

Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Resources for Consumers and Professionals

Prepared by

The Administration for Community Living

In coordination with

The Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



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Introduction

The Congressionally mandated Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (the Advisory Council) spent two years understanding how to better support kinship families and grandfamilies. Even though they are professionals working in the child advocacy field and grandparents raising children themselves, they talked to the experts and they listened to focus groups. They also launched a formal Request for Information (RFI) that yielded over 1,900 comments from more than 300 respondents across the nation.

To identify and document the breadth of emerging best practices to support kin and grandparent caregivers, the Advisory Council launched a series of ad hoc work groups in October 2020. These work groups reviewed and vetted best practices, resources, and other useful information about kinship families and grandfamilies submitted through the RFI.

The RFI specifically sought information, resources, programs, and/or best practices to help kin and grandparent caregivers meet the diverse needs of the children in their care, along with similar resources to help them maintain their own physical and mental health, as well as their emotional and financial well-being. Respondents provided 337 recommended resources. These included 201 state or national programs, 78 publications, 39 research articles, 13 books, and six videos. Members of the Advisory Council formed a workgroup to review these materials and develop resource lists to share with other kin and grandparent caregivers. The workgroup, led by Charlotte Stephenson, reviewed the submitted materials in detail to determine to what extent each resource could be of value to a wide variety of kinship family and grandfamily stakeholders, including policymakers.

The result of that effort is this document, which includes a list of resources and best practices for kinship families and grandfamilies (i.e., consumers) and the professionals who support them.

Consumer Resources

Books

Grandparents as Parents: A Survival Guide for Raising a Second Family

Toledo, Sylvie De, *Grandparents as Parents, Second Edition: A Survival Guide for Raising a Second Family*. New York: Guilford Publications, Incorporated, 2013.

How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk

Faber, Adele and Mazlish, Elaine, *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk*. New York: Avon Books, 1980. (Later versions also available)

Mama Bear, Baby Bear: A Native American Lore

Silvas, Linda, *Mama Bear, Baby Bear: A Native American Lore*. AuthorHouse, 2005.

Parenting with Wit and Wisdom in Times of Chaos and Loss

Coloroso, Barbara, *Parenting with Wit and Wisdom in Times of Chaos and Loss*. Toronto: Penguin Books Canada, 1999.

Raising Black Children

Comer, James and Poussaint, Alvin Francis, *Raising Black Children: Two Leading Psychiatrists Confront the Educational, Social, and Emotional Problems Facing Black Children*. New York: Penguin Books, 1992.

Raising Our Children's Children

Doucette-Dudman, Deborah and LaCure, Jeffrey R., *Raising Our Children's Children: Room in the Heart*. United Kingdom: Taylor Trade Publishing, 2014.

Robert Lives with His Grandparents

Hickman, Martha Whitmore, *Robert Lives with His Grandparents*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman and Company, 1995.

Second Time Around: Help for Grandparents Who Raise Their Children's Kids

Callander, Joan, *Second Time Around: Help for Grandparents Who Raise Their Children's Kids*. Wilsonville, OR: BookPartners, 1999.

School-Age Parents: The Challenge of Three Generation Living

Lindsay, Jeanne Warren, *School-Age Parents: The Challenge of Three Generation Living*. Buena Park, CA: Glory Press, 1990.

The Grandparent Guide: The Definitive Guide to Coping with the Challenges of Modern Grandparenting

Kornhaber, Arthur, *The Grandparent Guide: The Definitive Guide to Coping with the Challenges of Modern Grandparenting*. New York: McGraw Hill/Contemporary Books, 2002.

The Magic Box: When Parents Can't Be There to Tuck You In

Sederman, Marty and Epstein, Seymour, *The Magic Box: When Parents Can't Be There to Tuck You In*. Magination Press, 2003.

To Grandma's House, We...Stay

Houtman, Sally, *To Grandma's House, We...Stay*. Northridge, CA: Studio 4 Productions, 1999.

