

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.

Washington

The Children

- 123,390 children under age 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives (7.8% of the children in the state.) (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
 - Of these, 87,812 live with grandparents who are the householders (5.6% of the children in the state) and 35,578 live with other relatives who are the householders (2.3% of the children in the state). (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
- 37,371 children live in homes with grandparent householders where grandparents are responsible for them*
 - Of these children, 15,130 have no parents present in the home.*

The Grandparents*

- 40,305 grandparents are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them. Of these:
 - 66% of the grandparents are White and not Hispanic, 5% are Black/African American, 7% are Asian, 5% are American Indian and Alaska Native, 2% are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 12% are Hispanic/Latino, and may be of any race
 - 42% have no parents of the children present in the home.
 - 65% are under age 60.
 - 14% live in poverty.**
- 2,080 grandparents in Seattle, 1,712 in Tacoma, and 909 in Spokane 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 Washington

Catholic Community Services of Western Washington

Contact: Terry Rogers
Phone: 360-856-3054
Email: terryr@ccsww.org
Website: www.ccsww.org
Service area: Northwest Washington
Description: Offers information/referral

Catholic Family & Child Service

Contact: Mary Pleger, Kinship Navigator Coordinator
Phone: 509-965-7100 or 1-800-246-2962 (toll-free)
Email: mpleger@ccyakima.org
Website: www.cfcsyakima.org
Service Area: Kittitas, Yakima, Franklin, Benton, Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla, and Asotin Counties
Description: Offer information/assistance, legal information, bi-monthly newsletters, referrals to support groups and limited financial assistance to qualifying families

Children's Home Society and Aging and Adult Care

Contact: Juanita Echelbarger, Facilitator
Phone: 509-886-9027
Email: jechelbarger38@aol.com
Website: www.chs-wa.org
Service area: Wenatchee/East Wenatchee and Chelan/Douglas Counties
Description: Offers support group, information/referral, newsletter, and family activities

Children's Home Society – Relatives Raising Children

Contact: Betsy Blake
Phone: 509-747-4174
Email: betsyb@chs-wa.org
Website: www.chs-wa.org
Service Area: Spokane
Description: Provides support groups, counseling, information, referrals, respite care and family activity days

Clark County Kinship Care Coalition

Contact: Tammy Bedlion
Phone: 360-695-1325, Extension 4214
Email: tammyb@chs-wa.gov
Website: <http://kinshipnavigator.org/whoWeAre.html>
Service area: Clark County
Description: Provide referrals and assistance, networking, advocacy, and financial assistance

Columbia Legal Services and the Northwest Justice Project

Contact: Columbia Legal Services
Phone: 206-464-5911
Contact: Northwest Justice Project CLEAR Line
Phone: 1-888-201-1014 or 1-888-387-7111 (toll-free)
Website: www.washingtonlawhelp.org
Service area: King County – Columbia Legal Services
All other counties – Northwest Justice Project
Description: Offers legal assistance and information/referral

Family Education and Support Services

Contact: Lynn Urvina, Kinship Navigator
Phone: 360-754-7629
Email: kinnavigator@qwestoffice.net
Website: <http://familyeducationandsupport.org/>
Service area: Lewis, Thurston, Mason Counties
Description: Offers support groups, case management, emergency financial aid, respite care, bilingual staff

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Northwest Washington Area Agency on Aging

Contact: Becky Bendixen, Coordinator, Northwest Regional Council
Phone: 360-676-6749
Email: bendire@dshs.wa.gov
Service area: Northwest Washington
Description: Offers senior information and assistance and tribal outreach coordinator

Kent Youth and Family Service

Contact: Kristie Lund
Phone: 206-371-6642
Email: jazzsma@yahoo.com
Website: www.kyfs.org
Service area: Kent area
Description: Offers Relatives as Parents project, monthly support groups, and information/referral

King County Kinship Collaboration – Senior Services

Contact: Barb Wiley, Coordinator
Phone: 206-268-6785
Email: barbaraw@seniorservices.org
Website: www.seniorservices.org
Service area: King County
Description: Collaboration which provides services to kinship care providers, educates the community on kinship issues, and improves access to existing resources

