

Relatives Raising Children

We're here to help!

You may be a grandmother, grandfather, aunt or uncle raising a child in place of the parents. You are taking responsibility for the child because the parents are unable or unwilling to do so. **You are a family caregiver and you are not alone!**

The Family Caregiver Support Program provides valuable resources for relatives age 55+ who are raising children 18 and under or with severe disabilities. The program includes:

- **Caregiver Resource Centers** give information about available services. The Centers assess your situation and help connect you to programs to assist you.
- **Alternatives to get a break from caring for the children called Respite Services:** includes options at home or in another location.
- **Options to obtain support in unforeseen circumstances called Gap-Filling Services:** covers a variety of items to assist you.
- **Legal Services** to help you assume care of the children.
- **Caregiver Counseling Centers** to coach/counsel you through troubling times, such as how to understand raising a special needs child.
- **Training and education** to assist you to take care of yourself or to learn "how-to" care giving skills to aid your grandchild.
- **Support groups** to share experiences and to understand that you are not alone.



Caregiver Support Programs are available in the eight counties the Area Agency serves: DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will. If you would like further details about the Caregiver Support Program or services for older adults, contact the AgeGuide at (800) 528-2000 (toll-free in Illinois).

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