

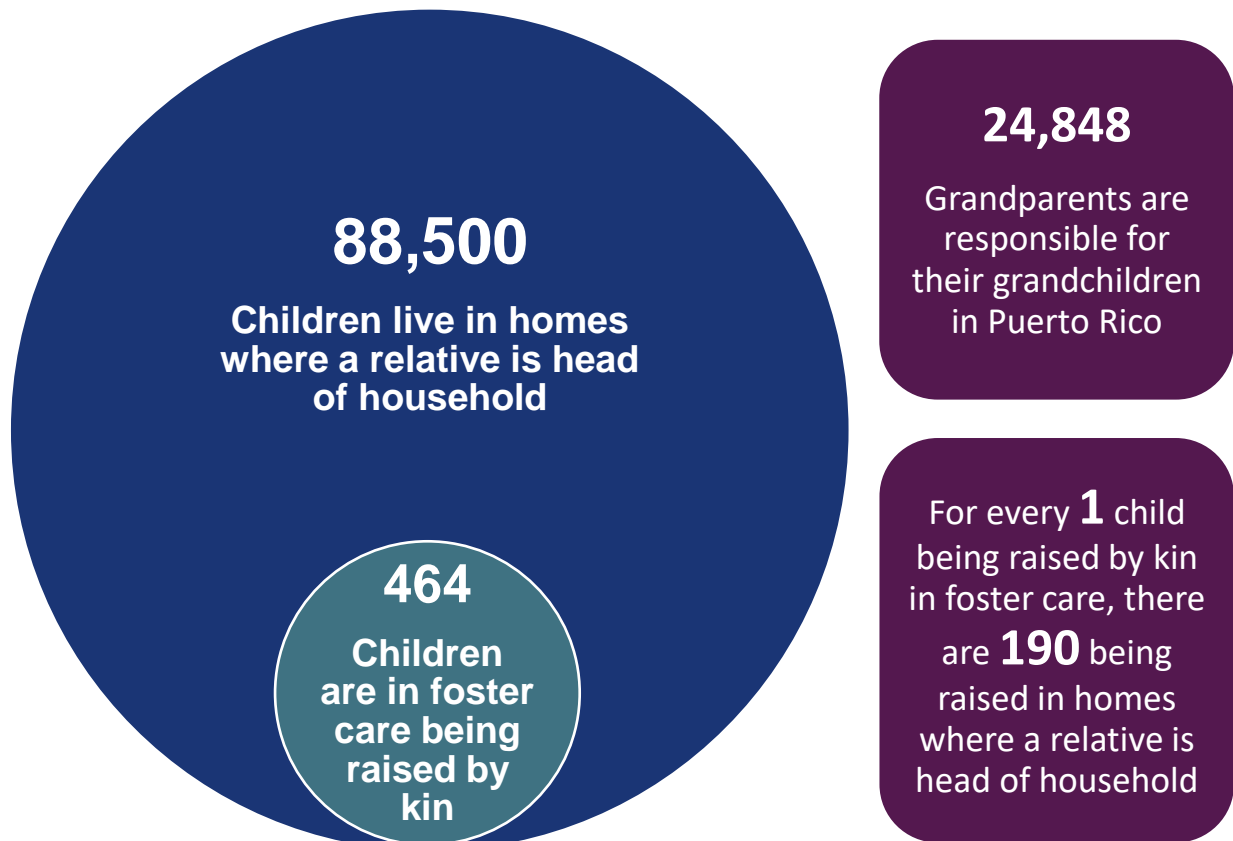
GRANDFACTS

STATE AND TERRITORY FACT SHEETS FOR KINSHIP/GRANDFAMILIES

The GrandFacts State and Territory Fact Sheets for Kinship/Grandfamilies include location-specific data and programs, as well as information about public benefits, educational assistance, legal relationship options, and laws. To find all GrandFacts State and Territory Facts Sheets, visit www.grandfamilies.org.

Puerto Rico

Kinship/Grandfamilies Data



The data presented in these graphics is from the [United States Census Bureau](#), the [Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center](#), and the [Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System \(AFCARS\)](#). For more information, click on the links in the following table.

