

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.

Kentucky

The Children

- 107,730 children under age 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives (10.6% of the children in the state.) (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
 - Of these, 86,788 live with grandparents who are the householders (8.5% of the children in the state) and 20,942 live with other relatives who are the householders (2.1% of the children in the state). (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
- 47,901 children live in homes with grandparent householders where grandparents are responsible for them*
 - Of these children, 23,878 have no parents present in the home.*

The Grandparents*

- 49,001 grandparents are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them. Of these:
 - 87% of the grandparents are White and not Hispanic, 10% are Black/African American, and 1% are Hispanic/Latino, and may be of any race.
 - 49% have no parents of the children present in the home.
 - 72% are under age 60.
 - 25% live in poverty.**
- 6,034 grandparents in Louisville/Jefferson County metro and 2,134 in Lexington/Fayette County urban 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 Kentucky

National Family Caregiver Support Program and Kentucky Caregiver Support Program – Kentucky Department for Aging and Independent Living

Contact:	Carol Hall
Phone:	502-564-6930
Email:	Carol.Hall@ky.gov
Website:	http://chfs.ky.gov/dail
Service area:	Statewide through Kentucky's 15 Area Agencies on Aging and Independent Living
Description:	<p>Provide information, resources and referrals, counseling, support groups, and limited financial assistance. Services vary by locations listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Barren River Region (Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson and Warren Counties) www.bradd.org, Tamara Prather, 270-781-2381, tprather@bradd.org2. Big Sandy Region (Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin and Pike Counties) www.bigsandy.org, Ginger Ferguson, 606-886-2374, ginger.ferguson@bigsandy.org3. Bluegrass Region (Anderson, Boyle, Bourbon, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, and Woodford Counties) www.bgadd.org, Debbie Morris, 859-269-8021, dmorris@bgadd.org4. Buffalo Trace Region (Bracken, Fleming, Lewis, Mason and Roberts Counties) www.btadd.com, Cathi Drury, 606-564-6894, cdrury@btadd.com5. Cumberland Valley Region (Bell, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Rockcastle and Whitely Counties) www.cvadd.org, Veronica House, 606-864-7391, vhouse@cvadd.org6. FIVCO Region (Boyd, Carter, Greenup, Elliot and Lawrence Counties) www.fivco.org, Theresa Rayburn, 606-929-1366, teresar@fivco.org7. Gateway Region (Bath, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan and Rowan Counties) www.gwadd.org or 606-780-0090 Becky Combs, becky.combs@ky.gov or Regina Back, regina.back@ky.gov8. Green River Region (Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster Counties) www.gradd.com, Monie Sosh, 270-926-4433, moniesosh@gradd.com

9. **KIPDA Region** (Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble Counties) www.kipda.org or 502-266-6084 Vicki Polio, vicki.polio@ky.gov, or Patrice McGhee, patrice.mcghee@ky.gov
10. **Kentucky River Region** (Breathitt, Knott, Leslie, Letcher, Owsley, Perry, Lee, Wolfe Counties) www.kradd.org, Stacie Noble, 606-436-3158, Stacie@kradd.org
11. **Lake Cumberland Region** (Adair, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, McCreary, Pulaski, Russell, Taylor, Wayne Counties) www.lcadd.org, Kim Foley, 270-866-4200 or 1-800-916-7092 (toll-free), kim@lcadd.org
12. **Lincoln Trail Region** (Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson and Washington Counties) www.ltadd.org, Grace Craig, 270-769-2393, grace@ltadd.org
13. **Northern Kentucky Region** (Boone, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Owen and Pendleton Counties) www.nkadd.org, Anne Varnum, 859-283-1885, anne.varnum@nkadd.org
14. **Purchase Region** (Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Hickman, Graves, Marshall and McCracken Counties) www.purchaseadd.org, Nancy Harper, 270-247-7171, nancy.harper@purchaseadd.org
15. **Pennyrile Region** (Caldwell, Christian, Crittenden, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Muhlenberg, Todd and Trigg Counties) www.peadd.org, James Patterson, 270-886-9484, james.patterson@ky.gov

Family Resource Youth Services Centers (FRYSC) – Department for Family Resource and Youth Services and Division of Family Resources and Youth Service Centers

Phone: 502-564-4986

Website: <http://chfs.ky.gov/dfrcv/frysc>

Service area: Statewide in most of the school districts in the state.

