

GrandFacts

State fact sheets for grandparents and other relatives raising children

AARP, The Brookdale Foundation Group, Casey Family Programs, Child Welfare League of America, Children's Defense Fund, and Generations United have partnered to produce state and national **GrandFacts** fact sheets for grandparents and other relatives raising children. The state fact sheets include state-specific data and programs as well as information about foster care, public benefits, educational assistance and state laws. Visit www.grandfactsheets.org to find this and all **GrandFacts** state fact sheets.

California

The Children

- 1,221,251 children under age 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives (13.2% of all children under 18 in the state.) (U.S. 2010 Census)
 - Of these, 826,037 live with grandparents who are the householders (8.9% of the children in the state) and 395,214 live with other relatives who are the householders (4.3% of the children in the state). (U.S. 2010 Census)
- 287,996 children live in homes with grandparent householders where grandparents are responsible for them.*
 - Of these children, 80,248 have no parents present in the home.*

The Grandparents*

- 281,067 grandparents are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them. Of these:
 - 31% of the grandparents are White and not Hispanic, 10% are Black/African American, 9% are Asian, 2% are American Indian and Alaska Native, and 47% are Hispanic/Latino, and may be of any race.
 - 27% have no parents of the children present in the home.
 - 63% are under age 60.
 - 15% live in poverty.**
- 27,250 grandparents in Los Angeles city and 7,325 in San Diego city are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them.

*Comparable data are not currently available for homes where other relatives are the householders.

**100% of poverty level.

Data not specifically cited are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Detailed Table B09006 and Subject Tables S1001 and S1002. Additional data on related topics and sub-state areas can be found on the Census Bureau website at <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Programs That Can Help

Local programs that provide support, resources and assistance to grandfamilies can often be found by contacting your local school, area agency on aging, community center, faith-based organization or children's services office.

The AARP GrandCare Support Locator is a free online service where programs can self-list their services and resources. Search by your city, state or zip code. www.giclocalsupport.org

Key Programs in California

Advocates 4 Family Caregivers – Office of Samoan Affairs Community Center

Contact: Betty Halle
Phone: 310-538-8099
Email: a4fc@osacommunity.org
Service Area: South Bay area of Los Angeles
Description: Specializes in families involved with Probate Court, Department of Children and Family Services or Family Court, and individual education plans.

BANANAS, Inc.

Contact: Arlyce Currie, Program Director
Phone: 510-658-7353
Email: BANANAS@bananasinc.org
Service Area: Northern Alameda County (based in Oakland)
Description: Childcare information, support groups, and agency referral

California Coalition of Grandparents & Relative Caregivers (CCG/RC) – Statewide coalition of support groups

Contact: Lenora Poe, Ph.D.
Phone: 510-845-7189
Email: lenorapoe@sbcglobal.net
Service Area: Alameda, Costa Contra Counties
Description: Support groups

California Community Colleges – State Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges

Contact: Lucy Berger, Coordinator of Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE)
Phone: 916-323-5276
Email: Lberger@cccco.edu
Service Area: 62 participating community colleges throughout the state
Description: Education and workshops for relative caregivers

California Kinship Navigator Program – Edgewood Center for Children and Families, Family Support Services of the Bay Area, EMQ Families First

Contact: Warm Line Navigator
Phone: 1-800-KIN (546) 0047 (toll-free)
Website: www.cakinship.org
Service Area: State-Wide, California
Description: Information and Referral, Monday through Friday 9am-7pm

LAUSD Carson Family Resource Center – California Family Resource Association

Contact: Cyndy Lum, LCSW, Healthy Start Coordinator
Phone: 310-513-8070
Contact: cyndy.lum@lausd.net
Service Area: Carson and the South Bay area
Description: Information and referral

Focus on Kinship

Contact: Sylvia Nelson
Phone: 619-962-4470 or 619-336-8336
Email: sjnelson1@hotmail.com
Service Area: South Bay San Diego County
Description: Caregiver led and supported services; Therapeutic Family Support Groups twice a month, 24 hour emergency support information and additional services

Grandma's House – Children's Institute International (CII)

Contact: Frances Crawford, Program Coordinator
Phone: 213-807-1821
Email: fcrawford@childrensinstitute.org
Website: www.childrensinstitute.org
Service Area: Los Angeles area
Description: Drop-in counseling and assessments, support groups meet weekly, mental health services, recreational activities, and other services