Data on children in Puerto Rico living in homes where relatives are head of household	National data on children living in homes where relatives are head of household
Data on children in Puerto Rico being raised by kin with no parents present is not available	National data on children being raised by kin with no parents present
Data on children in foster care in Puerto Rico being raised by kin	National data on children in foster care being raised by kin
Data on grandparents in Puerto Rico responsible for their grandchildren	National data on grandparents responsible for their grandchildren

For more information on kinship care and caregivers, and for detailed instructions on accessing and interpreting this data, please visit <https://GKSNetwork.org>.

Programs That May Help

Local programs that provide support, resources, and assistance to kinship/grandfamilies can often be found by contacting your local school, area agency on aging, community center, faith-based organization, or children’s services office. In Puerto Rico, it may be helpful to look up your local Centro de Actividades y Servicios Múltiples.

Key Programs in Puerto Rico

Abuelos y Abuelas: Padres y Madres en Segunda Ronda

Phone: 787-381-7298 and 787-319-6851

Email: padresensegundaronda@gmail.com

Service Area: Caguas

Description: This program offers educational talks, guidance, and workshops about raising grandchildren, as well as consulting and referrals. There are also support groups to help strengthen the families.

Centro Esperanza, Inc.

Website: <http://www.centroesperanzaloiza.org>

Phone: 787-876-3389

Email: info@centroesperanzaloiza.org

Service Area: Loíza and surrounding areas

Description: The Vida y Esperanza program offers counseling and therapy for individuals, couples, and families, as well as psychological and psychometric evaluations. Other programs include one that provides food for weekend meals for children and another that offers music lessons for children.

Centro Inés

Website: <https://www.centroines.org/>

Phone: 787-706-0465

Email: info@centroines.org

Service Area: Primarily San Juan, Guaynabo, and Bayamón

Description: Programs for children in kindergarten through sixth grade are offered between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., and services include supervised studying, counseling and psychological support for students and caregivers, and recreational activities. Programs for adults ages 60 and over include arts and crafts courses, health and wellbeing guidance, support groups for women, cultural excursions, and psychological services. Another program offers guidance regarding legal and financial assistance, medication management, and other important topics.

Fundación Unidos para Servir (FUPSER)

Website: <https://www.fupserpr.org/>

Phone: 787-621-0205 and 787-621-0202

Email: contactenos@fupserpr.org

Service Area: Located in Manatí, with an immediate impact in the north-central region of Puerto Rico

Description: FUPSER offers tutoring and computer and Internet access to students; various workshops for children and adults; clinics that provide legal, psychological, and social work services; and a summer camp. Most services are free (although participants in some workshops have to buy or bring their own materials and/or tools).

El Instituto de Orientación y Terapia Familiar, Inc. (INOTEF)

Website: <http://www.inotef.org/index2.html>

Phone: 787-743-5702 and 787-476-5756

Service Area: Located in Caguas

Description: INOTEF offers clinical therapy for individuals, families, couples, and children and adolescents; psychological and psychometric evaluations; support groups for people who are grieving, survivors of domestic violence, and men who are going through the process of being separated from their children; and educational and preventive services designed to prevent risky behavior and support healthy lifestyles among children and adolescents.

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico

Website: <https://www.pucpr.edu/>

Phone: Clínica de Asistencia Legal: 787-841-2000, ext. 1860, 1861, 1822
Clínica Interdisciplinaria de Servicios a la Comunidad: 787-651-2000, ext. 2411, 2415

Email: Clínica de Asistencia Legal: asistencia_legal@pucpr.edu
Clínica Interdisciplinaria de Servicios a la Comunidad: Profesor Ada Kercado – aikercado@pucpr.edu

Service Area: Ponce

Description: The [Clínica de Asistencia Legal](#) and [Clínica Interdisciplinaria de Servicios a la Comunidad](#) both offer services that may be helpful.

Pro-Bono Inc.

Website: <https://www.probonopr.org>

Phone: Arecibo: 787-879-2012
Caguas: 787-746-7660
Fajardo: 787-852-6386
Mayagüez: 787-833-5121
Central Office: 1-800-981-5801
Ponce: 787-840-3260
San Juan: 787-721-3398

Description: Pro-Bono takes on family law cases, including custody and guardianships.

