

GRANDFAMILIES AND KINSHIP FAMILIES



Grandfamilies or kinship families are those in which grandparents, other adult family members, or close family friends are rearing children younger than age 18 with no parents in the home.

More than 2.6 million minor-aged children in the United States are being raised in grandfamilies or kinship families.



African American, Native American, and Alaska Native children are more likely to live in a household headed by someone other than their birth parents than other racial groups in the U.S.

While only 14% of all children in the country, Black children make up 25% of all children being reared in grandfamilies or kinship families and about 23% of all children in foster care.



Grandfamilies and kinship families can be deeply gratifying and constructive for both caregivers and children, providing security and stability in the home.

But they involve significant lifestyle changes and challenges, especially for caregivers with health issues, low incomes, and logistical concerns such as space, time, and transportation constraints.



The type, variety, and amount of financial and legal assistance and other support services available to grandfamilies and kinship families usually depend on whether the arrangement is formal -- a legal relationship with the child, such as guardianship; or informal—an arrangement made without involving the courts or state and local agencies.

Support and assistance services may also vary from state to state.



Visit the [Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network](#) for more information.

The Network is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$9,950,000 with 95 percentage funded by ACL/HHS and \$523,684 and 5 percentage funded by non-government sources. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.