Kinship Care Solutions Project- King County Bar Association

Contact: Lawyer Referral Service
Phone: 206-267-7010 to request intake interview
Web: www.kcba.org/pbs/KC.aspx
Service area: King County
Description: Screens cases for referral to volunteer attorneys in non-parental custody cases; income eligibility requirement

Kinship Caregivers Support Program (KCSP)- Aging and Disability Services Administration

Phone: 1-800-422-3263 (toll-free)
Websites: www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare/
www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/kinship/countylist11_08.pdf
Service area: Statewide
Description: Offers financial support for caregivers not formally involved with the child welfare system. Contact your local Kinship Navigator (see above link)

Olympic Area Agency on Aging

Contacts: **East Clallam County:** Carolyn Lindley, 360-417-8554, lindlcl@dshs.wa.gov
East Jefferson County: Heaven Gregg, 360-385-2552, gregghm@dshs.wa.gov
West End of Jefferson and Clallam Counties: Susie Brandelius, 360-374-9496, brandcs@dshs.wa.gov
Website: www.o3a.org
Service Area: Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson and Pacific counties
Description: Provides kinship Care (help with money to meet the needs of the child(ren) in a relative care, information and telephone referrals and individual and group meetings)

Pierce County Relatives Raising Children – Pierce County Aging and Long Term Care

Contact: Rosalyn Alber, Program Coordinator
Phone: 253-565-4484 extension 105
Email: ralber@hopesparks.org
Website: www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/humsvcs/altc/adrc/kincare.htm
Service Area: Pierce County
Description: Provides support, education, advocacy, community service providers partnerships, referrals and resources

Washington State Kinship Oversight Committee

Contact:	Bob Partlow
Phone:	360-902-7986
Email:	pbob300@dshs.wa.gov
Service Area:	Statewide
Description:	Provides coalition of about 40 public and private kinship organizations, addresses issues facing kinship caregivers statewide and develops information and expands public awareness

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 May 2011 in Washington:

- 7,922 children were in out of home under the supervision of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Children’s Administration in May 2011.
- 2,751 were children with dependencies placed with relatives

Placement Policies

Washington state’s law and policy require that when an out-of-home placement is necessary, the preference is to place the child with relatives or “other suitable persons” (person with a pre-existing relationship with the child or family) as long as safety concerns and the best interest of the child are primary

Subsidized Guardianship

Washington State is implementing the federal Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP), which is referred to as Relative Guardianship Assistance Program (R-GAP). R-Gap supports permanency for children placed with a licensed relative when return home and adoption have been determined not in the child's best interest. R-GAP provides financial support to qualified relatives and the children in their care are no longer in foster care once guardianship has been assumed.

Foster Care and Relative/Kinship Care Contacts

Washington Foster Care/Kinship Care Program, Department of Social and Health Services, Children’s Administration

Bob Partlow

360-902-8063

Email: bob.partlow@dshs.wa.gov

Foster Parent Website: www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents

Kinship Care Website: www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare

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.

Washington TANF and Support Services

Department of Social and Health Services

1-877-501-2233 (toll-free)

www.dshs.wa.gov/onlinecso/TANF_Support_Services.shtml

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.

Washington Basic Food Program
Department of Social and Health Services
1-877-501-2233 (toll-free)
www.dshs.wa.gov/onlinecso/Food_Assistance_Program.shtml

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.

[Washington Apple Health for Kids](#)

1-800-562-3022 (toll-free)

Email: ASKMEDICAID@dshs.wa.gov

<http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov/AppleHealth>

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
[Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction](#)
360-725-6000
www.k12.wa.us

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:

- **Washington Special Education**, Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Kim Bahrenburg
360-725-6075
Email: kim.bahrenburg@k12.wa.us
www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/default.aspx
- **Washington Early Support for Infants and Toddlers**, Washington State Dept. of Early Learning, Early Intervention Services
1-866-482-4325 (toll-free)
www.del.wa.gov/development/esit
- **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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