

# GRANDfamilies



## Children's Service Society of Utah

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### GRANDfamilies

GRANDfamilies Kinship Care at Children's Service Society of Utah supports kinship caregivers and children by providing inclusive support services in collaboration with trusted community partners to build safe, stable, and resilient kinship families.

# History of GRANDfamilies

Established in 2002 as the first kinship support program in the State of Utah

Added office locations to 3 additional counties in 2012, 2014, and 2018

Expanding to Southern Utah in 2022

Working with DCFS and the University of Utah's Social Research Institute to become an evidence-based kinship navigator program

## Community invited to 'Grandfamilies' program

An increasing number of American grandparents are finding their lives different from what they imagined as they assume responsibility for parenting grandchildren. The 2000 census shows that more than 37,000 Utah children live with grandparents, and yet there are few resources for grandparents and other relatives as caregivers.

"Kinship support services are a critical and growing need in Utah," says Dr. Beth Q. Beck, executive director of the Children's Service Society of Utah. "We have had grandparents parenting grandchildren call our agency to inquire about services that are available to them to help them with legal issues and economic needs."

"A program we have named 'Grandfamilies' for grandparents and other relatives raising children of kin has evolved from the need we see in our community. The Children's Service Society and Jewish Family Services will both provide monthly support

groups for adults and children. Advocacy services will connect families with community resources and family activities will help unify kinship families."

The first in the series of "Grandfamilies" programs is a free community event that will be held tonight, Aug. 14, 7 p.m., at the Salt Lake City Main Library, 209 East 500 South. The program will offer information on school issues such as guardianship legalities, school fees and waivers, after-school childcare resources and access to special education.

There will be separate activities for children five years and older.

Beck says that, in her 30 years of experience as a public school educator and administrator in Davis and Salt Lake counties, she met with numerous kinship care providers who found difficulty navigating the maze of school issues and connecting with community resources. This first class has developed as a result of her

experiences and those of other educators and administrators.

The Children's Service Society of Utah works in a variety of social service areas, including infant and special-needs adoption, pregnancy counseling and parent counseling throughout the state.

The society also administers Child Care Resource and

Referral Metro, a state-funded nonprofit that trains childcare providers, hosts a community referral network for parents seeking childcare and advocates for quality childcare in Salt Lake and Tooele counties.

For more information regarding "Grandfamilies," call the Children's Service Society at (801) 355-7444.



Children's Service  
Society of Utah  
GRANDfamilies

# GRANDfamilies at CSSUtah offers:

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Case Management (Intakes, referrals, team meetings, family mediation)

Psycho-Educational classes for Adults, Adolescents, and Children

Friend 2 Friend monthly events

Short-term clinical services, clinical referrals



# How it's going

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We are celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year!

## FAMILIES



Served 2,600+  
kinship families

## CLASSES



Held 1,600+  
psycho-educational  
classes

## EVENTS



Hosted 500+  
Friend 2 Friend  
events

## LOCATIONS



Opened 4  
offices

# Tips

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Collaborate closely with your State's child welfare agency

If your State has a kinship coalition, be an active member

Work with your local legislators on kinship issues and locations of greatest need

Establish an advisory committee for kinship caregivers to have a voice

# Contact us!



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