The GrandFacts state fact sheets for grandfamilies include state-specific data and programs as well as information about public benefits, educational assistance, legal relationship options and state laws. Visit www.grandfamilies.org to find this and all GrandFacts state fact sheets.

New York

The Children
- 121,000 (3%) children live with a relative with no parent present.
- 426,743 (10.1%) children under 18 live in homes where householders are grandparents or other relatives.
  - 312,663 (7.4%) of these children live with grandparents.
  - 114,080 (2.7%) of these children live with other relatives.

The Grandparents
- 126,865 grandparents are householders responsible for their grandchildren who live with them. Of these:
  - 30,282 (23.9%) do not have parents present.
  - 74,716 (58.9%) are under age 60.
  - 70,410 (55.5%) are in the workforce.
  - 29,306 (23.1%) are in poverty.
  - 27,903 (22.0%) have a disability.
  - 43,768 (34.5%) are unmarried.
  - Race/Ethnicity:
    - 45,291 (35.7%) are white (not Hispanic or Latino)
    - 35,015 (27.6%) are black or African American
    - 33,619 (26.5%) are Hispanic or Latino origin
    - 11,798 (9.3%) are Asian
    - 888 (0.7%) are American Indian or Alaska Native
    - 0 (0.0%) are Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
    - 3,552 (2.8%) are multiracial
    - 17,507 (13.8%) are some other race
Children in Kinship Foster Care
For data on children in kinship care within the child welfare system, see the Child Trends fact sheet for New York.
www.childtrends.org

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.

Key Programs in New York

**Catholic Charities of Buffalo - Kinship Caregiver Program**
- Website: www.ccwny.org
- Phone: 716-372-0101
- Service Area: Cattaraugus
- Description: Support groups for kinship caregivers and children, outreach, advocacy, case management, assessment and referral to family counseling, parenting education, and referral and linkage.

**Catholic Charities of Buffalo - Preventive Services Kinship Program**
- Website: www.ccwny.org
- Phone: 716-218-1400
- Service Area: Erie County
- Description: Serves Erie County families involved with the child welfare system. Conducts home visits to observe family interactions and provide referrals, as well as offer counseling and support for caregivers and biological parents, including filing for benefits and petitions in family court. All families must be referred through the Erie County Department of Social Services.

**Catholic Family Center – Kinship Integrative Network (KIN Program)**
- Website: www.cfcrochester.org
- Contact: Cheryl Moeller, LMSW
- Phone: 585-546-7220 x 4818
- Email: cmoeller@cfcrochester.org
- Service Area: Monroe County
- Description: Information, referral, help obtaining financial assistance, parenting groups, support group and quarterly fun activities.
Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country/ Family Connections Resource Center, New York State
Office of Children and Family Services - Kinship Caregiver Program
Website: www.cccnc.org/kinship.html
Phone: 518-561-4999 x103 or 1-800-540-2273 (toll-free)
Service Area: Clinton and Franklin Counties
Description: Information and referral, advocacy, developmental screenings for children ages birth to 5, court mandated supervised visitation, playgroups, support groups, car seat technicians, the Special Education Parent Network, respite activities for children and families, financial assistance, and other services.

Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.
Website: www.childcarenassau.org/home.aspx
Phone: 516-358-9250
Service Area: Nassau County
Description: Information and referral.

Community Place of Greater Rochester
Website: www.communityplace.org
Phone: 585-288-0021
Service Area: Rochester
Description: Information and referral, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companion Program, and other services.

Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dutchess County – Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP)
Website: http://ccedutchess.org/family/relatives-as-parents-program
Phone: 845-677-8223
Email: dutchess@cornell.edu
Service Area: Dutchess County
Description: Monthly support groups, respite events, mental health and legal services, workshops, support, and intergenerational activities.

Cornell Cooperative Extension, Orange County - Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)
Website: http://cceorangecounty.org/family/parenting-and-family-life/relatives-as-parents-program-rapp
Phone: 845-344-1234
Email: orange@cornell.edu
Service Area: Orange County
Description: Information and referral, support groups, parenting series, legal consultation, counseling, and other services.
Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tioga County
Website: http://tioga.cce.cornell.edu/family/family-resource-centers-frc
Phone: 607-687-4020
Email: tioga@cornell.edu
Service Area: Tioga County
Description: Information and skills to help with the challenges of parenting. Find resources and meet other families to help support you.

Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ulster County – Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP)
Website: http://ulster.cce.cornell.edu
Phone: 845-340-3990
Email: ulster@cornell.edu
Service Area: Ulster County
Description: Education, training to learn new parenting and coping skills, mutual peer support groups, intergenerational activities, respite, referrals and access to community based services and resources.