Grandparent Advocacy Network of Northern California

Contact: Sandy Weiss
Phone: 530-756-0183
Email: WeissSBK@comcast.net
Service Area: Northern California counties
Description: Monthly informal lunches for grandparents

Grandparent Project – Senior Legal Hotline of Legal Services of California

Phone: 1-800-222-1753 (toll-free)
Sacramento County: 916-551-2140
Website: www.seniorlegalhotline.org
Service Area: Statewide; some services Sacramento County only
Description: Legal advice by phone or email about guardianship petitions for people over 60 or low income residents of Sacramento County

Grandparents as Parents (GAP)

Contacts: Madelyn Gordon, Executive Director, 818-264-0880
Sylvie de Toledo at 818-789-1177, 562-421-7991, or 310-839-2548

Email: Madelyn@grandparentsasparents.org

Website: www.grandparentsasparents.org

Service Area: Los Angeles area

Description: Provides weekly support groups, emergency referrals, resources assistance, crisis intervention, and other services

Grandparents Parenting...Again (GPA)

Contact: Anne Pierce

Phone: 707-566-8676

Email: grands@sonic.net

Service Area: Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Lake and Mendocino Counties

Description: Support groups, self-help guardianship clinics, relative resource workshops and family gatherings.

Grandparents, Relatives and Neighbors Raising Children – Nevada County Superintendent of Schools

Contact: Mary Jane Ryan-Connelly

Phone: 530-470-8510, Extension 208

Email: maryjane@nevco.k12.ca.us

Service Area: Nevada County

Description: Information and referral, support groups, seasonal events, Kincaid class and other services.

Jewish Family Service of LA – Metro Counseling Center

Contact: Karen Tobias, RAPP Program Coordinator

Phone: 323-935-5303, Extension 105

Email: ktobias@jfscla.org

Website: www.jfscla.org

Service Area: Los Angeles

Description: Provides support groups, individual/family counseling, and information and referral

Kids and Families Together – County of Ventura Human Resources, Area Agency on Aging

Contact: David Friedlander, Executive Director

Phone: 805-643-1446 Extension 1

Email: david@kidsandfamilies.org

Web: Kidsandfamilies.org

Service Area: Ventura County

Description: Information and referral, case management, food share, Spanish speaking staff, and other services

KinCare Program – California Family Life Center (CFLC)

Contact: Mary Snow
Phone: 951-791-3557
Service Area: Riverside County
Description: Provides support groups, assistance with legal guardianship, mediation and counseling, respite care and additional services

Kinship Care Resource Center – Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

Contact: Rebecca Barahas
Phone: 408-200-0980
Email: socha@catholiccharities.org
Service Area: Santa Clara County
Description: Provides case management, support groups, health screenings, recreation activities, information and referrals, and other services

Kinship Care Services – Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services

Contact: Michael Gray, Division Chief
Phone: 562- 777-1746
Email: graymi@dcfs.lacounty.gov
Website: <http://lacdcfs.org/kinshippublic/default.html>
Service Area: Los Angeles County
Description: Provides information and referral, permanency planning, support groups, respite/recreation, and transportation services

Kinship in Action – South Los Angeles Kinship Support Program – Community Coalition and Casey Family Programs

Contact: Doniesha Young
Phone: 323-750-9087
Email: Doneishayoung@cocosouthla.org
Website: www.cocosouthla.org
Service Area: South Los Angeles
Description: Information, referral, education and training, respite and group advocates, advocacy, and support

Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP)- California Department of Social Services

Phone: 1-800-546-0047 (toll-free)
Description: Kinship support services programs are programs run by varying organizations in multiple counties. Services vary by location; please contact a KSSP in your area for specific services provided. Sample services include support groups, counseling, case management

Contacts:

- **Bakersfield, Kern County - Haven Counseling Center**
661-377-0377
<http://havencounselingcenter.org/services/61.html>
- **Contra Costa County, Richmond – Youth Services Bureau**
Glenda Roberts, 510-215-4671, groberts@contracosta.edu

