

# 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](http://www.grandfactsheets.org) to find this and all **GrandFacts** state fact sheets.

## Idaho

### The Children

- 29,287 children under age 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives (6.8% of the children in the state.) (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
  - Of these, 22,962 live with grandparents who are the householders (5.4% of the children in the state) and 6,325 live with other relatives who are the householders (1.5% of the children in the state). (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
- 10,161 children live in homes with grandparent householders where grandparents are responsible for them\*
  - Of these children, 4,592 have no parents present in the home.\*

### The Grandparents\*

- 10,679 grandparents are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them. Of these:
  - 80% of the grandparents are White and not Hispanic, 1% are Asian, 5% are American Indian and Alaska Native, and 15% are Hispanic/Latino, and may be of any race.
  - 44% have no parents of the children present in the home.
  - 66% are under age 60.
  - 14% live in poverty.\*\*
- 943 grandparents in Boise 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](http://www.giclocalsupport.org)

## Key Programs in Idaho

### Grandparents as Parents

**Treasure Valley:**  
**Contact:** Tracee Crawford  
**Phone:** 208-323-7538  
**Email:** [craw2@qwestoffice.net](mailto:craw2@qwestoffice.net)  
**Web:** [www.idahograndparentsasparents.org](http://www.idahograndparentsasparents.org)  
**Service area:** Southwest Idaho

**Twin Falls:**  
**Contact:** Shawna Wasko  
**Phone:** 208-736-2122 or 1-800-574-8656 (toll-free)  
**Email:** [swasko@ooa.csi.edu](mailto:swasko@ooa.csi.edu)  
**Service area:** Twin Falls/Burley  
**Description:** Provides support groups, children's events, legal advocates, and conferences/workshops for caregivers and professionals

### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren of Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership – Community Action Partnership, Area VI Agency on Aging

**Contact:** Emily Hoyt  
**Phone:** 208-522-5391 or 1-800-632-4813 (toll-free)  
**Email:** [ehoyt@eicap.org](mailto:ehoyt@eicap.org)  
**Service area:** Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties  
**Description:** Monthly support group to share concerns about legal, medical, behavioral and school issues, guest speakers as needed, and Community Advisory Council

### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Southeast Idaho Council of Governments and Area V Office on Aging

**Contact:** Sandy Guidinger or Sister Anthony Marie Greving  
**Phone:** 208-233-4032 Extension 16 and Extension 18  
**Service area:** Southeast Idaho – Bannock, Bingham, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power counties  
**Description:** Provides newsletters, information, and referrals.

## Idaho Commission on Aging

**Contact:** Jody Ericson  
**Phone:** 208-334-2822 ext. 232 or 1-877-471-2777 (toll-free)  
**Web:** [www.idahoaging.com](http://www.idahoaging.com)  
**Service area:** Statewide  
**Description:** Provides information, referral, consultation, and technical assistance in program development and expansion

## Idaho KinCare Coalition – Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho (CAPAI)

**Member Agencies:** Idaho Department of Health and Welfare; Eastern Idaho Community Action; AARP Idaho; Idaho Legal Aid; Idaho Commission on Aging; Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho, CAPAI; CCOA Aging Weatherization and Human Services; Relatives /Grandparents as Parents, Coeur d'Alene; Casey Family Programs-Boise; University of Idaho Extension; Grandparents As Parents, Treasure Valley; CSI Office on Aging; Region II Kinship Care Coalition; Idaho Child Welfare Research and Training Center (ICWRTC); Office of Congressman Mike Simpson

**Contact:** Marian Woods, Co-Chair  
**Phone:** 208-334-0683  
**Email:** [mwoods@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:mwoods@dhw.idaho.gov)  
**Service area:** Statewide  
**Description:** Education, training, and promotion of community partnerships with kinship caregivers that improve, expand and sustain programs and services

## Idaho KinCare Initiative – The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

**Contact:** Marian Woods  
**Phone:** 208-334-0683  
**Email:** [woodsm@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:woodsm@dhw.idaho.gov)  
**Web:** [www.211.idaho.gov](http://www.211.idaho.gov)  
**Service area:** Statewide  
**Description:** Information and referral, newsletters, support groups, navigation services, and VISTA capacity.

