

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children



The Brookdale Foundation
Group
www.brookdalefoundation.org



Nevada

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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. 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 e-mail subject line.

In Nevada...

- There are 30,580 children living in grandparent-headed households (6.0% of all children in the state). There are another 14,318 children living in households headed by other relatives (2.8 % of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Nevada, 19,278 are living there without either parent present.
- 18,685 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [4,812 in Las Vegas and 1,292 in Reno]: 12% of these grandparents are African American; 22% are Hispanic/Latino; 5% are Asian; 2% are American Indian or Alaskan Native; and 57% are White. 33% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 70 percent are under the age of 60; 11% 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

Child Care Resource & Referral

Sponsoring Organization: The Children's Cabinet, Inc.
Contact person: Marty Elquist, Coordinator
Phone: 775-856-6200 x 1197 OR 1-800-753-5500
Email: melquist@childrenscabinet.org
Web: <http://www.childrenscabinet.org>
Service area: Statewide

Child Care Resource & Referral cont...

Services offered:

- Family counseling
- Child care subsidies for legal guardians
- Child care resource and referrals
- Advice for addressing behavioral challenges
- Caregiver support network
- Quarterly newsletter

Family Resource Centers of NEN (Northeastern Nevada)

Contact: Dawn Spielhagen
Phone: 775-753-7352
Email: frnen@elko-nv.com
Web: www.family-support.org
Service area: Northern Nevada Counties

Services offered:

- Respite services for grandparents/guardians caring for children

Family Support Council

Contact: Debbie Posnien
Phone: 775-782-8692
Email: dposnien@family-support.org
Web: www.family-support.org
Service area: Gardnerville

Services offered:

- Support group
- Information and referral

Nevada Dual Sensory Impairment Project

Sponsoring Organization: University of Nevada Reno
Contact: Mary Ann Demchak, Director
Phone: 775-784-6471
Email: mad@unr.edu
Web: www.unr.edu/educ/ndsip
Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Technical assistance to support relatives raising children, service providers and service agencies for children who have dual sensory impairments

Children in Foster Care

Numbers – March 2008

- 5,108 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child and Family Services.
- 808 of these children were placed with relatives

Preferences

- State policy requires that kin be considered first for out-of-home placements.
- Licensing standards may be waived if they do not affect the safety of the child.

Subsidized guardianship – Kinship Care Program

- Ongoing subsidies to children who have left foster care to live permanently under the legal custody or guardianship of relatives.
- Relative caregiver must be legal guardian of the child and at least 62 years of age
- Monthly subsidy funded through Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF); payments are 90% of foster care rate
- Supportive services such as child care, transportation, respite care and assistance obtaining legal guardianship may be provided
- Contact:
 - Susanne Smith, Social Services Program Specialist
 - Phone: 702-486-7633
 - Email: ssmith@dcs.state.nv.us
- General Information:
 - Phone: 775-684-7200 (Northern Nevada)
 - Phone: 702-486-1646 (Southern Nevada)
 - Web (Kinship Care brochure)
http://dwss.nv.gov/dmdocuments/Gen_KinshipCareBrochure.pdf

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 Nevada:

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their relative caregivers through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program
- Contact:
 - Phone: 775-684-0500
 - Web: <http://dwss.nv.gov/>

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 775-684-0500
 - Web: <http://dwss.nv.gov/>

Health Insurance

- Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance through Nevada Medicaid and Nevada Check Up programs
- Contact Medicaid and the Child Health Assurance Program (CHAP)
 - Phone: 775-684-0500
 - Web: <http://dwss.nv.gov/>
- Contact Nevada Check Up
 - Phone: 800-360-6044
 - Web: <http://dwss.nv.gov/>

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.childrendefense.org (Kinship Care Resource Kit)
- National Council on Aging – Benefits CheckUp www.benefitscheckup.org

State Laws

The following state law may be helpful to grandparents and other relatives raising children.¹

Medical Consent

Nev. Rev. State. § 129.040

- Allows any person who meets certain conditions to consent to medical care on behalf of a child

¹ *Laws change and are subject to different interpretations. These general descriptions are not intended as legal advice in any particular situation.*

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