

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.

New York

The Children

- 439,654 children under age 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives (10.2% of the children in the state.) (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
 - Of these, 310,876 live with grandparents who are the householders (7.2% of the children in the state) and 128,778 live with other relatives who are the householders (3% of the children in the state). (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
- 131,207 children live in homes with grandparent householders where grandparents are responsible for them*
 - Of these children, 41,767 have no parents present in the home.*

The Grandparents*

- 129,522 grandparents are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them. Of these:
 - 37% of the grandparents are White and not Hispanic, 32% are Black/African American, 7% are Asian, and 24% are Hispanic/Latino, and may be of any race.
 - 29% have no parents of the children present in the home.
 - 62% are under age 60.
 - 22% live in poverty.**
- 68,082 grandparents in New York 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 New York

Brooklyn Grandparents' Coalition

Contact: Deborah Langosch, Coalition Chairperson
Phone: 212-632-4760
Email: dlangosch@jbfcs.org
Website: www.brooklyngrandparents.org
Service Area: Brooklyn
Description: Coalition of 12 agencies providing support and services. Offer educational forums, holiday parties and recreational events

Caregivers Support Services – Catholic Charities

Contact: Renée G. Benson, Executive Director
Phone: 518-449-2001
Email: RenéeB@ccalbany.org
Website: www.cccaregivers.org
Service Area: Albany, Rensselaer, and Schenectady Counties with consultation for people in surrounding counties
Description: Offers kinship care, support groups, youth programs, activities, and material support for special needs.

Catholic Charities of Buffalo Kinship Caregiver Program – New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Contacts: Jose Correa, 716-856-4494, Extension 332, jose.correa@ccwny.org
Kate Hacker, 716-218-1400, kate.hacker@ccwny.org
Website: www.ccwny.org
Service Area: Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Allegheny; Consultation available to residents of Wyoming, Orleans and Genesee Counties
Description: Offers information/referral. Case management offered in Cattaraugus County.

Catholic Family Center – Kinship Care Resource Network

Contact: Jennifer McDermott
Phone: 585-232-1840, Extension 40002
Email: jmcdermott@cfcrochester.org
Website: www.cfcrochester.org
Service Area: Greater Rochester Area
Description: Provides information/referral

Center on Addiction and the Family

Contacts: Kim Sumner-Mayer, 646-505-2063,
ksumner-mayer@phoenixhouse.org
Naomi Weinstein, 646-505-206, nweinstein@phoenixhouse.org

Website: www.coaf.org

Description: Offers various programs related to substance abuse in families, including Ties that Bind, Prenatal Toolkit, and Building Bridges)

Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country – Kinship Caregiver Program – New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Contact: Nancy Buckpitt, Kinship Program Coordinator

Phone: 518-561-4999

Email: kcp@primelink1.net

Service Area: Clinton and Franklin Counties

Description: Offers information/referral, advocacy, support groups, case management, financial assistance, and other services.

Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.

Contact: Bonnie Montalbano, Group Facilitator

Phone: 516-358-9250

Email: bmontalbano@childcarenassau.org

Service Area: Nassau County

Description: Offers information/referral

Community Place of Greater Rochester

Contact: Katy Allen

Phone: 585-288-002, Extension 161

Email: kallen-caballero@communityplace.org

Website: www.communityplace.org

Service Area: Rochester

Description: Offers information/referral, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companion Program, and other services.

Co-Op City Grandparent Connection- Jewish Association of Services for the Aged (JASA)

Contact: Hattie L. Lucas, MSW

Phone: 718-379-0433, Extension 3002

Email: hucas@jasa.org

Service Area: Co-Op City and surrounding area

Description: Offers information/referral, support groups, limited case management, respite and recreational activities, educational forum, and intergenerational activities

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Dutchess County

Contact: Nina Doyle, RAPP Coordinator

Phone: 845-677-8223, Extension 137

Email: nm62@cornell.edu

Service Area: Dutchess County

Description: Offers monthly support groups, respite events, mental health and legal services, workshops, support, and activities.

Cornell Cooperative Extension — Orange County

Contact: Brenda Reynolds, RAPP Coordinator
Phone: 845-344-1234
Email: br23@cornell.edu
Service Area: Orange County
Description: Offers information/referral, support groups, parenting series, legal consultation, counseling, and other services.