Programa de Apoyo a Cuidadores de Familiares (PACF)

Website: [Oficina del Procurador de las Personas de Edad Avanzada – Programa de Apoyo a Cuidadores de Familiares \(PACF\)](#)

Email: Region I Central Office – San Juan: 787-721-6121, ext. 1245, 1309, 1378
Region I Satellite Office – Camuy: 787-822-6555
Region I Satellite Office – Juncos: 787-905-7131
Region II – Ponce: 787-841-1180/1181

Region II Satellite Office – Mayagüez: 787-986-7107/7005

Region II Satellite Office – Guayama: 787-592-7020/7022

Description: The “Abuelos Criando Nietos” program is available to grandparents who are at least 55 years old and who are raising a grandchild who is 18 years old or younger. Grandparents may receive up to \$100 per child to purchase school supplies (such as books or uniforms) or to pay for the services of a tutor. An evaluation is required to determine if a family is eligible. The support is available once per year and, after that, it is subject to the availability of funds.

Programa de Apoyo y Orientación para Abuelos y Abuelas en la Crianza de los Nietos

Phone: 787-977-8022 (metro) / 1-888-359-7777 (island)

Description: La Línea de Orientación y Apoyo Familiar (LOAF) is a free, confidential phone line that offers many services, including support and counseling to grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. The program also helps to coordinate other services that might be of use to kinship/grandfamilies, including those that focus on physical health, mental health, education, early interventions, and economic and legal assistance, among others. More information is available in a Spanish-language [brochure](#) that is available online.

Programa de Transportación SENDA

Website: [Informational PDF](#)

Phone: Each municipality that currently has Programa SENDA has its own phone number; see the PDF linked above

Service Area: 31 municipalities; see the PDF linked above for the list

Description: The program offers free transportation to health care, social services, and recreation services for adults who are 60 years old or older and any dependents who live with them on a permanent basis, including grandchildren.

Puerto Rico Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

Phone: 800-981-8333 (toll-free/island) / 787-749-1333 (toll/metro)

Description: Report suspected child abuse or neglect by calling these numbers. The call is confidential, and the service is available 24/7. In an emergency, call 911.

Puerto Rico Kinship Care Contact

Contact: Glenda Gerena, Puerto Rico Administration for Children and Families, Department of the Family
Phone: 787-294-4900, ext. 1800
Email: glenda.gerena@familia.pr.gov

Servicios Legales de Puerto Rico

Website: <https://www.servicioslegales.org/>
Phone: 1-800-981-5342 or 787-728-5070
Email: comunicaciones@servicioslegales.org
Description: This organization provides civil legal services, including adoption and custody. People seeking assistance can fill out an [online form](#) about their case.

Unidad de Servicios Psicológicos

Website: http://cusep.uprrp.edu/serv_psic.html
Phone: 787-764-0000, ext. 3545
Service Area: San Juan
Description: This program offers referrals; crisis intervention; individual psychotherapy for children, adolescents, and adults; family therapy; and psychometric and psychological evaluations.

Public Benefits

Federal, state, and territorial public benefits programs can help with income, food, health care, 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 and territory to territory. 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. Kin/grandfamily caregivers may become eligible for benefits programs when their household size increases.

Help with Public Benefits

BenefitsCheckUp

BenefitsCheckUp, powered by the National Council on Aging, offers a free and private way to complete a questionnaire to find out if older adults and people with disabilities qualify for certain programs that pay for food, increase income, and cover home and health care costs. The specific programs covered by the questionnaire on the website are listed below. Once the questionnaire is completed, the website generates a list of

eligible programs and contact information. BenefitsCheckUp does not currently connect individuals to programs for grandparents raising their grandchildren, but their [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) includes links to websites for the [Children’s Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#), the [State Children’s Health Insurance Program \(SCHIP\)](#), [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF, Child Only Grant\)](#), and [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) for Children](#).

Website: <https://benefitscheckup.org/>

BenefitsCheckUp State, Territory, and Federal Public Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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)• Employment Programs• Telephone and Cellphone Assistance• Transportation Assistance

Benefits.gov

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

Website: www.benefits.gov

Eldercare Locator

The National Eldercare Locator service helps you find your local area agency on aging and other state, territorial, and local resources that can help with public benefits, local programs, and other services for older adults.

Phone: 1-800-677-1116 (toll-free)

Website: eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Index.aspx

ADSEF Digital

ADSEF Digital is an online service for Puerto Ricans to learn more about the Administración de Desarrollo Socioeconómico de la Familia (ADSEF) and to screen and apply for various benefits.