The Family Center
Website: www.thefamilycenter.org/what-we-do/family-support-services/family-ties/
Phone: 718-230-1379 or 1-800-219-4522 (toll-free)
Service Area: Family Center sites in Manhattan and Bedford Stuyvesant Home-based services in all five boroughs
Description: Counseling, permanency plans, case management and advocacy, legal assistance, parenting groups and support specialized for grandparent caregivers, and recreational activities for families. Services available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.

Family Forever! Adoptive and Kinship Families of the North Country Permanency Resource Centers, New York State Office of Children and Family Services - Kinship Caregiver Program
Website: www.ccccnc.org
Phone: 518-561-4999 x103 or 800-540-2273 (toll free)
Email: juliettelych12901@gmail.com
Service Area: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and St. Lawrence Counties
Description: A variety of services to post adoptive, kinship, and legal guardianship families, including information and referral, advocacy, respite care, support groups, educational workshops, youth programs, and needs based assistance.
Family Resource Centers of Hillside Children’s Center and Monroe County Office of the Aging – Skip Generations Program
Website:  www.hillside.com/family-forum/kinship-care-parenting-again/  
Phone:  585-256-7500  
Email:  info@hillside.com  
Service Area:  Rochester  
Description:  Support group, information, education and other services.

Fort Green Strategic Neighborhood Action Partnership (SNAP) – Grandparent Caregiver Program
Website:  www.fortgreenesnap.org  
Phone:  718-694-6957  
Service Area:  Clinton Hill, Farragut, Fulton Ferry, Pratt Area, Vinegar Hill, and Fort Green  
Description:  SNAP collaborates with 3 neighborhood public elementary schools in conducting grandparent caregiver support groups during the school year. Caregivers meet with volunteer facilitators to discuss the challenges of parenting the second time around, and to get help and advocacy in dealing with schools and government resources.

Fulton County Office for the Aging & Youth Grandparents - KinCare Support Group
Website:  www.fcofa.org/  
Phone:  518-736-5650  
Email:  fcofa@co.fulton.ny.us  
Service Area:  Fulton County  
Description:  Support group and other resources.

Jewish Association for the Aged Grandparent Connection Program
Phone:  718-320-2066 x2066  
Service Area:  Bronx, NYC  
Description:  Support groups, youth programs, and activities.

Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services - Kinship Care Program (KCP)
Website:  https://jewishboard.org/how-we-can-help/family-services/  
Phone:  212-582-9100  
Email:  hello@jbfcs.org  
Service Area:  Brooklyn  
Description:  Emotional support, case management, advocacy and legal liaison for relative caregivers, support group, short-term counseling, assistance with financial, medical, and educational entitlements, a kin caregiver psycho-educational training using the PASTA (Parenting A Second Time Around) curriculum, onsite legal assistance, and monthly forums focusing on relevant topics. All caregivers of any age are eligible to participate in the KCP.
Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT) - Legal Information Hotline
Website:  www.LIFTonline.org
Phone:  212-343-1122
Email:  www.liftonline.org/programs/hotlines/secure-email-hotline
Service Area:  New York City
Description:  Free bilingual (English/Spanish) Legal Information Hotline for information and referral.

Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center
Website:  www.lsncny.org
Phone:  212-874-0860
Email:  joanne.gray@lsncny.org
Service Area:  Upper West Side New York City
Description:  Information and referral, educational advocacy, child care programs, Spanish-speaking support group, and other services for seniors.

MFY Legal Services, Inc. - Kinship Caregiver Law Project
Website:  www.mfy.org/projects/kinship-caregiver-law-project/
Phone:  212-417-3850 (Wed & Fri), 212-417-3700 (Mon-Fri)
Email:  info@mfy.org
Service Area:  New York City (all 5 Boroughs)
Description:  Representation in legal custody, guardianship and adoption matters, access to public benefits, and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status cases. The Project also represents caregivers in Family Court and administrative proceedings aimed at preventing a child’s entry into the traditional foster care system.

New York City Department for the Aging – Grandparent Resource Center
Phone:  311
Service Area:  New York City (all 5 boroughs)
Description:  Information and referral, case assistance, support groups, training, education forums, workshops, free publications, and multi-lingual staff (English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese-Mandarin & Cantonese).