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Tioga County

Contact: Judy Wolf, Family Development Team Coordinator
Phone: 607-687-4020
Email: jrw19@cornell.edu
Service Area: Tioga County
Description: Offers information/referral, resource library, activities, and parenting series. Services also provided at Waverly Family Resource Center (607-565-2374) and Owego Family Resource Center (607-687-2374)

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Ulster

Contact: Jennifer Patterson
Phone: 845-340-3990, Extension 343
Email: jmp394@cornell.edu
Service Area: Ulster County
Description: Offers information/referral, support groups, parenting series, financial and legal information, workshops, and youth activities

Erie County Department of Senior Services

Phone: 716-858-8526
Email: caregiver@erie.gov
Service Area: Erie County
Description: Offers information/referral, legal advice, short-term counseling, and safety assessments for seniors

The Family Center

Contact: Marya Gilborn, Director of Social Services
Phone: 212-766-4522, extension 114
Email: mgilborn@thefamilycenter.org
Website: www.thefamilycenter.org
Service Area: Family Center sites in Manhattan and Bedford Stuyvesant
Home-based services in all five boroughs
Description: Offers information/referral and other services

Family Resource Center of Crestwood

Contact: Linda James, Program Coordinator
Phone: 585-436-0370, Extension 302
Email: ljames@hillside.com
Service Area: Rochester
Description: Offers information/referral, workshops, benefits assistance, mentor home visits, and advocacy. SKIP Generations offers three educational/support groups.

Grandparents Empowerment Movement – Steinway Child and Family Services

Contact: Mary D. Redd, Pres/CEO of Steinway Child and Family Services
Phone: 718-389-5100
Email: marydredd@steinway.org
Service Area: Greater Harlem
Description: Offers information/referral, case management, workshops, counseling, advocacy, respite, and other services

Grandparent Caregiver Program – Brooklyn – Fort Green Strategic Neighborhood Action Partnership (SNAP)

Contact: Georgianna Glose
Phone: 718-694-6957
Email: drglose@fortgreenesnap.org
Website: www.fortgreenesnap.org
Service Area: Clinton Hill, Farragut, Fulton Ferry, Pratt Area, Vinegar Hill, and Fort Green
Description: Offers information/referral, support groups, activities, and computer access

Grandparents Coalition – Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services

Contact: Corina DeLeón
Phone: 914-813-6393
Email: cdd2@westchestergov.com
Service Area: Westchester County
Description: Offers information/referral, support groups, counseling, advocacy workshops, activities, and other services. Serves ages 55+.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Oswego – State Office of Mental Health in Syracuse

Contact: Peggy Cuyler Salem, Families with Attention Deficit Disorder
Phone: 315-216-6425
Email: peggy@faddhouse.com
Website: www.faddhouse.com
Service Area: Oswego County and surrounding area
Description: Offers information/referral, support groups with on-site childcare, and Facebook group

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program – Steuben County – Office for the Aging

Contact: Patty Baroody
Phone: 607-664-2298
Email: pattyb@co.steuben.ny.us
Website: www.steubencony.org/ofa
Service Area: Steuben County
Description: Offers information/referral via phone, in person, and email, workshops, and legislative advocacy

Kinship Caregiver Law Project – MFY Legal Services, Inc.

Contacts: Ramonita Cordero, Supervising Attorney (Spanish-speaking), 212-417-3774, rcordero@mfy.org
Amy Roehl, Staff Attorney, 212-417-3743, aroehl@mfy.org

Service Area: New York City (All 5 Boroughs)

Description: Offers legal assistance in Family Court proceedings, advice and counsel, information/referral, direct representation, education, benefits assistance, and other services

Kinship Care Program (KCP) – Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services

Contact: Deborah Langosch, Project Director

Phone: 212-632-4760

Email: dlangosch@jbfcs.org

Service Area: Brooklyn

Description: Offers case management, advocacy, support groups, workshops, counseling, and informational forums.

Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT) Legal Information Hotline

Phone: 212-343-1122

Website: LIFT: www.LIFTonline.org
Support Group: www.liftonline.org/pdf/CaregiversSupportGroup.pdf

Service Area: New York City

Description: Offers free Bilingual (English/Spanish) Legal Information Hotline for information/referral, online multi-lingual legal resource guides, support group, and Family Legal Center for individual assistance

Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center

Contact: Wendy Golub

Phone: 212-874-0860, Extension 109

Email: wgolub_lsnc@yahoo.com

Website: www.lsncny.org

Service Area: Upper West Side New York City

Description: Offers information/referral, educational advocacy, child care programs, Spanish-speaking support group, and other services for seniors

New York City Department for the Aging – Grandparent Resource Center

Contact: Giovana Montalvo Baer, Director

Phone: 212-442-1192

Email: gbaer@aging.nyc.gov

Service Area: New York City

Description: Offers information/referral, case assistance, support groups, training, education forums, workshops, free publications, and multi-lingual staff (English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese- Mandarin & Cantonese)

New York Kinship Navigator Program – State Office of Children and Family Services and Rochester Catholic Family Center

Phone: 1-877-454-6463 (toll-free)
Website: www.nysnavigator.org
Email: navigator@nysnavigator.org
Service Area: Statewide
Description: Offers information/referral, fact sheets, county guides, news, events, and guide to applying for public assistance