- **Contra Costa County Antioch, Pittsburg, Bay Point – STAND! For Families Free of Violence**
Juli Rositas, 925-237-8970, juli.rositas@familystressc.org
- **Contra Costa County, Martinez – EMQ Families First**
Monica Johnson, 925-602-1750, mjohnson@emqff.org
- **Hayward, Alameda County (central, southern, eastern) – Lincoln Child Center**
Dynell Garron – Program Manager, 510-583-8026,
dynellgarron@lincolnchildcenter.org
www.lincolncc.org/kinship
- **Hemet and Riverside County - California Family Life Center (CFLC) Kin Care Program**
Mary Snow - Community Resource Coordinator, 951-791-3557, msnow@rivcoeda.org
<http://www.cflckids.org/site/kinicare.aspx>
- **Los Angeles County - Kinship Center LA**
Dr. Michael Scoggins – Division Manager, 805-434-2126, scoggm@dcfs.lacounty.gov
bladeja@dcfs.lacounty.gov
- **Monterey, Seaside, Salinas, Greenfield – Family Ties: Kinship Center & Monterey County Dept. of Social Services**
Charles Chambers – Program Director, 831-443-0662/ 831-443-0662/ or
831-674-9945, cchambers@kinshipcenter.org
www.kinshipcenter.org
- **Orange County – Olive Crest**
Helen Lindsey, 714-543-5437, Helen-lindsey@olivecrest.org
www.olivecrest.org
- **San Bernardino, Victorville, Ontario - Helping Hands**
Myrtle Cassell – Program Manager, 909-889-5757 or 760-843-1177 or
909-986-9710
westsidekinship@verizon.net
- **San Diego, Chula Vista - FAKCE Program, Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College, YMCA**
1-877-YMCA-4-KIN (1-877-9622-4-546 toll-free), info@kinshipcenter.org
www.kinshipcenter.org
- **San Francisco and San Mateo County - Edgewood Center for Children and Families**
San Francisco: Elizabeth Wilkinson, MSW – Supervising Social Worker, 415-682-3276, elizabethw@edgewood.org
San Mateo: Jamila McCallum – Program Manager, 415-375-7577,
jamilam@edgewood.org
- **San Luis Obispo - Kinship Center, Family Ties**
Marta Nielsen – Program Coordinator, 805-434-2126, mnielsen@kinshipcenter.org
- **Sonoma County – Kinship Family Center (KSSP Program) – Sunny Hills Services**
Patricia Morrow, 707-569-0877, pmorrow@sunnyhillsservices.org
www.SonomaKinship.org
- **Stanislaus County - Family Partnership Center**
Rhonda Parker – Program Director, rparker@co.stanislaus.ca.us
- **Roseville, Auburn, and Placer County - Kid's First Now**
Karla Marquez – Program Manager, 916-774-6802 (Roseville)
530-887-3536 (Auburn), kmarquez@kidsfirstnow.org
<http://www.kidsfirstnow.org>

Lilliput Children's Services – KinNet

Contacts: Allison Guerrero – Program Manager EDH
Tracy Hancock – Program Manager Sacramento North
Betty Low – Program Manager Sacramento South
Alexis Pickrell – Program Manager Napa

Phone: 916-941-8799 (El Dorado)
916-480-6271 (Sacramento North)
916-688-4750 (Sacramento South)
707-299-3909 (Napa)

Service Area: El Dorado Hills County, Sacramento County, and Napa County

Description: Relative caregiver services, foster adoption, support groups, referrals, reference library, and more

Los Angeles Department of Aging

Phone: 1-800-510-2020 (toll-free)

Service Area: Los Angeles

Description: Offers Kinship Care Resource Guide, legal assistance guide, information, referral, conferences, and other services

Unplanned Parenthood – Center for Aging Resources in Pasadena

Contact Person: Regina McClure, PhD

Phone: 626-577-8480

Email: rmcclure@cfar1.org

Service Area: Pasadena

Description: Information and referral, support group, direct health services, Spanish speaking staff

Children in Foster Care

- Sometimes state child welfare agencies place children in foster care with grandparents or other relatives. This is often called “kinship care.”
- Federal law requires states to notify all known relatives within 30 days of children's removal from their parents.

In October 2010 in California:

- 57,954 children/youth were in out-of-home care
- Of these, 19,028 were in out-of-home care with relatives/kin

Placement Policies

- State law requires that when a child is placed in foster care by a county, a county social worker and court must give preference to certain relatives including grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings.
- A relative's home must be approved as meeting the same standards as for licensed foster family homes; the approval assessment is performed by a county worker

Subsidized Guardianship – California Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program (KinGAP)

- Subsidized guardianship program for children in foster care who have lived with a relative who has been approved to prescribed standards for at least 6 months.
- KinGAP payments cannot exceed what the child would have received in foster care.
- Administered by counties with oversight and training from state.