Website: <https://servicios.adsef.pr.gov/views/index.aspx>

Key Public Benefits: Income

Each state and territory administers federal funds that provide cash assistance to families in need. Some states and territories also offer other forms of financial assistance.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Cash assistance may be available to eligible children and their kin/grandfamily caregivers. There are two types of TANF grants: child-only and family grants. In virtually all states and territories, caregiver income is not considered in determining eligibility for TANF child-only grants. TANF child-only grants are based solely on the income of the child and are designed to help meet the needs of just the child. Unlike TANF family grants, child-only grants are not subject to time limits and work requirements.

Phone: 340-774-0930

Website: [Puerto Rico Programa de Ayuda para Familias Necesitadas \(TANF\)](https://servicios.adsef.pr.gov/views/certServicio.aspx)

To apply online, go to <https://servicios.adsef.pr.gov/views/certServicio.aspx>

Generations United's Grand Resources: TANF

[A Fact Sheet for Grandparent and Relative Caregivers to Help Access Support through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\) Program](#)

Social Security

A multigenerational program, Social Security provides income benefits to adults, older adults, and children. In addition to [Retirement](#) and [Disability](#) benefits, there is a program that provides [Survivors Benefits](#). If a child's parent is deceased, Survivors Benefits may be available based on the child's parent's earnings. Your grandchild (not other kin children) 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. Residents of Puerto Rico are not eligible for SSI.

To find your local Social Security Administration office, visit the [Office Locator](#).

Phone: 1-800-772-1213 (toll-free)

Website: <https://www.ssa.gov/>

Key Public Benefits: Nutrition

Kin/grandfamily 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.

Programa de Asistencia Nutricional (PAN)

PAN helps low-income individuals and families buy the food they need for good health. PAN is operated through federal Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) block grants, in lieu of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). For more information on SNAP and kinship/grandfamilies, please see [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Facts for Grandfamilies and Kinship Families](#). The fact sheet also contains references to NAP.

Website: [PAN](#)

Phone: 787-289-7600 ext. 2400 or 2401

To apply online, go to

<http://servicios.adsef.gobierno.pr//views/certServicio.aspx>

Food and Nutrition Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **Child Nutrition Programs**

The schools, early childhood education programs, child care centers, afterschool programs, and other programs that children attend may offer free or reduced-price meals through the federal Child Nutrition Programs, which provide 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. Kin/grandfamily caregivers should inform the program that they are raising the child and share whether or not they are doing so through a court order.

Website: [Puerto Rico Child Nutrition Program](#)

Phone: 787-773-6273

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

States and territories administer federal funds for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and for infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Website: [Puerto Rico Department of Health – WIC Program](#)

Phone: 787-7631414, 787-766-2805, ext. 5025, 5052, 5068, 5071, 5156

Foodbanks

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

Website: <https://alimentospr.org/>

Phone: 787-740-3663

Email: info@bancodealimentospr.org

Key Public Benefits: Health Care

Kin/grandfamily caregivers and the children they are raising may be eligible for health insurance through Medicare and/or Medicaid, and they may also be eligible for help with prescription drugs.

Health Insurance for Children

Kin/grandfamily 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 Medicaid. CHIP and Medicaid are the national names, and Puerto Rico may use different names.

To apply online, go to <https://prod-ua.preeservices.com/>

Key Public Benefits: Tax Credits

Although bona fide residents of Puerto Rico whose only income is from sources within Puerto Rico are not required to file U.S. tax returns, even Puerto Ricans who do not file a U.S. tax return are eligible to submit a form to claim federal child tax credits, as outlined below. See <https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc901>.

The **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. As of 2021, people living in Puerto Rico are eligible for this credit. Individuals can use [this tool](#) to calculate an estimate of the credit they are eligible to receive.

The **Child Tax Credit** is a tax credit per dependent child. Generally it is not refundable, although it was for the 2021 tax year. For 2021, residents of Puerto Rico who sought this credit were required to file Form 1040-SS or Form 1040-PR to claim it.

The **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.

The **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. Residents of Puerto Rico can often claim this credit if they are eligible, but, rather than going through the IRS, they must make the claim to their local territory tax agency, and there are special rules that they must consider. Local area tax agencies have more information about availability and eligibility.

The [Adoption Tax Credit](#) can help if you have adopted the child(ren) you are raising. It can give you a credit for the money you spent to adopt. If you adopted a child with special needs from the foster care system, 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 \$14,890 per child in 2022, with the amount increasing incrementally each year.

