

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.

Maryland

The Children

- 151,970 children under age 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives (11.3% of the children in the state.) (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
 - Of these, 112,017 live with grandparents who are the householders (8.3% of the children in the state) and 39,953 live with other relatives who are the householders (3% of the children in the state). (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
- 47,561 children live in homes with grandparent householders where grandparents are responsible for them*
 - Of these children, 16,314 have no parents present in the home.*

The Grandparents*

- 45,026 grandparents are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them. Of these:
 - 42% of the grandparents are White and not Hispanic, 48% are Black/African American, 3% are Asian, and 5% are Hispanic/Latino, and may be of any race.
 - 35% have no parents of the children present in the home.
 - 66% are under age 60.
 - 13% live in poverty.**
- 8,026 grandparents in Baltimore 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 Maryland

Baltimore Grandfamilies

Contact: Duane St. Clair
Phone: 410-381-4800
Email: duanestclair@gmail.com
Website: www.baltimoregrandfamilies.org
Service area: Baltimore area
Description: Support groups, database of local services, information and referral, newsletter, and conferences, workshops, and training for professionals

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Maryland

Contact: Natalie Meade, Director of Community Program Services
Phone: 410-243-4000, Extension 224
Email: nmeade@biglittle.org
Website: www.biglittle.org
Service area: Baltimore City, Central Maryland, Lower Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland
Description: Support groups, referrals, and individual counseling

Caregiver Support Program – Frederick County Department of Aging

Contact: Mindy Lohman-Hinz, Caregiver Program Coordinator
Phone: 301-600-6001
Email: mlohman@frederickcountymd.gov
Contact: Mary Collins, Caregiver Program Coordinator
Phone: 301-600-6001
Email: mcollins@frederickcountymd.gov
Website: www.fredrickcountymd.gov
Service area: Frederick County
Description: Database of local services, information/referral, education and training in coordination with other organizations, respite services, resource library, and supplemental services funds.

Family Tree

Contact: Carolyn Finney, Director of Programs and Services
Phone: 410-889-2300 or 1-800 243-7337 (toll-free)
Email: cfinney@familytreemd.org
Website: www.familytreemd.org
Service area: Baltimore metro area, central Maryland, Prince George County
Description: Education and support groups for grandparents raising children, guest speakers on topics such as financial assistance, advocacy, adoption, and substance abuse

Grandfamilies of America - Maryland

Contact: Pat Owens, President/ CEO
Phone: 301-358-3911 and 301-271-3720 (fax)
Email: owenspat@aol.com
Website: www.grandfamiliesofamerica.org
Service area: Statewide
Description: One-to one mentoring, consultation services, and kinship workshop presentations; home office of national Grandfamilies of America

Grandparent Family Connections – University of Maryland School of Social Work, Ruth H. Young Center for Families and Children

Contact: Frederick H. Streider, Ph.D. LCSW-C Program Director
Phone: 410-706-8716 or 410-706-3672
Email: fstrieder@sww.umaryland.edu
Website: www.family.umaryland.edu
Service area: Baltimore area
Description: In-home community based services, advocacy and assistance, individual, group and family counseling, and information and referral

Grandparents & Other Relative Caregivers – Family Matters

Contact: Annette Saunders
Phone: 443-386-9393
Email: annette.m.saunders@gmail.com
Service area: Baltimore
Description: Offers six monthly support groups and quarterly events

Grandparents as Parents of Howard County (GAP)

Contact: Valarie Harvey
Phone: 410-313-1918 or 410-313-CARE (2273)
Email: vharvey@howardcountymd.gov
Service area: Howard County
Description: Resource and referral information

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)

Eastern Shore – MAC Inc

Contact: Helen Johnson
Phone: 410-742-0505, Extension105
Email: hlj1@macinc.org
Web: www.macinc.org

Somerset County – Catholic Charities, Seton Center

Contact: Sister Diane Moore
Phone: 410-651-9608
Email: setoncenter@comcast.net
Description: Information and referral, counseling, direct services, outreach, advocacy, and educational enrichment programs; services vary by location

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.

As of December 31, 2010 in Maryland:

- 7,703 children/youth were in out-of-home care
- 618 of these children/youth were placed in relative foster care placements
- 1,528 of these children/youth were placed in formal kinship care placements

Placement Policies

Maryland requires that a relative be considered first when a child is at risk of removal or in out-of-home placement. Identified relatives are invited to participate in planning for the care and living arrangements of the child. The relatives are given information about child welfare rules, expectations, court involvement and available services. A relative caregiver must provide a safe environment for the child and meet all the state’s safety and home study screening requirements.

Subsidized Guardianship

Maryland is implementing the federal Guardianship Assistance Program, which provides limited ongoing financial support for children in custody who are placed in the care of relatives. The relatives must be willing to provide a permanent home and accept legal custody and guardianship for the child. The local department of social services recommends the eligible relative caregivers to the Court for custody and guardianship. Custody and guardianship is not transferable. Subsidy rates are negotiated based on the needs of the child. Annual reconsiderations are required to continue receiving the subsidy.

Contact: Sean Bloodsworth, Policy Analyst
410-767-7912
Email: SBloods2@dhr.state.md.us

Maryland Foster Care and Relative/Kinship Care Contacts

[Maryland Department of Human Resources, Social Services Administration](#)

Pamela Miller, Policy Analyst
410-767-7171

Email: pmiller@dhr.state.md.us

Maryland Kinship Care Fact Sheet: www.dhr.state.md.us/ssa/kinship/pdfs/kcf09.pdf
www.dhr.state.md.us/ssa/kinship

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.

Maryland Temporary Cash Assistance

Department of Human Resources

1-800-332-6347 (toll-free)

Email: fiahelp@dhr.state.md.us

www.dhr.state.md.us/fiaprograms/tca/index.php

Electronic application website: www.marylandsail.org

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.

Maryland Food Supplement Program

Department of Human Resources

1-800-332-6347 (toll-free)

fiahelp@dhr.state.md.us

www.dhr.state.md.us/fiaprograms/fstamp/index.php

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.

Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP)

Maryland Medical Programs
1-800-456-8900 (toll-free)
www.dhmf.state.md.us/mma/mchp

Maryland Medical Assistance Program for Families

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
410-767-6500 or 1-877-463-3464 (toll-free)
www.dhmf.state.md.us/ma4families/index.html

Maryland Medicaid

1-800-332-6347 (toll-free)
<http://dhmf.maryland.gov/mma/mmahome.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
Maryland State Department of Education
410-767-0600
www.marylandpublicschools.org

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:

- **Division of Special Education/ Early Intervention Services** – Maryland State Department of Education
410-767-0261 or 1- 800-535-0182 (toll-free)
www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/earlyinterv
- **Maryland Child Find** – Maryland State Department of Education
Early Childhood Intervention and Education
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
410-767-0261 or 1-800-535-0182 (toll-free)
Online County Directory:
www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/earlyinterv/infant_toddlers/directories/
- **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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