- New federally funded Kin-GAP and a revised state funded Kin-GAP program became effective January 1, 2011, to implement provisions of the subsidized relative guardianship program permitted under the Fostering Connections for Success Act (PL 110-351).
- Extends eligibility to children supervised by juvenile delinquency court
- Establishes equity with foster care placements by providing a clothing allowance to all children and a specialized care increment to eligible children
- New programs now permit continued Kin-GAP payment regardless of state of residency; caregiver now able to renegotiate payment/benefits every two years or as needs of child or circumstances of relative guardian change.

California Foster Care and Relative/Kinship Care Contacts

Kinship Care Policy and Support Unit

California Department of Social Services

Carole Minchew, Kinship Care Policy and Support Unit

Phone: 916-657-1858

Email: carole.minchew@dss.ca.gov

www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cfsweb/PG1351.htm

Public Benefits

Federal and state public benefits programs can help with income, food, healthcare, home energy, telephone and other needs for those who are eligible. Eligibility requirements vary with each public benefit and sometimes are different from state to state. Some benefits are for the family and others are for children or older adults individually. Children are often eligible for public benefits even if their caregivers do not have legal guardianship or custody. Grandparents may become eligible for benefits programs when their household size increases.

Help with Public Benefits

AARP Foundation's **Benefits QuickLINK**

A free and private way to find out if relatives or the children they are raising qualify for programs that pay for food, increase income and cover home and healthcare costs (listed below). It gives quick results, application forms and the address and phone number of the closest office.

www.aarp.org/quicklink

Public Benefits for Older Americans:*

- Medicare Savings Programs
- Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage
- Medicare Rx Extra Help
- State Pharmaceutical Assistance programs (SPAP)
- Medicaid for Aged, Blind, and Disabled
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- State Property Tax Relief/Rebates
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Telephone Assistance (Link-Up and Lifeline)

Public Benefits for Families Raising Children*

- Medicaid for Children
- State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- TANF-Child Only Grants
- Supplemental Security Income for Children

*Some of these programs may have age and income restrictions.

Eldercare Locator

The National Eldercare Locator service helps you find your local area agency on aging and other state and local resources that can help with public benefits, local programs and other services for older adults.

1-800-677-1116 (toll-free)

www.eldercare.gov

Key Public Benefits

Income

Each state administers federal funds that provide cash assistance to families in need. Some states also offer other forms of financial assistance.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Cash assistance may be available to eligible children and their relative caregivers.

California's Cal Works Program

California Department of Social Services

916-657-2128

Email: piar@dss.ca.gov

www.cdss.ca.gov/calworks

Social Security

A multigenerational program, Social Security provides income benefits to adults, older adults and children. In addition to [Retirement](#) and [Disability](#) benefits, [Survivor's Benefits](#) are based on a child's parent's earnings and may help if a child's parents die. The [Supplemental Security Income](#) (SSI) program pays benefits to disabled [adults](#) and [children](#) who have limited income and resources. SSI benefits are also payable to people 65 and older without disabilities who meet the financial limits.

Online Directory – To find your local Social Security Administration office.

1-800-772-1213 (toll-free)

www.socialsecurity.gov/locator

Nutrition

Relative caregivers and their families may be eligible for assistance with groceries, meals, infant formula and nutrition education. These are some of the key nutrition benefits programs and resources.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is the new name for the federal Food Stamp Program. It helps low-income individuals and families buy the food they need for good health. Although SNAP is the national name, your state may use a different name.

CalFresh Program

California Department of Social Services

916-657-2128

Email: piar@dss.ca.gov

www.dss.cahwnet.gov/foodstamps

Food and Nutrition Services of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- **Child Nutrition Program** - The schools, early childhood education programs, child care centers, afterschool programs or other programs that children attend may offer free or reduced meals through the federal Child Nutrition Program, which provides breakfast, lunch, snacks, summer meals and milk. Contact the school or program to ask if they participate in any of the child nutrition programs and ask how to apply. Relative caregivers should inform the program that they are raising the child and whether or not they are doing so through a court order.

Online State Directory - To find your state office that manages the Child Nutrition program.

www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Contacts/StateDirectory.htm

- **Women, Infant and Children (WIC)** - States administer federal funds for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Online State Directory - To find your state office that manages the WIC program.

www.fns.usda.gov/wic/Contacts/statealpha.htm

Foodbanks - Organizations that provide free food and sometimes other items, such as diapers to families in need. Feeding America is an organization that fights hunger and has a food bank locator.

Online State Directory - To find local food banks.

1-800-771-2303 (toll-free)

www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx

Health Care

Relative caregivers and the children they are raising may be eligible for health insurance and help with prescription drugs. [Benefits QuickLINK](#) can help you find these benefits.