National Resources

[AARP](#)

Membership organization with resources for older people

[American Bar Association - Pro Bono Attorneys](#)

Law school pro bono and public service is sweeping the nation. A majority of ABA-accredited law schools now have formal pro bono or public service programs with several requiring students to perform varying amounts of pro bono work to graduate.

[Big Brothers Big Sisters of America](#)

Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers (“Bigs”) and children (“Littles”), ages 5 through young adulthood in communities across the country. Develops positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people.

[Boys and Girls Club of America](#)

Provides safe and fun places for kids to grow and thrive.

[Boy Scouts of America](#)

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation’s largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations, providing programs for young people that build character.

[Catholic Charities USA](#)

Catholic Charities helps people, regardless of faith, who are struggling with poverty and other complex issues.

[Facebook - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren](#)

A private place for grandparents that are raising their grandchildren. Offers support, discussions about challenges, etc.

[The Feeding America Network](#)

The Feeding America Network is the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization, working to connect people with food and end hunger.

[Generations United](#)

The mission of Generations United is to improve the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational collaboration, public policies, and programs for the enduring benefit of all. Generations United has a large [Resource Library](#), which includes publications (fact sheets), presentations, and learning activities.

[Girl Scouts of America](#)

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

[Grandfamilies.org](#)

Serves as a national legal resource in support of grandfamilies within and outside the child welfare system.

[Habitat for Humanity](#)

Habitat for Humanity is a global nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in approximately 70 countries. Habitat’s vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

[National Indian Child Welfare Association](#)

NICWA works to provide the best possible information and resources to families, child welfare workers, agencies, tribes, and tribal organizations seeking to provide support and care to Native children and families.

[National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) (1-800-273-8255)

(TTY Users: Use your preferred relay service or dial 711 then 1-800-273-8255)

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **En Español:** 1-888-628-9454 (Lifeline ofrece 24/7, servicios gratuitos en español, y no es necesario hablar inglés si usted necesita ayuda.)

[National Respite Locator](#)

The National Respite Locator service helps parents, family caregivers, and professionals find respite services in their state and local area to match their specific needs.

[YMCA](#)

The YMCA is the leading nonprofit committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose, and each other. Working locally, the YMCA focuses on supporting young people, improving health and well-being, and inspiring action in and across communities.

Publications

AARP:

- [Grandparents Raising Grandchildren \(Grand Families Guide\)](#)

American Bar Association:

- [Free Legal Help](#)

American Psychological Association:

- [Connecting with Caregivers](#)

Generations United:

- [A Fact Sheet for Grandparent and Relative Caregivers to Help Access Support through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\) Program](#)
- [The Benefits of Social Security for Grandfamilies](#)
- [Help for Grandparents and Other Relatives Impacted by Opioids and Other Substance Use](#)

Grandfamilies.org:

- [Resources](#)

The Tax Institute at H&R Block:

- [Tax Benefits for Grandparents](#)

National Community Reinvestment Coalition:

- [Resources for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren](#)

National Respite Network and Resource Center:

- [Nine Steps to Respite for Grandfamilies](#)

Video

[Webinar: Help for Grandfamilies Impacted by Opioids and Other Substance Use](#)

Webinar hosted by Generations United about the impact of opioids and other substance use on grandfamilies and shared tools to help these families. Members of grandfamilies shared their challenges and strengths.

Professional Resources

National Resources

[ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center](#)

The mission of the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center is to assist and promote the development of quality respite and crisis care programs; to help families locate respite and crisis care services in their communities; and to serve as a strong voice for respite in all forums.

[American Association of Caregiving Youth](#)

A nonprofit serving children and adolescents who provide significant or substantial assistance, often on a regular basis, to relatives or household members needing help because of a physical or mental illness, disability, or frailty.

[Catholic Charities USA](#)

Catholic Charities helps people, regardless of faith, who are struggling with poverty and other complex issues.

[Grandfamilies.org](#)

Grandfamilies.org serves as a national legal resource in support of grandfamilies within and outside the child welfare system.

