

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.

Missouri

The Children

- 125,635 children under age 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives (8.9% of the children in the state.) (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
 - Of these, 101,304 live with grandparents who are the householders (7.1% of the children in the state) and 24,331 live with other relatives who are the householders (1.7% of the children in the state). (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
- 49,641 children live in homes with grandparent householders where grandparents are responsible for them*
 - Of these children, 20,093 have no parents present in the home.*

The Grandparents*

- 48,925 grandparents are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them. Of these:
 - 72% of the grandparents are White and not Hispanic, 23% are Black/African American, and 2% are Hispanic/Latino, and may be of any race.
 - 42% have no parents of the children present in the home.
 - 68% are under age 60.
 - 18% live in poverty.**
- 4,035 grandparents in Kansas City and 3,843 in St. Louis 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 Missouri

AARP Missouri

Phone: 1-866-389-5627 (toll-free)
Email: moaarp@aarp.org
Website: www.aarp.org/states/mo
Service Area: Statewide
Description: GrandLinkers- AARP volunteers who work to connect grandparents raising grandchildren to a variety of resources

Annie Malone Home

Contact: Karen Martin
Phone: 314-531-0120
Email: info@anniemalone.com
Website: www.anniemalone.com
Service Area: St. Louis
Description: Respite care

Boone County Council on Aging

Phone: 573-443-1111
Email: info@BooneAging.org
Website: www.booneaging.org/index.html
Service Area: Boone County
Description: Information and referrals

Cardinal Ritter Senior Services- Brookdale Foundation Group

Contact: Kathleen McAleenan, MSW, LCSW, Outreach Social Worker
Phone: 314-961-8000, Extension 302
Email: kmcaleenan@ccstl.org
Website: www.cardinalritterseniorservices.org
Service Area: St. Louis city and counties
Description: Support groups, education services, ongoing case management, annual picnic, and donations of school supplies, turkeys and Christmas gifts

Family Caregiver Support Program- Southeast Missouri Area Agency on Aging

Contact: Kathy Bullis
Phone: 573-335-3331
Email: kbullis@semoaaa.org
Website: www.semoaa.org
Service Area: Southeast Missouri
Description: Information, referrals, legal advice, and kinship care network for educational events and support groups

Family Nutrition Education Program – University of Missouri Extension

Contact: Denise Schmitz
Phone: 816-482-5854
Email: schmitzda@missouri.edu
Service Area: Kansas City area
Description: Information on family nutrition, budgeting, and food safety

Family Support Network – St. Louis

Contact: Sue Didier, Director of Clinical Services
Phone: 314-644-5055
Email: sdidier@familysupportnet.org
Website: www.familysupportnet.org
Service Area: St. Louis city and county
Description: In-home family therapy, parenting support and support services provided by licensed professionals at no cost to caregivers

Foster Grandparent Program

Contact: Lucy Haston
Phone: 660-584-7421
Email: fgp@ctcis.net
Service Area: Higginsville, MO
Description: Senior Volunteer Corp program that services youth (low income seniors 60+ may receive a stipend for their volunteer work)

Gateway Grandparents Kinship Network

Contact: Elizabeth J. Reinsch, Ph.D.
Phone: 314-615-2911
Email: reinsche@missouri.edu
Website: <http://extension.missouri.edu/ecregion/grandparent>
Service Area: St. Louis region
Description: Support groups, workshops, statewide conferences, and resource guides

Grandparent and Relative Caregivers Program of Family Friends – Children's Mercy Hospital

Contact: JoAnn Stovall, Program Coordinator
Phone: 816-234-3309
Email: jstovall@cmh.edu
Service Area: Kansas City
Description: Support groups and services, annual conference, and respite care program

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Butler County – University of Missouri Extension Service

Contact: Phyllis Flanigan
Phone: 573-686-8064
Email: flaniganp@missouri.edu
Service Area: Butler, Ripley, Wayne and surrounding counties
Description: Support groups and educational programs

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Cape Girardeau County – University of Missouri Extension Service

