

# GrandFacts

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



The Brookdale Foundation  
Group  
www.brookdalefoundation.org



## Oregon

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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](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 Oregon...

- There are 37, 536 children living in grandparent-headed households (4.4% of all children in the state). There are another 14,081 children living in households headed by other relatives (1.7% of all children in the state). OF the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Oregon, 20,735 are living there without either parent present.
- 22,103 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them (3,112 in Portland): 3% of these grandparents are African American; 9% are Hispanic/Latino; 3% are Asian; 3% are American Indian or Alaskan Native; 79% are White. 40% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 69% are under the age of 60; 13% 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>.
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- *These data are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau Table DP-2. Profile Selected Social Characteristics: 2000.*

### Programs That Can Help

#### Center for Family and Adolescent Research (CFAR)

**Contact:** Erica Finstad, Project Manager  
**Phone:** 503-243-1065  
**Email:** [cfarportland@ori.org](mailto:cfarportland@ori.org)  
**Service area:** Portland

#### Services offered:

- Free counseling to help qualified caregivers engage youth (ages 15-20) who are refusing treatment
- Drug abuse clients receive between 12 and 26 one-hour, weekly outpatient sessions; assistance with transportation costs provided
- Families participate in pre-treatment and follow-up assessments
- Services funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse

## Family Caregiver Support Program

**Sponsoring Organization:** Area Agency on Aging  
**Contact:** Local Area Agency on Aging office  
**Web:** [www.oregon.gov/DHS/spwpd/offices.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/spwpd/offices.shtml)  
**Service area:** Statewide  
**Services offered:**

- Support services for grandparents and other relatives 55 years of age or older who are raising a grandchild or other family member (child must be related through blood, marriage or adoption)
- Unpaid caregivers may be eligible for services if a child, 18 years or younger (or any age if the child has a disability), is living in their home because the child's parents are unable or unwilling to provide care
- Services include caregiver training, support groups, respite, individual counseling, information/referral, community outreach

## Foster Elementary School 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center

**Contact:** Rich Little  
**Phone:** 541-409-0404  
**Email:** [rich\\_little@sweethome.k12.or.us](mailto:rich_little@sweethome.k12.or.us)  
**Service area:** Foster  
**Services offered:**

- Partnerships with Samaritan Wiley Creek Community, Linn-Benton Community College, Foster Grandparents of Oregon, Oregon State University Extension
- Family Team Classes on Tuesday evening – educational/recreational activities for children and caregivers to strengthen family and community connections
- Newsletter
- Information and referral by telephone or in-person

## Grandfamilies of Yamhill County

**Sponsoring organization:** Family & Youth Services of Yamhill County  
**Service area:** Yamhill County  
**Services offered:**

- McMinnville Chapter Support Group meets at the Family and Youth Services Office (Patti Sullivan at 503-472-1938 or [Patti\\_778@msn.com](mailto:Patti_778@msn.com))
- Newberg Chapter Support Group meets in the evening on 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Newberg Christian Center (Jim and Lilly Pinneo at 503-537-0458 or [jspinneo@netscape.net](mailto:jspinneo@netscape.net))

## Grandparents as Parents of Klamath County

**Contact:** Lloyd King, Director  
**Phone:** 877-215-4576  
**Email:** [gapking@clearwire.net](mailto:gapking@clearwire.net)  
**Service area:** Klamath County

## Grandparents as Parents of Klamath County – cont.

### Services offered:

- Individual peer support
- Workshops, training, education services
- Support groups
- Advocacy
- Legal information

## Grandparents ROCK (Raising Our Children's Kids)

**Contact:** Char Luther  
**Phone:** 541-266-0806  
**Email:** [ckluther@hotmail.com](mailto:ckluther@hotmail.com)  
**Service area:** North Bend area

### Services offered:

- Support group meets at Faith Lutheran Church in North Bend on last Friday of each month at 5:30pm; child care provided; dinner available; speakers invited

## North Clackamas Family Support Center

**Sponsoring Organization:** North Clackamas School District  
**Contact:** Kristin Kinnie  
**Phone:** 503-280-2638  
**Email:** [kinniek@nclack.k12.or.us](mailto:kinniek@nclack.k12.or.us)  
**Service area:** North Clackamas

### Services offered:

- Information and referral
- Clothes closet, school supplies, other resources for children

## NorthWest Senior and Disability Services

**Contact:** Kelsey Evans, Family Caregiver Support Specialist  
**Phone:** 503-304-3414  
**Email:** [Kelsey.Evans@state.or.us](mailto:Kelsey.Evans@state.or.us)  
**Web:** [www.nwsds.org/](http://www.nwsds.org/)  
**Service area:** Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Clatsop, and Tillamook Counties

### Services offered:

- Family Caregiver Support Program - offering respite reimbursement, individual counseling, information and referral, support groups, trainings, and supplement services
- Relatives as Parents Support Group meets second Monday of the month from 9-11am at 3410 Cherry Avenue in Salem
- GrandParenting Again Support Group meets first Wednesday of the month from 7-8:30 pm at 110 N. Monmouth Ave Suite 104A in Monmouth

## Old Mill Center for Children and Families – Kinship Care Group

**Contact:** Katy Trautman, MA MFT, marriage and family therapist  
**Phone:** 541-757-2027  
**Phone Old Mill Center:** 541-757-8068  
**Email:** [CapstoneCoach@peak.org](mailto:CapstoneCoach@peak.org)  
**Web:** [www.oldmillcenter.org](http://www.oldmillcenter.org)  
**Service area:** Corvallis

**Services offered:**

- Support group meets weekly on Thursdays from 6:30-8:00pm for three 9-week sessions during the school year; child care provided at no charge; registration required; summer picnic; one hour intake session required before attending first group meeting