## Relatives/Grandparents as Parents – Coeur d'Alene – Kootenai Alliance for Children and Families

**Contact:** Glenda Weaver  
**Phone:** 208-769-7096  
**Email:** [glendainidaho@hotmail.com](mailto:glendainidaho@hotmail.com)  
**Service area:** Kootenai, Shoshone, Bonner, Boundary, County  
**Description:** Six monthly support groups, guest speakers, information and referral, and member of Community Advisory Council

## University of Idaho Extension

<b>Contact:</b>	Harriet Shaklee, Margaret Ritchie School of Family and Consumer Science
<b>Phone:</b>	208-364-4016
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:hshaklee@uidaho.edu">hshaklee@uidaho.edu</a>
<b>Service area:</b>	Statewide
<b>Description:</b>	Educational programs in financial management and nutrition

## 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 2010 in Idaho:

- 2,766 children/youth spent some time in out-of-home care
- 28% of these children were placed with relatives.

### Placement Policies

- State policy requires that placement priority be given to relatives and then non-family members with a significant established relationship with a child.
- Same licensing standards, training requirements & payment rates as non-kin foster parents.

### Subsidized Guardianship

- Children in the custody of Idaho’s Department of Health and Welfare who are placed in a legal guardianship may be eligible for state-funded guardianship assistance when parental rights have been terminated and there is documentation of efforts to place the children for adoption. A Guardianship Assistance Agreement must be completed before the guardianship is finalized.
- Guardianship Assistance reimburses one-time costs to finalize the guardianship and provides Medicaid benefits plus a negotiated monthly cash payment that cannot exceed the amount the child was receiving in a foster family.
- Idaho is in the process of implementing a relative Guardianship Assistance program for children ages 14 and older who are in the custody of the Department of Health and Welfare. This program will be available to children for whom parental rights have not been terminated.

### Idaho Foster Care and Relative/Kinship Care Contacts

- **Idaho Department of Health & Welfare**  
Stephanie Miller, Permanency Program Specialist  
208-334-5697  
Email: [MillerS2@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:MillerS2@dhw.idaho.gov)  
[www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov](http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov)
- **Idaho Department of Health & Welfare**  
Susan Dwello, Foster Care Program Specialist  
208-334-5695  
Email: [DwelloS@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:DwelloS@dhw.idaho.gov)  
[www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov](http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov)

## 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](http://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](http://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.

#### **Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI)**

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

1-800-926-2588 (Idaho CareLine – toll-free)

<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov>

## 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)  
<https://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.

**Idaho Food Stamp Program**  
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare  
800-926-2588 (Idaho CareLine)  
<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov>

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

#### [Idaho's Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#)

#### [Idaho Medicaid](#)

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Idaho Careline: 2-1-1 or 1-800-926-2588 (toll-free)

Family Medicaid: 1-866-326-2485 (toll free)

<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov>

## 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](http://www.ed.gov/parents)
- [State Department of Education](#) - Relative caregivers may find helpful information about the education of children they are raising  
[Idaho State Department of Education](#)  
(208) 332-6800 or 800- 432-4601 (toll-free)  
[www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov)

## 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](http://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:

- **Idaho Infant Toddler Program** - serves children birth to three years of age with developmental delays and disabilities.  
(208) 334-6530 or 1-800-926-2588 (Idaho CareLine – toll-free)  
<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov>
- **Idaho Division of Special Education**- Idaho Department of Education  
208- 332-6800 or 1-800-432-4601 (toll-free)  
[www.sde.idaho.gov/site/special\\_edu](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/special_edu)
- **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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.grandfamilies.org)

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## 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](http://www.grandfactsheets.org) to submit updates or email [grandfacts@aarp.org](mailto:grandfacts@aarp.org). Fact sheets are updated regularly.

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