Contact: Mary Gosche
Phone: 573-243-3581
Email: goschem@missouri.edu
Website: www.extension.missouri.edu/capegirardeau/index.html
Service Area: Cape Girardeau, Perry and Bollinger counties
Description: Support groups and educational programs

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Macon County

Contact: Jane Hunter
Phone: 660-385-2173
Email: hunterej@missouri.edu
Service Area: Macon County
Description: Support groups

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Mid-East- Mid-East Area Agency on Aging

Contact: Margi Valleroy
Phone: 800-243-6060 or 636-207-1323, Extension 110
Email: mvalleroy@mid-eastaaa.org
Website: www.mid-eastaaa.org
Service Area: Jefferson, Franklin, St. Charles and St. Louis counties
Description: Financial assistance (for those 55+) for necessities, information and assistance, Reading is Relative (a support group that focuses on family reading), and a Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) funded partially by the Brookdale Foundation

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Mid-Missouri

Contact: Meg Roodhouse, M.Ed., ParentLink Project Manager
Phone: 573-884-4382
Email: roodhousem@missouri.edu
Website: <http://education.missouri.edu/orgs/parentlink/grandfamilies>
Service Area: Mid-Missouri
Description: Enrichment group offered on the 3rd Thursday of each month

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Mississippi County – University of Missouri Extension Service

Contact: Mary Engram
Phone: 573-683-6129
Email: engramm@missouri.edu
Service Area: Mississippi County
Description: Support groups and educational programs

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – University of Missouri County Extension

Contact: Sarah Traub, Human Development & Family Studies Specialist
Phone: 573-774-6177
Email: traubs@missouri.edu
Website: <http://extension.missouri.edu>
Service Area: Camden, Crawford, Dent, Gasconade, Maries, Miller, Laclede, Phelps, and Pulaski
Description: Assistance with support group “start ups” and educational programs on request

Listening Place

Contact: Diane Mitchell
Phone: 573-820-3100
Email: diane.mitchell@newwavecomm.net
Service Area: Dexter
Description: Support groups with information, emotional support, and educational speakers

Parents and Grandparents of Drug Abusers (PAGODA)

Contact: Eddie Mae Binnon
Phone: 314-569-1304
Service Area: St. Louis area
Description: Support group

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 2009 in Missouri:

- 9,092 children/youth spent some time in out-of-home care
- 2,637 of these children/youth were placed in certified relative/kinship care
- 6,455 of these children/youth were placed in non-certified relative/kinship care

Placement Policies

State policy requires that kin be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under the Department’s care. Relative providers must complete nine hours of agency-approved training and all prospective caregivers must complete a comprehensive background check.

Subsidized Guardianship

Missouri has a state-funded subsidized guardianship program, the Non-Parent Caretaker Relative (NPCR) Program, which provides an ongoing permanency assistance payment to eligible kin who becomes the legal guardians of a child. The permanency assistance payment is the same as the foster care payment.

Foster Care and Relative/Kinship Care Contacts

Missouri Children's Division Foster Care Program

Department of Social Services

Amy Martin

573-522-8024

Email: amy.l.martin@dss.mo.gov or AskCD@dss.mo.gov

www.dss.mo.gov/cd

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.

Missouri Temporary Assistance

Family Support Division- Department of Social Services

573-751-3221

www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/tempa.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)

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.

Missouri Food Stamp Program / Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Family Support Division- Department of Social Services

Telephone: (573) 751-3221

www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/fstamp/index.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.

Missouri HealthNet for Kids (MHK) Program

Missouri Department of Social Services

573-751-3425 or 1-888-275-5908

www.dss.mo.gov/mhk

Missouri Medicaid

www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/msmed.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
Missouri Department of Education
573-751-4212
<http://dese.mo.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

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:

- **Missouri Office of Special Education**
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
573-751-5739
Email: specialeducation@dese.mo.gov
<http://dese.mo.gov/se/>
- **First Steps** - Missouri's Early Intervention system for infants and toddlers, birth to age 3, who have delayed development or diagnosed conditions that are associated with developmental disabilities.
573-522-8762
Email: spefs@dese.mo.gov
<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps>
- **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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