## Oregon Lifespan Respite Care Program

**Contact:** May Martin  
**Phone:** 503-947-2318  
**Email:** [May.Martin@state.or.us](mailto:May.Martin@state.or.us)  
**Web:** [www.oregon.gov/DHS/spd/caregiving/ls\\_respites.html](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/spd/caregiving/ls_respites.html)  
**Service area:** Statewide

**Services offered:**

- Assists counties in developing community-based Lifespan Respite Care networks
- Network helps families and caregivers locate respite care services tailored to each family
- Services include recruitment and training of paid and volunteer providers, linking families with respite payment resources

## Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (ORPARC)

**Contact:** Kelley DeLany, Program Manager  
**Phone:** 1-800-764-8367  
**Email:** [kdelany@nwresource.org](mailto:kdelany@nwresource.org)  
**Web:** [www.orparc.org/](http://www.orparc.org/)  
**Service area:** Statewide

**Services offered:**

- Training and workshops throughout the state
- Referrals to counselors and other professionals who work with families adopting a foster child
- Library of written and video materials
- Quarterly newsletter
- Helpline staffed by experienced parents and specialists

## Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Family and Community Development Program

**Sponsoring Organizations:** OSU, Family Caregiver Support Program, Oregon Seniors and People with Disabilities, Mid-Willamette Valley Senior Services Agency

**Contact:** Sally Bowman, OSU Extension

**Phone:** 541-737-1020

**Email:** [bowmans@oregonstate.edu](mailto:bowmans@oregonstate.edu)

**Contact:** Denise Rennekamp, Coordinator, OSU Family and Community Development Parenting Education Program

**Email:** [denise.rennkamp@oregonstate.edu](mailto:denise.rennkamp@oregonstate.edu)

**Service area:** Statewide

**Services offered:**

- Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) Task Force
- Oregon Legal Guide for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children – available from local county extension offices
- Oregon Resource Guide for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children
- Educational events, conferences
- Statewide network of support groups

## Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) Support Group - Portland

**Contact:** Marcy Haun

**Phone:** 503-806-2878

**Email:** [haunm@wwdb.org](mailto:haunm@wwdb.org)

**Service area:** Portland Metro Area

**Services offered:**

- Support group during the school year (first Tuesday of the month 9:30-11 with potluck lunch following) at Gladstone Park Seventh Day Adventist Church

## Swindells Center – Providence Child Center

**Contact:** Anne Faraceno, Coordinator

**Phone:** 503-215-2429

**Email:** [swindells@providence.org](mailto:swindells@providence.org)

**Service area:**

**Services offered:**

- Information, training resources
- Lending library
- Parenting education classes
- Professional speaker series

## Urban League Adult and Senior Services

**Contact:** D’Norgia Price, Director  
**Phone:** 503-280-2638  
**Email:** [dprice@ulpdx.org](mailto:dprice@ulpdx.org)  
**Service area:** Portland  
**Services offered:**

- Support groups on second Tuesday of the month
- Information, referral
- Legal services to eligible kinship care providers ages 60 and over

## Children in Foster Care

Sometimes state child welfare agencies place children in foster care with grandparents or other relatives. The Oregon Department of Human Services – Children, Adults and Families refers to these families as relative caregivers.

## Numbers – 2007

- During federal fiscal year 2007, Oregon had an average daily population of 7,013 children in family foster care.
- Of these children, 28.5% were placed with relatives.

## Preferences for kinship care

- State policy requires that relatives be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for children in state custody.
- Relatives must meet the same standards as non-relative foster parents.
- Relatives caring for children who are eligible for federal IV-E foster care funding receive a foster care payment.
- Relatives caring for children who are not eligible for this funding are eligible to receive a TANF payment (see below).

## Subsidized Guardianship Programs

- Guardian Assistance offered under a Title IV-E Demonstration Project through April 30, 2009
- Provides ongoing subsidies and medical coverage only for children eligible for Title IV whose caregivers choose to become permanent guardians of children in the foster care system
- Provides monthly payments up to the amount granted for foster care families as long as the child remains in the family’s care
- Other benefits may include cash, Medicaid coverage and non-recurring legal costs
- Subject to annual case review
- Contact: Kevin George, Foster Care Manager, DHS
  - Phone: 503-945-5987
  - Email: [Kevin.george@state.or.us](mailto:Kevin.george@state.or.us)

## Public Benefits

### Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their grandparents and other relative caregivers through Oregon's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program.
  - Phone: 503-945-5651
  - Web: [www.oregon.gov/DHS/assistance/cash/tanf.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/assistance/cash/tanf.shtml)

### Food Stamps

- Relatives caring for children may also be eligible for food stamps to help meet their children's food and nutrition needs.
  - Phone: 1-800-723-3638
  - Web: [www.oregon.gov/DHS/assistance/foodstamps/foodstamps.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/assistance/foodstamps/foodstamps.shtml)

### Health Insurance

- Grandparents and other relative care caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance through the Oregon Health Plan and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- In some cases, caregivers may also be eligible for free coverage under Medicaid.
  - Phone: 1-800-359-9517
  - Web: [www.oregon.gov/DHS/healthplan/app\\_benefits/ohp4u.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/healthplan/app_benefits/ohp4u.shtml)

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

## State Laws

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

### Placement of child or ward – preferences

#### ORS 419B.192

- Department of Human Services shall make reasonable efforts to place the child or ward with relatives or persons who have a caregiver relationship with the child.
- Additional laws regarding relative caregivers for children in state custody may be found through Chapter 419B Juvenile Code: Dependency

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

#### **Disclaimer:**

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