web: [www.michigan.gov/](http://www.michigan.gov/) (Click on “Assistance” in left column)

## Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps to help meet their children’s food and nutrition needs.
  - Contact: 517-373-2035
  - Web: [www.michigan.gov/](http://www.michigan.gov/) (Click on “Assistance” in left column)

## Health Insurance

- Grandparents and other relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance on behalf of the children they are raising through Healthy Kids or MICHild. In some cases, caregivers may also be eligible for free coverage under Medicaid. Children receiving assistance through a Child Only Grant are automatically eligible for health coverage through Healthy Kids. For more information about how to apply for these programs
  - Contact: 888-988-6300
  - Web: [www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch)

## 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
  - Contact: 202-662-3568
  - Web: [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org) (Kinship Care Resource Kit)
- National Council on Aging – Benefits CheckUp [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org)

## State Laws

- Michigan currently does not have any state laws in effect specifically directed at kinship care families.

### **Disclaimer:**

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## Programs That Can Help (Heading 2)

### Program Name (Heading 3)

**Sponsoring Organization:**

**Contact:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**Service Area:**

**Services Offered:**

- Indent Bulleted