# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program

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**Overview**

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) program offers a comprehensive array of support services to grandparents and other relative caregivers who are the primary custodial caregiver of a relative child. The GRG program plans and delivers services and support that are guided by family-centered practice principles, cultural competencies, and sensitivity to complex family issues.

Support begins with fully informing the caregivers of GRG services, assessing their strengths and needs, and then working with them to identify resources and training that can help meet those needs. GRG staff and families create a service plan to help strengthen the caregivers' capacity to provide a safe, nurturing home and to help achieve permanency for the child.

Additionally, the program provides support to assist the caregiver in meeting the unique needs of the children in their care.

**The services provided are designed to:**

- Increase access to and utilization of community-based supports and services.
- Promote permanency and child well-being by supporting early and stable relative placements.
- Improve the educational, physical, and mental health of children.
- Prevent children from going into or re-entering foster care by increasing caretaker capacity and family functioning.

**The program's target population:**

- Families where the primary custodial care for the child has been assumed by a grandparent or other relative caregiver.

**Eligibility:**

- The caregiver must reside in one of the following counties: Clarke, Oconee, Jackson, Madison, Walton, or Barrow County.
- The caregiver is the sole provider for the child in their care.
- The biological parents of the child do not live in the home.

If you are a relative caregiver and would like to learn about the services we provide, please contact the GRG Program at **706-549-4850.** For more information about the GRG Program or the Athens Community Council on Aging, visit www.accaging.org.

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## GRG Program Services

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| **Family Assessments & Reassessments** | Assessments are a tool that allows program staff and families to gather information regarding the strengths and needs of the family. The information is then used to develop an individual service plan for the family that outlines family-specific service needs, goals, and priorities. |
| **Caregiver Support Groups** | Supports groups are offered to help caregivers develop support systems and promote a sense of community among other relative caregivers. The GRG Program currently offers two support groups with in-person and virtual options. Please call for more information about GRG's support groups! |
| **Information and Referral Services** | Assistance in identifying and accessing community-based resources such as SNAP, TANF, clothing assistance, emergency aid, food, legal aid, academic supports, mental health counseling, developmental screenings, and more. |
| **Parent Education Workshops** | Trainings to assist caregivers with further developing their parenting and communication skills. Parenting information is available during group workshops as well as on an individual basis. |
| **Health Screenings** | GRG's LPN provides health screenings and monitoring through phone calls, home visits, or at group meetings to help caregivers and children address health-related problems. |
| **Family Activities** | Quarterly group activities are held for both caregivers and children to help promote a sense of community with other kinship families. Group activities vary but often include bowling, family fun centers, art programs, sports, and other seasonal events such as a back-to-school bash and holiday party. |
| **Child Respite** | Quarterly fun events for the children in the program. These events are designed to provide caregivers time away from the children while allowing the children to participate in a fun activity with their peers. |
| **Transportation Services** | Transportation and $10 gas stipends can be requested to help with transportation costs to attend GRG events and access community resources. |
| **Emergency Assistance** | Emergency financial assistance to help meet critical basic needs of families such as food, personal care items, rent and utility costs, and clothing. This is not intended as long-term support and can only be offered on a limited basis. |
| **Advocacy Services** | Advocating for the rights, decisions, strengths, and needs of family and promoting client access to resources, supports, and services. |
| **Academic Supports** | Individual tutoring and educational groups to help promote the children's academic achievement. |
| **Recreational Scholarships** | Child enrichment scholarships are available to help promote child participation in safe, fun, and educational activities such as summer camps, music lessons, after school programs, and more. The scholarships can help with registration fees or costs of uniforms, costumes, or other equipment needed to participate. |
| **Diapers** | Diapers and pull-ups are available to families through the ACCA's partnership with the Athens Area Diaper Bank. Diapers can be requested once a month. |

**These services are available to families enrolled in the GRG Program at the Athens Community Council on Aging. For more information, please call the GRG Program at 706-549-4850.**