Description: Services offered include support groups, resources and referrals and vary by locations:

1. **Calloway County Family Resource Center**, Michelle Hansen, 270-762-7333, michelle.hansen@calloway.kyschools.us
2. **Creekside Elementary Resource Center** (Southern Hardin County), Debbie Cox, 270-369-6238, Debbie.cox@hardin.kyschools.us
3. **Little Laker Family Resource Center**, Jan Wilson, 270-762 7410, jan.wilson@calloway.kyschools.us
4. **Laurel County Family Resource Center**, Charity Fuson, 606-862-4748, charity.fuson@laurel.kyschools.us
5. **Meade County Family Resource Center**, Andrea Pike-Goff, 270-422-7512, andrea.pikegoff@meade.kyschools.us
6. **Murray City Schools Family Resource Center**, Contact Julie Stone, 270-759-9592, Julie.Stone@murray.kyschools.us

Grandparents as Parents (GAP) Conference

Contact: Mary Jo Dendy or David Bassoni
Phone: 859-381-3511 / 859-381-3526 or 859-269-8021
Email: maryjo.dendy@fayette.kyschools.us or dbassoni@bgadd.org
Website: www.bgadd.org/aging_ky_caregiver.htm
Service area: Statewide
Description: Annual kinship care-giving information and education conference held in March in Lexington, Kentucky

University of Kentucky (UK) Cooperative Extension Services

Contact: UK College of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Services Office
Phone: 859-257-4302
Website: <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/ces>
Service area: Statewide through local and regional offices
Description: Offers education classes and groups, training, and publications.

Grandparents and Relatives Raising Children Support Group – Kenton County Cooperative Extension Service

Contact: Joan Bowling
Phone: 859-356-3155
Email: jbowl@uky.edu
Service Area: Kenton Area
Description: Provides support group, referrals, and resource guide

Guardians as Parents Support Group – FIVCO Area on Aging, Greenup County Schools Students in Transition Program, Family Resources Youth Service Centers

Contact: Theresa Rayburn
Phone: 606-929-1366
Email: teresar@fivco.org
Website: www.fivco.org
Service area: Greenup, Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Lawrence Counties
Description: Provides advocacy and training. Advises state agency on caregiver needs and hosts steering committee to discuss caregiver needs.

KIN-Cares Coalition

Contact: Division of Family and Youth Resource Centers
Department for Aging and Independent Living
Phone: 502-564-4986 or 502-564-6930
Service area: Statewide
Description: Coalition of state agencies, private agencies, consumers, and others that provide advocacy, support group development, and consultation assistance.

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 January 2011 in Kentucky:

- 6,827 children/youth spent some time in out-of-home care
- 308 of these children/youth were placed in certified (licensed) relative homes
- 10,840 children were placed with relatives and received services from the Kentucky Kinship Care Program (See below)

Placement Policies

- State policy requires that kinship care be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under the Department’s care.
- Kinship care providers are generally approved based on different standards than non-kin foster parents. Some may become licensed foster parents.
- Approved kinship caregivers receive a monthly payment through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Subsidized Guardianship – Kentucky Kinship Care Program

- Offered to kinship care providers (related by blood, marriage, or adoption) willing to permanently care for children.
- The Kentucky Kinship Care Program is considered an alternative to foster care and provides a monthly subsidy of \$300/month per child.
- A child must be adjudicated abused or neglected to be eligible for the program in Kentucky unless both parents are deceased.

Kentucky Foster Care and Relative/Kinship Care Contact

Kentucky Child Safety Branch

Lisa Durbin, Branch Manager

502-564-2136

Email: LisaA.durbin@ky.gov

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dpp/childsafety.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
- 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.

Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP)

Department of Community Based Services

502-564-7050

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dfs/KTAP.htm>

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)
<http://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.

Kentucky Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Department for Community Based Services
502-564-7050
<http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dfs/foodstampsebt.htm>

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.

[Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program \(KCHIP\)](#)

1-877-524-4718 (toll-free)

<http://kidshealth.ky.gov/en/kchip>

[Kentucky Medicaid](#)

Cabinet for Health and Family Services

1-800-372-2973 (toll-free)

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dms/Eligibility.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
[Kentucky Department of Education](#)
502-564-4770
www.education.ky.gov/KDE

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:

- **Kentucky Division of Learning Services** – Kentucky Department of Education
Larry Taylor
502-564-4970
Email: larry.taylor@education.ky.gov
www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Instructional+Resources/Exceptional+Children
- **First Steps** – An interdisciplinary program in Kentucky that brings together resources from the fields of education, health and social services to meet the special needs of children and their families.
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
1-877-41STEPS (1-877-417-8377 toll-free)
<http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/firstSteps/helpfulstaff.htm>
- **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.

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