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

For more information about U.S. tax credits, visit the [U.S. Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\)](#).

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.

Phone: 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (toll-free)

Website: <http://www.ed.gov/parents>

Departamento de Educación

Website: <https://de.pr.gov/>

Phone: 787-759-2000

Educational Enrollment

Kin/grandfamily 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 kin/grandfamily 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 or territory. Puerto Rico does not appear to have such a law; check the [Grandfamilies.org Online Database](#) to see if a state you may be interested in has such a law.

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 and territories identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities who may need special education and related services and who are between the ages of 3 and 21. 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; 3 to 21 years of age) is developed and services should begin shortly.

Departamento de Educación, Educación Especial

Website: <https://de.pr.gov/educacion-especial/>

Directory of Special Education Service Centers: <https://de.pr.gov/educacion-especial/directorio-de-centros-de-servicios-de-educacion-especial/>

Associate Secretary of Special Education (la Secretaria Asociada de Educación Especial (SAEE)) Providers: <https://de.pr.gov/proveedores-saee/>

Parent Centers across the country provide information to help parents *and* caregivers with children who have special education needs and disabilities. Use the **Online State and Territorial Directory** to find Parent Centers in your state or territory.

Apoyo a Padres de Niño con Impedimentos (APNI) is the Parent Center of Puerto Rico.

Website: <https://apnipr.org/>

Phone: 787-763-4665

Email: centroinfo@apnipr.org

Generations United's Grand Resources: A Grandparent's and Other Relative's Guide to Raising Children with Disabilities

Early Childhood Education

Head Start and **Early Head Start** are early education programs for eligible children.

To find Head Start or Early Head Start centers in your area, visit the **online directory** or call 1-866-763-6481 (toll-free).

Programa Child Care

Find child care and information about raising children, including **El Centro de Recursos y Referidos para la Niñez Temprana** (CENTRANA), which provides tools for the caregivers of young children.

Website: <https://childcare.familia.pr.gov/>

Phone: 787-294-4900

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.

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 may be available.

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

Adoption

With adoption, the kin/grandfamily 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 kin/grandfamily caregivers who choose to adopt children in their care from the child welfare system.

To get information about Puerto Rico's subsidy, in addition to other adoption information, go to the North American Council on Adoptable Children's [Puerto Rico Adoption Assistance Program](#).

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, guardianship allows access to 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 kin/grandfamily caregivers who choose to get guardianship of the children in their care who are exiting the child welfare system. Puerto Rico has an approved Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance Program.

Comparing Adoption and Guardianship

This [chart](#), created by Generations United with support from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, is designed to help kinship foster parents compare adoption and guardianship as two options that you and the children in your care can pursue to exit foster care and create permanent families.

Legal Custody

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

Other Options

Some places have laws that allow kin/grandfamily caregivers who do not want or have a legal relationship to the children in their care 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 different states in the U.S., see www.grandfamilies.org.

State Laws

[Grandfamilies.org](http://www.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/grandfamilies. As of fall 2022, laws from Puerto Rico and other territories are not available on the website. Nevertheless, you will find explanations of legal topic areas, practical implementation ideas, and many other resources.

Topics Covered:

- ▶ Adoption
- ▶ Care & Custody
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Federal Laws
- ▶ Financial Assistance
- ▶ Kinship Foster Care & Licensing
- ▶ Healthcare
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Kinship Navigator Programs
- ▶ National Family Caregiver Support Program
- ▶ Notification & Engagement Of Relatives
- ▶ Guardianship Assistance

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 and Territorial Fact Sheets, please email info@GKSNetwork.org.

This fact sheet complements a series of state and District of Columbia fact sheets, which is available in its entirety at www.grandfactsheets.org

Caveats: The Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center (Network) has not assessed or evaluated the listed programs for their responsiveness or effectiveness. The programs are included solely based on their own claim that they provide services or supports to kinship/grandfamilies. Omission of any relevant program is not intentional. We welcome feedback and updates via email to info@GKSNetwork.org.

The Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center (Network) helps government agencies and nonprofits in states, tribes, and territories work across jurisdictional and systemic boundaries to improve supports and services for families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children whose parents are unable to do so. For more information, please visit <https://GKSNetwork.org>.

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The Network is a project of
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