[Habitat for Humanity](#)

Habitat for Humanity is a global nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in approximately 70 countries. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

[National Alliance for Caregiving \(NAC\)](#)

Established in 1996, NAC is dedicated to improving quality of life for friend and family caregivers, and those in their care, by advancing research, advocacy, and innovation.

[National Indian Child Welfare Association](#)

NICWA works to provide the best possible information and resources to families, child welfare workers, agencies, tribes, and tribal organizations seeking to provide support and care to Native children and families.

[National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) (1-800-273-8255)

(TTY Users: Use your preferred relay service or dial 711 then 1-800-273-8255)

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[United Way](#)

United Way's mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good.

Publications

AARP:

- [Insights and Spending Habits of Modern Grandparents](#)
Highlights the results of two grandparenting studies conducted in 2011. The report provides a snapshot of the experiences, triumphs, and challenges of grandparents.
- [Multigenerational Housing Helps 'Grandfamilies' Come Together](#)
Apartment complexes that offer subsidized housing and community support to grandfamilies.

Başkent University:

- [Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: A Review with Implications for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren with Disabilities](#)
This review synthesized the literature from 1990 to 2013 regarding the subject of grandparents raising grandchildren, particularly grandchildren with disabilities.

Generations United:

- [State of Grandfamilies in America Annual Reports](#)
- [Adoption and Guardianship for Children in Kinship Foster Care](#)
- [Making it Work: Using the Guardianship Assistance Program \(GAP\) to Close the Permanency Gap for Children in Foster Care](#)
- [The Resounding Resilience of Grandfamilies: Financial Stories](#)
- [Improving Grandfamilies' Access to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(Policy Brief and Summary\)](#)
- [State Educational and Health Care Consent Laws: Ensure that Children in Grandfamilies Can Access Fundamental Services](#)
- [The Benefits of Social Security for Grandfamilies](#)
- [Raising the Children of the Opioid Epidemic: Solutions and Support for Grandfamilies \(May 2018\)](#)
- [Fact Sheet for American Indian and Alaska Native Grandfamilies](#)

Generations United and the National Indian Child Welfare Association:

- [American Indian & Alaska Native Grandfamilies: Helping Children Thrive Through Connection to Family and Cultural Identity](#)
 - [Toolkit](#)
 - [Webinar Resources](#)

National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP:

- [Caregiving in the U.S. 2020](#)
Report, conducted roughly every five years that provides the most recent update to their trended research series.

National Conference of State Legislatures:

- [Supporting Kinship Caregivers \(3/26/2020\)](#)

Psychology Benefits Society:

- [The Work Is Never Done: Mental Health, Mass Incarceration, and African American Custodial Grandparents](#) (February, 19, 2019)

National Council on Aging (NCOA):

- [The Impact of the Opioid Epidemic on the Aging Services Network and the Older Adults They Serve](#)

Research Papers

Berrick, J. D., & Boyd, R. (2016). [Financial well-being in family-based foster care: Exploring variation in income supports for kin and non-kin caregivers in California](#). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 69, 166-173.

Chamberlain, P., Price, J. M., Reid, J. B., Landsverk, J., Fisher, P. A., & Stoolmiller, M. (2006). [Who disrupts from placement in foster and kinship care?](#) *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 30(4), 409-424.

Chang, J. & Liles, R. (2007). [Characteristics of four kinship placement outcome groups and variables associated with these kinship placement outcome groups](#). *Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 24, 509-522.

Coakley, T. M., Cuddeback, G., Buehler, C., & Cox, M. E. (2007). [Kinship foster parents' perceptions of factors that promote or inhibit successful fostering](#). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 29(1), 92-109.

Cross, S., Day, A., & Byers, L. (2010). [American Indian grand families: A qualitative study of twenty-nine grandmothers and two grandfathers who provide sole care for their grandchildren](#). *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*, 25, 371-383.

Cross, S. & Day, A. (2008). [American Indian Grand Families: Eight adolescent and grandparent dyads share perceptions on various aspects of the kinship care relationship](#). *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 17(1), 82-100.

