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.

South Carolina

The Children

- 140,993 children under age 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives (13.1% of the children in the state.) *(U.S. 2010 Census)*
    - o Of these, 112,904 live with grandparents who are the householders (10.5% of the children in the state) and 28,089 live with other relatives who are the householders (2.6% of the children in the state). *(U.S. 2010 Census)*

- 57,056 children live in homes with grandparent householders where grandparents are responsible for them*
    - o Of these children, 23,764 have no parents present in the home.*

The Grandparents*

- 51,364 grandparents are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them. Of these:
    - o 50% of the grandparents are White and not Hispanic, 47% are Black/African American, and 2% are Hispanic/Latino, and may be of any race.
    - o 43% have no parents of the children present in the home.
    - o 67% are under age 60.
    - o 23% live in poverty.**

- 1,228 grandparents in North Charleston and 719 in Charleston 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 South Carolina

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Groups

Contacts:	**Sumter** – Toni Brew 803-775-7381
	Greenwood (Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging) – Barbara Wright 864-941-8067 or 1-800-922-7729 (toll-free) bwright@uppersavannah.com
	Columbia – Gloria Bullock, Parent Educator 803-343-2924 gbullock@richlandone.org
Description:	Support groups for grandparent and other relative caregivers

Kinship Care Resource and Support Program – Helping and Lending Outreach Support (HALOS)

Contact:	Amber Sahlberg
Phone:	843-953-9539
Email:	amber@charlestonhalos.org
Website:	www.charlestonhalos.org
Service area:	Charleston Area
Description:	Bi-monthly support group meetings, educational seminars, referrals, appreciation events, and other services.

Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging, Area Agencies on Aging, Councils on Aging

Contact:	Eve Barth
Phone:	803-734-9872
Email:	barthe@aging.sc.gov
Website:	www.aging.sc.gov
Service area:	Statewide
Description:	Family Caregiver Support Program, one-on-one assistance and support, information/referral, counseling, support groups, respite, newsletter and educational materials

Parents Anonymous

Contact:	Donna Xenakis
Phone:	843-747-0480 or 1-800-326-8621 (toll-free)
Email:	donnaxenakis@paofsc.org
Website:	www.paofsc.org
Service area:	Statewide
Description:	Support groups across the state, information on child development, discipline techniques, and referrals to local resources

Waccamau Regional Council of Government

Contact:	Jennifer Gray
Phone:	843-436-6144, 843-546-8502, 843-546-4231
Email:	jengray843@yahoo.com
Website:	www.wrcog.org
Service area:	Waccamau
Description:	Information and referral, insurance counseling assistance, family caregiver support program, long term care ombudsman program, and respite care and activities.

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 South Carolina:
- 8,515 children/youth spent some time in out-of-home care
- 109 of these children/youth were placed in certified relative/kinship care
- 1,158 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.
- There is no separate licensing program for kinship foster parents.
- Kin must meet the same licensing standards and requirements and receive the same foster care payment rate as non-kin foster parents.

Subsidized Guardianship
South Carolina currently does not have a subsidized guardianship program.

Foster Care and Relative/Kinship Care Contacts
South Carolina Department of Social Services
Kathleen Mclean-Titus, Program Coordinator
803-898-7637
Email: Kathleen.Mclean-titus@dss.sc.gov
https://dss.sc.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

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.

South Carolina Family Independence
South Carolina Department of Social Services
1-800-768-5700 (toll-free)
dss.sc.gov/content/customers/finance/fi.aspx

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.

South Carolina Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
South Carolina Department of Social Services
1-800-768-5700 (toll-free)
https://dss.sc.gov/content/customers/food/index.aspx

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.

> **South Carolina Healthy Connections Choices**
> 1-877-552-4642 (toll-free)
> Email: SCHCC@maximus.com
> www.scchoices.com/SCSelfService/en_US/index.html

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
  > **South Carolina State Department of Education**
  > 803-734-8500
  > Email: info@ed.sc.gov
  > http://ed.sc.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:

- **South Carolina Exceptional Students/Special Education**, South Carolina Dept. of Education
  803-734-8500
  Email: info@ed.sc.gov
  http://ed.sc.gov/topics/educationsupportsvcs/ec
- **South Carolina Early Intervention Program**, South Carolina Dept. of Disabilities and Special Needs
  1-888-DSN-INFO (1-888-376-4636 toll-free)
  http://ddsn.sc.gov/consumers/early-intervention/
- **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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