

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.

Michigan

The Children

- 194,878 children under age 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives (8.3% of the children in the state.) (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
 - Of these, 152,469 live with grandparents who are the householders (6.5% of the children in the state) and 42,409 live with other relatives who are the householders (1.8% of the children in the state). (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
- 69,515 children live in homes with grandparent householders where grandparents are responsible for them*
 - Of these children, 25,773 have no parents present in the home.*

The Grandparents*

- 75,529 grandparents are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them. Of these:
 - 64% of the grandparents are White and not Hispanic, 28% are Black/African American, 1% are Asian, and 5% are Hispanic/Latino, and may be of any race.
 - 37% have no parents of the children present in the home.
 - 68% are under age 60.
 - 19% live in poverty.**
- 13,025 grandparents in Detroit 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 Michigan

Elder Law & Advocacy Center – Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren Program-Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan

Contact: Linda White, Office Manager
Phone: 313-937-8291
Email: lwhite@wcnl.org
Service Area: Wayne County except Detroit and Eastside
Description: Offers information/referral and legal assistance (Age 60 or above)

Grandparents as Parents Program (GAP) – Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County

Contact: Christine Rockwood, GAP Program
Phone: 734-712-3774
Email: crockwood@csswashtenaw.org
Service area: Washtenaw County
Description: Provides support groups, home visits, monthly newsletter, and referrals.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Adrian- Lenawee Department on Aging

Contact: Sharon Guild, Founder/Director
Phone: 517-414-8155
Email: sguild@lenaweeseniors.org
Service area: Adrian
Description: Provides support groups, activities, counseling, summer camp scholarships, meals, and child care

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren/Relatives as Parents Program – Region IV Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

Contact: Camellia Pisegna, Director
Phone: 1-800-654-2810 (toll-free)
Email: camelliapisegna@areaagencyonaging.org
Service area: Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties
Description: Offers information and referral, quarterly newsletter, Foster Grandparent program, resource directory, and resource library

Jackson County Caregiver Support Program – Department on Aging

Contact: Jennifer Guthrie
Phone: 517-788-4364
Email: jguthrie@co.jackson.mi.us
Service area: Jackson County
Description: Provides information and referral, lending library, and support groups. Caregiver or spouse must be age 55+

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program – Macomb County

Department of Senior Citizens

Contact: Mary Potts
Phone: 586-469-6315
Email: mary.potts@macombcountymi.gov
Website: www.macombcountymi.gov/seniorservices/
Service area: Macomb County
Description: Provides information and referrals and intensive family services. No age requirement. All services free of charge.

Grandparent Resource Center of Life Guidance Services

Contact: Sharon Briggs, Coordinator
Phone: 616-954-1991, Extension 194
Website: www.lifeguidanceservices.org
Service area: Western Michigan, Kent County
Description: Offers monthly support group; childcare available for school-aged children with advanced notice

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Southeast Michigan – Adult Well-Being Services

Contact: Erroll Young
Phone: 313-9251135
Email: eyoung@awbs.org
Website: www.awbs.org
Service area: Southeast Michigan
Description: Provide information/referral, 4 week education course, monthly support meetings, and case management.

Kinship Care Education Center

Contact: Lynn Nee, LMSW, Coordinator
Phone: 517-355-9600
Email: kinship@msu.edu
Website: www.kinship.msu.edu
Service area: Statewide
Description: Provides online resources, electronic newsletter, and print resource guides, and brochures

Kinship Care Support Services

Contact: Trameka Rodgers
Phone: 989-797-7564
Email: trodgers@saginawcounty.com
Service area: Saginaw County
Description: Offers support groups, newsletter, information/referrals, case management, respite, events, and emergency funds

Kinship Update Newsletters

Contact: Helene Ellis
Phone: 517-256-3277
Email: hellis7@msn.com
Website: www.kincare.blogspot.com
Service area: Statewide
Description: Provides bi-weekly newsletter on blog and author of "A Kinship Guide to Rescuing children for Grandparents and Other Relatives as Parents" available at www.chicagoroadpublishing.com

Legal Hotline for Michigan Seniors

Phone: 1-800-347-5297 (toll-free)
Service area: Statewide
Description: Provides free legal advice on kinship care issues for residents 60 years and older

Kinship Care Program (Relatives Raising Relative Children) – Michigan State University Extension

Contact: Joyce Stout, Coordinator
Phone: 269-384-8054
Email: stoutjo@anr.msu.edu
Service area: Kalamazoo County and surrounding counties in Southwest Michigan.
Description: Offers 4-week curriculum-based information series, support groups and educational workshops (child care provided), and newsletter

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren/Kinship Care – Region 9 Area Agency on Aging/County Commission/Council on Aging

Contact: Kara LaMarre
Phone: 989-356-3474 or 1-800-219-2273 (toll-free)
Email: lamarrek@nemcsa.org
Website: www.nemcsa.org
Service Area: Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, and Roscommon
Description: Provides limited monetary assistance to support activities for children in relative care (relatives age 55+)

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Detroit Area Agency on Aging

Contact: Veronica Padmos
Phone: 313-446-4444, Extension 5828
Web: www.daaa1a.org/DAAA
Service Area: Detroit
Description: Offers support group and the National Family Caregiver Support Program

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 Michigan:

- 14,768 children in out-of-home placements under supervision of Michigan’s Bureau of Children’s Services in the Department of Human Services.
- 5,449 of these children were placed with relatives.

Placement Policies

- State policy requires that relatives be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under the care of the state.
- Relative care providers must meet the same licensing standards as non-relative foster parents. Once relatives are licensed, they are eligible to receive a foster care payment if the child is active in the foster care system. Other relative care providers must meet assessment standards that are different than those for non-relatives. Once they meet the assessment standards, they are eligible to receive a Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) child-only grant.

Subsidized Guardianship

Michigan is implementing the Federal Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP). GAP provides guardianship subsidies for eligible children who have been living with relatives in foster care and cannot return to their parents, and for whom adoption has been ruled out. Children receiving guardianship subsidies are in permanent placement with relatives and are no longer in foster care.

Michigan Foster Care and Relative/Kinship Care Contacts

Nancy Rostoni, Foster Care Manager

Department of Human Services-Individual and Family Services

517-335-4652

Email: rostonin@michigan.gov

www.michigan.gov/dhs/

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](http://www.aarp.org/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.

Michigan Family Independence Program (FIP)

Michigan Assistance and Referral Services

Department of Human Services

517-373-2035

www.michigan.gov/dhs/

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.

Michigan Food Assistance Program (FIP)

Department of Human Services

1-855-ASK-MICH (1-855-275-6424 toll-free)

www.michigan.gov/dhs

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.

Healthy Kids or MICHild

Michigan Department of Community Health

1-888-988-6300 (toll-free)

www.michigan.gov/mdch

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
Michigan Department of Education
517-373-3324
www.michigan.gov/mde

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:

- **Special Education & Early Intervention Services**
Michigan Department of Education
517-373-0923
www.michigan.gov/mde
- **Project Find Michigan**
1-800-252-0052 (toll-free)
Email: eoreferral@edzone.net
www.projectfindmichigan.org

- **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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