New York Legal Assistance Group
Website:  www.nylag.org
Phone:  212-613-5000
Email:  info@nylag.org
Service Area:  New York City (all five boroughs)
Description:  Assistance with family court proceedings (custody, visitation). Family issues hours: Tuesday and Friday 9 AM to 3 PM.
New York State Kinship Navigator Program
Website: www.nysnavigator.org
Phone: 1-877-454-6463 (toll-free) or TTY: New York Relay 711 or 1-800-421-1220 (toll-free)
Email: navigator@nysnavigator.org
Service Area: Statewide
Description: Information and referral, fact sheets, county guides, news, events, and guide for applying for public assistance.

Presbyterian Senior Service Kinship Caregivers Program and Grandparent Family Apartments
Website: http://pssusa.org/
Phone: 212-874-6633
Email: office@pssusa.org
Service Area: Bronx County
Description: Support groups in English and Spanish, workshops, legal consultation, information and referral, and youth programs. Also the service provider at Grandparent Family Apartments, which is affordable housing with services onsite.

Southampton Town Department of Human Services, Division of Senior Services and the Southampton Youth Bureau
Website: http://southamptontownny.gov/150/Senior-Services
Phone: 631-728-1235
Service Area: Southampton Township
Description: Information and referral, support group with childcare provided, case management, and help accessing financial aid.

Steuben County Office for the Aging - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program
Website: www.steubencony.org/ofa
Phone: 607-664-2298
Email: ofainfo@co.steuben.ny.us
Service Area: Steuben County
Description: Information and referral, workshops, and legislative advocacy.

Volunteer Counseling Services of Rockland County, Inc.
Website: www.vcs-inc.org/
Phone: 845-634-5729
Service Area: Rockland County
Description: Counseling, respite, support groups, occasional financial assistance, and information and referral.
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 guardianship or legal custody. Relative caregivers may become eligible for benefits programs when their household size increases.

Help with Public Benefits

AARP Foundation’s Benefits QuickLink

Benefits QuickLINK, powered by BenefitsCheckUp of the National Council on Aging, offers a free and private way to complete a questionnaire to find out if relatives and/or the children they are raising qualify for certain programs that pay for food, increase income and cover home and healthcare costs. The specific programs covered by the questionnaire in the website are listed below. Once the questionnaire is completed, the website generates a list of eligible programs and contact information.

www.aarp.org/quicklink

Benefits.gov

An official website of the federal government, this resource has state specific information on benefits, in addition to a screening tool to find out which programs you may be eligible to receive.

www.benefits.gov

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**
Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
1-800-342-3009 (toll-free)
www.otda.state.ny.us/programs/temporary-assistance
To apply online – Go to https://mybenefits.ny.gov

**Generations United’s Grand Resources:**
A Fact Sheet for Grandparent and Relative Caregivers to Help Access Support through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program
www.gu.org/RESOURCES.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. Your grandchild may also qualify for benefits based on your work record. 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)
https://secure.ssa.gov/

Key Public Benefits: 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
To apply online – Go to https://mybenefits.ny.gov

**Food and Nutrition Services of the U.S. 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, center or program to ask if they participate in any of the child nutrition programs and 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.

**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/wic-contacts

**Foodbanks**
Organizations that provide free food and sometimes other items, such as diapers, to families in need.

**Online State Directory** - To find local food banks.
www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx

**Key Public Benefits: Health Care**
Relative caregivers and the children they are raising may be eligible for health insurance through Medicare and/or Medicaid and help with prescription drugs. **Benefits QuickLINK** can help you find these benefits.
www.aarp.org/quicklink

**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 Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides health coverage to eligible children through both Medicaid and separate CHIP programs. CHIP and Medicaid are the national names, and your state may use different names.
Consent to Obtain Health Care
Even with insurance, consenting to health care for a child can be a challenge for relative caregivers who do not have legal custody. Some states have laws that allow these caregivers to “consent” to such treatment.

Grandfamilies.org Online Database - To see if your state has such a law.
www.grandfamilies.org/Search-Laws

Key Public Benefits: Tax Credits
The following information is about tax credits from the federal government available throughout the United States. Similar tax credits may exist in your state for state taxes. For example, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), 26 states and the District of Columbia offer a state tax credit based on the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and four states offer a Child Tax Credit. See CBPP’s “Get it Back Campaign” for more information on state tax credits.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is an income tax credit for workers who do not have high incomes. It is a refundable tax credit, which means you could get a refund check from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) even if you don't earn enough to pay taxes.

Child Tax Credit is a tax credit for up to $1,000 per dependent child. But, it is not refundable.

Additional Child Tax Credit may help if you don’t owe enough taxes to benefit from the child tax credit. Unlike the child tax credit, this tax credit is refundable.

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit may help you if you’ve hired someone to help care for the child so you could work or look for work. If so, you may be able to claim up to $3,000 in expenses per child.