Health Insurance for Children

Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health and dental insurance for the children they are raising through the federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Although CHIP is the national name, your state may use a different name.

Medi-Cal

Department of Health Care Services

916-552-9200

www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/default.aspx

Healthy Families

Email: support@healthyfamilies.com

www.healthyfamilies.com/index.htm

Education

- **U.S. Department of Education** - Offers a [Parent Site](#) that has a wide range of helpful information for parents *and* caregivers regarding children's education from early childhood through college, special needs, disabilities, language challenges and gifted students.

1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327 – toll-free)

www.ed.gov/parents

- **State Department of Education** - Relative caregivers may find helpful information about the education of children they are raising
California Department of Education
916-319-0800
www.cde.ca.gov/index.asp

Educational Enrollment

Relative caregivers can contact their local school district's administrative office or their local school to find out how to register the child and what paperwork is needed. Caregivers may need birth records, health records or previous school records. Some states have laws that allow relative caregivers to enroll children they are raising in school. These laws are often called "education consent" laws, but may be called something else in your state.

Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center
Online Directory - To find out if your state has an education consent law.
www.grandfamilies.org

Early Intervention, Special Education and Related Services

What you need to know:

- **The Federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)** - From birth to age 21, children who have learning disabilities, physical disabilities or other special needs may be able to get special early intervention, preschool and special education services in school through the federal IDEA. Services may include speech, physical, and occupational therapies.
- **Child Find** – A part of the IDEA that requires states to identify, locate and evaluate children in the areas of cognitive and physical functioning, hearing and vision, speech and language and social and emotional development as early as possible. Once the Child Find evaluation team, which includes a child's caregivers, has decided if a child is eligible for early intervention or preschool special education services, an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP; birth to three years of age) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP; three to five years of age) is developed and services begin shortly at no cost.

Where to find help for children with special needs:

- **California Child Find**
In California, contact your local school district for their Child Find program
916-327-4014
Online Directory: www.cde.ca.gov/re/sd
- **California Special Education Division**, Department of Education Family Involvement & Partnerships - Resources and support for parents, guardians, and families of children with disabilities
916-445-4613
Email: specedinfo@share.cde.ca.gov
www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/fp
- **California Early Start** - Early Intervention Services
916-654-1690
www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart
- **The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities** guides caregivers to organizations and resources in each state and offers both English and Spanish language information.

Online State Directory – To find state and other disability organizations in your state.

1-800-695-0285 (toll-free)

www.nichcy.org/pages/statespecificinfo.aspx

- **Parent Centers** across the country provide information to help parents *and* caregivers with children who have special education needs and disabilities.

Online State Directory – To find Parent Centers in your state.

National Parent Technical Assistance Center 1-888-248-0822 (toll-free)

www.parentcenternetwork.org/parentcenterlisting

Early Childhood Education

- **Head Start and Early Head Start** – Early education programs for eligible children.
Online Directory – To find Head Start or Early Head Start centers in your state.
1-866-763-6481 (toll-free)
<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/HeadStartOffices>
- **The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA)** - Information, resources and connection to local Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies (CCR&R) that help you find local child care through the Child Care Aware program.
Online Directory – To find your local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency.
1-800-424-2246 (toll-free)
www.childcareaware.org/parents-and-guardians

Educational Activities

Verizon Thinkfinity - Support a child's success in school with fun learning activities and interactive games you can do together using this free online resource.

www.thinkfinity.org

State Laws

[Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center](#)

Provides an up-to-date online listing of state laws, policies and legislation that affect grandfamilies. A collaboration between [Casey Family Programs](#), the [American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law](#) and [Generations United](#), the website includes a searchable database of current laws and pending legislation by state, including:

- Adoption
- Care and Custody
- Education
- Financial Assistance
- Housing
- Kinship Navigator Programs
- Medical
- National Family Caregivers Support Programs
- Relative Foster Care
- Subsidized Guardianship
- Notification of Relatives

Online Directory – To find your state's laws affecting grandfamilies.

www.grandfamilies.org

GrandFacts Updates

If you have an update or a resource to be included in this or any of the other GrandFacts fact sheets, please visit www.grandfactsheets.org to submit updates or email grandfacts@aarp.org. Fact sheets are updated regularly.

GrandFacts State Fact Sheets for Grandparents and other Relatives Raising Children are funded in part by the [AARP Foundation](#) and [Verizon Thinkfinity](#).

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