New York Legal Assistance Group

Phone: 212-613-5000
Website: www.nylag.org
Service Area: New York City metro area – all five boroughs
Description: Offers assistance with Family Court proceedings (custody, visitation); Family issues hours: Tuesday and Friday 9am-3pm

New York State Kincare Coalition – AARP New York

Phone: 1-877-454-6463 (toll-free)
Email: NYKincarecoalition@aarp.org
Service Area: Statewide
Description: Coalition provides advocacy, networking, and education

New York State Office for the Aging

Phone: 1-800-342-9871 (toll-free)
Email: nysofa@ofa.state.ny.us
Website: <http://aging.state.ny.gov/caregiving/index.cfm>
Service Area: Statewide
Description: Offers support services through local offices and other agencies, advocacy, and online resources

New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

Phone: 518-473-7793
Website: www.ocfs.state.ny.us/kinship/default.asp
Service Area: Statewide
Description: Offers Kinship Navigator Program (see above) and online resources

Presbyterian Senior Service Kinship Caregivers Program – New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Contacts: Michele Chapple, Director, 718-620-1262, Extension 1212, mchapple@pssusa.org
Lysha Tejada (Spanish-speaking), 718-620-1262, Extension 1213, ltejada@pssusa.org
Service Area: Bronx County
Description: Offers support groups in English and Spanish, workshops, legal consultation, information/referral, and youth programs

Southampton Town Department of Human Services- Division of Senior Services and the Southampton Youth Bureau

Contact: Tracy Kolsin, LCSW
Phone: 631-702-2421
Email: tkolsin@southamptontownny.gov
Service Area: Southampton Township
Description: Offers information/referral, support group with childcare provided, case management, and help accessing financial aid

Tompkins County Office for the Aging, Inc.

Contact: David Stoyell
Phone: 607-274-5492
Email: dstoyell@tomkins-co.org
Website: www.tomkins-co.org/cofa/GatewaytoSeniorServices.htm
Service Area: Tompkins County
Description: Offers resource guide (online or hard copy) and referral to support group

Volunteer Counseling Services of Rockland County, Inc.

Phone: 845-634-5729
Email: rserranodelgado@VCS-inc.org
Service Area: Rockland County
Description: Offers counseling, respite, support groups, occasional financial assistance, and information/referral.

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 December 2010 in New York:

- 23,117 children/youth in out-of-home placement under supervision of New York Office of Children and Family Services
- 12,825 of these children/youth were placed in foster care with certified foster parents, and 5,873 children/youth were in foster care with approved relative/kinship foster parents. The remainder were in other setting such as group homes and institutions.

Placement Policies

- State law requires that kin be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under the care of the state.
- No separate licensing program for kinship foster parents. Kin have to meet the same licensing standards and receive the same foster care payment rate as non-kin foster parents.

Subsidized Guardianship

New York has a federally approved Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP) as of April 1, 2011. KinGAP 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. For more information visit

www.ocfs.state.ny.us/kinship/kingap.asp

Foster Care and Relative/Kinship Care Contacts

NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Michelle Rafael, Director, Policy Analysis

518-474-4352

michelle.rafael@ocfs.state.ny.us

www.ocfs.state.ny.us

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.

New York Temporary Assistance Program (Family Assistance and Safety Net Assistance)

Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

1-800-342-3009 (toll-free)

www.otda.state.ny.us/programs/temporary-assistance

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.

New York Food Stamp (FS) Program

Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance

1-800-342-3009 (toll-free)

www.otda.state.ny.us/programs/food-stamps

www.mybenefits.ny.gov

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.

New York Child Health Plus

Department of Health

1-800-698-4KIDS (1-800-698-4543 toll-free)

chplus@health.state.ny.us

www.nyhealth.gov/nysdoh/chplus/index.htm

New York Medicaid

Department of Health

1-800-342-3009 (toll-free)

Email: Medicaid@health.state.ny.us

www.nyhealth.gov/health_care/medicaid

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
New York State Education Department
Office of P-12 Education
518-474-3852
Email: NYSEDP12@mail.nysed.gov
www.p12.nysed.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:

- **New York State Office of Special Education**, New York State Education Department
518-473-2878
www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed

- **Early Childhood Directions Centers (ECDC)**, New York State Office of Special Education, Office of P-12 Education – Information about services for children ages birth through five, who have physical, mental, or emotional disabilities and help for families to obtain services for their children.
Online Directory: www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/ecdc/locations.htm
www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/ecdc/home.html
- **New York State Early Intervention Program**, New York Department of Health – Services for children under age 3 with disability or developmental delays, including physical, cognitive, communication, social-emotional, and/or adaptive.
518-473-7016
Email: bei@health.state.ny.us
www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/index.htm
- **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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