Adoption Tax Credit can help if you have adopted your grandchild or other relative. It can give you a credit for the money you spent to adopt. If you adopted a child from the foster care system with special needs, you may be eligible for the maximum amount of credit for the year you adopted regardless of whether you had any
qualifying expenses. If you did not adopt from the foster care system, you must have qualifying expenses like legal fees. This tax credit allows adoptive parents to claim up to $13,460 per child.

Please note that tax credits themselves are not counted as income. They will not be counted when you apply for financial help.

Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) – To find out about tax credits in your state.
www.cbpp.org

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) – To find out more information about each of these tax credits
www.irs.gov

Education
The 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

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 without legal custody or guardianship to enroll the children they are raising in school. These laws are often called education “consent” laws, but they may be called something else in your state.

Grandfamilies.org Online Database - To find out if your state has an education consent law.
www.grandfamilies.org/Search-Laws

Early Intervention, Special Education and Related Services
The Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - From birth to age 21, children who have learning disabilities, physical disabilities or other special needs may be able to get early intervention, preschool and special education services in school through the federal IDEA. Services may include speech, physical and occupational therapies.
The IDEA requires that states identify, locate and evaluate all children ages 3 to 21 with disabilities who may need special education and related services. Once the evaluation team, which includes a child’s caregivers, has decided if a child is eligible for early intervention, preschool or special education services, an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP; birth to three years of age) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP; three to 21 years of age) is developed and services should begin shortly.

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

**Early Childhood Directions Centers (ECDC)**
New York State Office of Special Education,

**New York State Early Intervention Program**
New York Department of Health
518-473-7016
Email: bei@health.state.ny.us

**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.
www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/

**Generations United’s Grand Resources:**
A Grandparent’s and Other Relative’s Guide to Raising Children with Disabilities
www.gu.org/RESOURCES.aspx

**Early Childhood Education**

**Head Start** and **Early Head Start** are 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)
www.eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/HeadStartOffices

**Child Care Aware** provides information, resources and connection to local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&R) that help you find local child care.
**Online Directory** - To find your local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency.
1- 800-424-2246 (toll-free)
www.childcareaware.org/families/
Legal

The following legal relationships may be options for both those children exiting the foster care system and those outside the system. For those families who do not want to establish a legal relationship, consent and power of attorney laws are available in several states.

All of the following options are presented in general terms. This area of the law is created at the state level, so how these options are defined and which ones are available can vary significantly by state.

Adoption

With adoption, the relative caregiver becomes the parent in the eyes of the law. This fact makes access to services on behalf of the child the same as for any parent. Adoption ends all of the birth parents’ rights and responsibilities, which means that birth parents cannot go to court later and reclaim those rights and responsibilities.

Adoption assistance payments may be available to relative caregivers who choose to adopt children in their care from the child welfare system.

North American Council on Adoptable Children - To get information about your state’s subsidy, in addition to other adoption information.
www.nacac.org

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption - To find adoption resources that may be helpful to you.
www.davethomasfoundation.org

Guardianship

The biggest difference between adoption and guardianship is that guardianship does not take away all the birth parents’ rights and responsibilities. Parents typically keep certain rights and the obligation to financially support the child. Unlike adoption, the parents can go back to court and ask for the guardianship to be ended. For caregivers, a guardianship allows them to access services on behalf of the child that otherwise might prove impossible while not changing family relationships, like making grandma legally mom.

Guardianship assistance payments may be available to relative caregivers who choose to get guardianship of the children in their care who are exiting the child welfare system.

www.grandfamilies.org - To find out more about whether your state has guardianship assistance.

Legal Custody

Legal custody is similar to guardianship, but it is usually granted by a different court that has different procedures.
Other Options

In some states, relative caregivers who do not want or have a legal relationship to the children in their care have laws that make it possible to access health care treatment and educational services on behalf of the children without going to court.

For more information on all these options, and to see what exists in your state, see www.grandfamilies.org.

State Laws

Grandfamilies.org is a collaboration between Generations United, the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law and Casey Family Programs. It contains an easy-to-use, searchable database of state laws and legislation directly impacting kinship families. You will also find explanations of legal topic areas, practical implementation ideas, personal stories and many other resources.

Topics Covered:

- Adoption
- Care and Custody
- Education
- Federal Laws
- Foster Care Licensing
- Financial Assistance
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Kinship Navigator Programs
- National Family Caregiver Support Program
- Notification of Relatives
- Subsidized Guardianship

The online database of laws and legislation is at www.grandfamilies.org/Search-Laws.

Updates

If you have an update or a resource to be included in this or any of the other GrandFacts State Fact Sheets, please email grandfamilies@gu.org.

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