Denby, R.W. (2011). [Predicting permanency intentions among kinship caregivers](#). *Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 28(2), 113-131.

Denby, R.W., Brinson, J.A., Cross, C.L., & Bowmer, A. (2015). [Culture and coping: Kinship caregivers' experiences with stress and strain and the relationship to child well-being](#). *Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 32, 465-479.

Denby, R.W. (2011). [Kinship liaisons: A peer-to-peer approach to supporting kinship caregivers](#). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 33, 217-225.

Farber Weismann, J. (Master Thesis: 2016). [Impact of support groups on kinship care providers: A project based on an investigation at Community Coalition, Los Angeles, California](#). Smith Scholar Works.

Feldman, L.H. & Fertig, A. (2013). [Measuring the impact of enhanced kinship navigator services for informal kinship caregivers using an experimental design](#). *Child Welfare*, 92(6), 41-62.

- Gleeson, J. P., Hsieh, C., & Cryer-Couplet, Q. (2016). [Social support, family competence, and informal kinship caregiver parenting stress: The mediating and moderating effects of family resources](#). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 6732-42
- Green, Y.R. & Gray, M. (2013). [Lessons learned from the kinship education and support program \(KEPS\): Developing effective support groups for formal kinship caregivers](#). *Social Work with Groups*, 36(1), 27-42.
- Hernandez, L., Magaña, C., Zuñiga, D., James, J., & Lee, S. (2014). [Navigating the system: A how-to guide for implementing a kinship navigator program](#). *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 8(4), 397-415.
- Lee, E., Clarkson-Hendrix, M., & Lee, Y. (2016). [Parenting stress of grandparents and other kin as informal kinship caregivers: A mixed methods study](#). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 69, 29-38.
- Roe, K.M., Minkler, M., Saunders, F., & Thomson, G.E. (1996). [Health of grandmothers raising children of the crack cocaine epidemic](#). *Medical Care*, 34(11), 1072-84.
- Claar, J. (2007). [Achieving permanence in foster care for young children: A comparison of kinship and non-kinship placements](#). *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 16(1), 61-94
- Pandey, A., Littlewood, K., Cooper, L., McCrae, J., Rosenthal, M., Day, A., & Hernandez, L. (2018). [Connecting older grandmothers raising grandchildren with community resources improves family resiliency, social support, and caregiver self-efficacy](#). *Journal of Women and Aging*, 31(3), 269-283.
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- Wallace, G.W. (2016). [A family right to care: Charting the legal obstacles](#). *GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy*, 3(1).
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- Schwartz, A. (2010). ["Nobody knows me no more": Experiences of loss among African American adolescents in kinship and non-kinship foster care placements](#). *Race and Social Problems*, 2(1), 31-49.
- Stanik, C. (2018). [Collateral damage of the opioid crisis: Grandparents raising grandchildren – what they need and how to help](#). Altarum.
- Sutphin, S.T. (2015). [Using kinship navigators to assess the needs of kinship caregivers](#). *GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy*, 2(1), 50-74.
- Woodruff, K., Murray, K., & Rushovich, B. (2014). [Kinship caregiver perception of a state-supervised kinship navigator program](#). *Journal of Family Social Work*, 17(2), 136-153.
- Zinn, A. (2009). [Foster family characteristics, kinship, and permanence](#). *Social Service Review*, 83(2), 185.

Videos

[The Face of Kinship Care: Documentary](#)

A documentary that “portrays the compelling and inspiring stories of three kinship families and the love and devotion they show to their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.”

[Family Center Services Breakfast Video](#)

Nashville Family and Children Services video about helping grandparents raise grandchildren.

[Help for Grandfamilies Impacted by Opioids and Other Substance Use](#)

Webinar hosted by Generations United about the impact of opioids and other substance use on grandfamilies and shared tools to help these families. Members of grandfamilies shared their challenges and strengths.

[Opioids & Addiction | Aging Matters | NPT Reports](#)

This episode of *NPT Reports: Aging Matters* takes a look at the challenges of addiction in older adults.