

GRANDFACTS

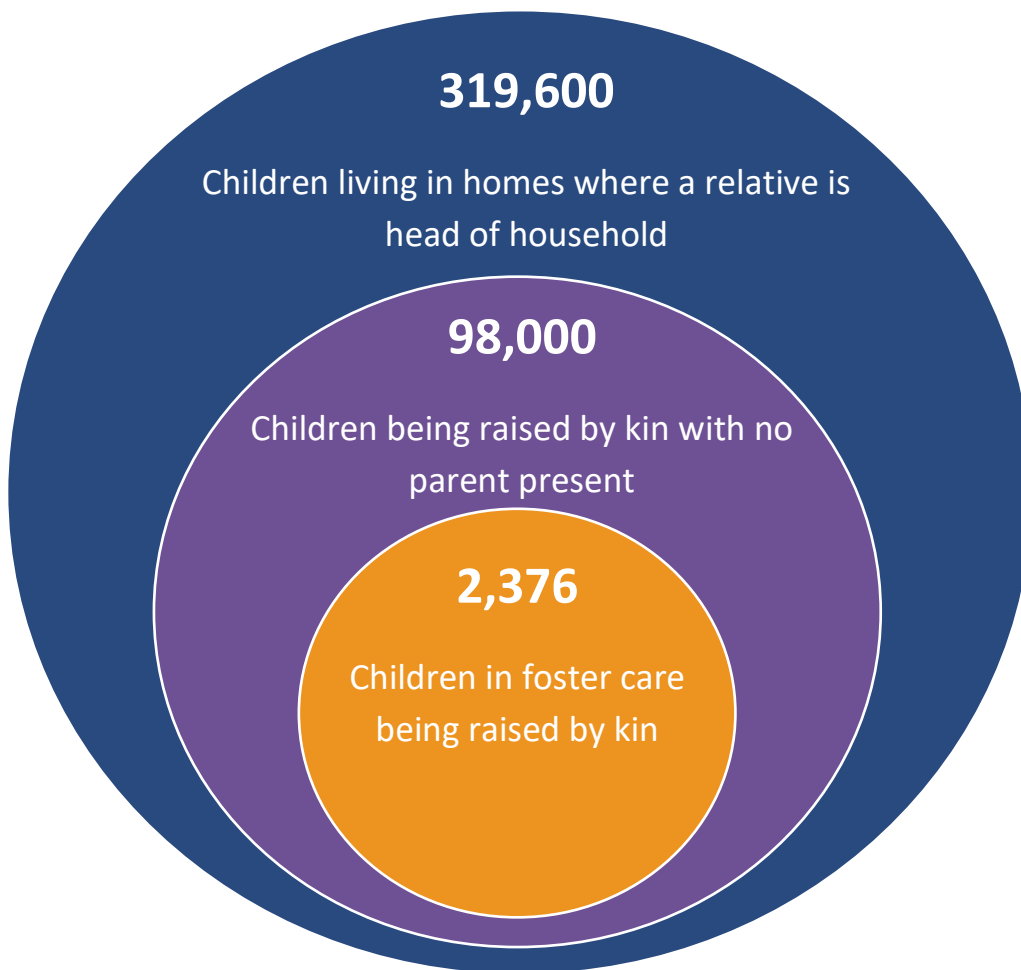
STATE FACT SHEETS FOR GRANDFAMILIES



The GrandFacts state fact sheets for grandfamilies include state-specific data and programs as well as information about public benefits, educational assistance, legal relationship options and state laws. Visit www.grandfamilies.org to find this and all GrandFacts state fact sheets.

Georgia

Grandfamilies Data



89,900

Grandparents responsible for their grandchildren in Georgia

For every **1** child raised by kin in foster care, there are **40** being raised by kin outside of foster care

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 on kinship care and caregivers, and for detailed instructions on accessing and interpreting this data, please visit: [Kinship/Grandfamilies Data - Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network](#).

Programs That May Help

Local programs that provide support, resources and assistance to grandfamilies can often be found by contacting your local school, area agency on aging, community center, faith-based organization or children's services office.

Key Programs in Georgia

[Atlanta Legal Aid- Kinship Care Project and Georgia Senior Legal Hotline](#)

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

Phone: 404-614-3979 or 1-888-257-9519 (toll-free); Legal Hotline, 9a.m.- 2p.m, Monday- Thursday
855-357-6566; Kinship Care Project

Service Area: Statewide (Offices in Atlanta, Marietta, Decatur and Lawrenceville)

Description: Legal advice available through hotline. Legal representation in adoption or custody cases for relatives who are raising children in the place of deceased or otherwise absent parents.

[Clayton County Kinship Resource Center](#)

Website: www.claytonseniors.com/

Phone: (678) 479-5505

Email: kinshipcareresourcecenter@gmail.com

Service Area: Clayton County

Description: Support groups, case management, information and referral, computer classes, clothes closet, activities and celebrations. Also, summer camp, day trips, tutoring, parent education, health and wellness, sports and fitness, and cultural and arts programs.

[Coastal Coalition for Children, Inc., Grandparent Connection Program](#)

Website: <https://cc4children.org/>

Phone: (912) 289-7428

Email: info@cc4children.org

Service Area: Savannah

Description: Grandparent Connection supports grandparents, legal guardians or kinship placements so that their homes are stable and nurturing for the children in their care. The program offers monthly support groups, mental health consultations, tutoring for children who are below grade level, home visitation, and community referrals.

[Each One Teach One Together, Inc.](#)

Website: www.eachoneteachonetgether.org
Contact: Debra “Suzette” Brown
Phone: 470-352-5986
Email: eachoneteachonetgether@gmail.com
Service area: Fulton County (If needed, will provide services for other counties)
Description: Parental training for grandparents and kinship families, resource assistance for grandparents and grandkids, mentoring group for girls, mental health support for parents who have a child with a mental health diagnosis.

Foster Care Support Foundation- Basic Care Item Services

Grandparents raising grandchildren welcome

Website: www.fostercares.org
Contact: Rachel Ewald
Phone: 770-641-9591
Email: info@fostercares.org
Service area: Statewide
Description: Provides seasonal clothing, infant care equipment, toys, books and school supplies to children in foster and relative care. Offers resources and services to relative caregivers to keep children with family and prevent them from entering foster care. Partner with medical professionals to offer in-kind services to children (dental exams, eye check-ups and glasses). Connect foster and displaced teens with adult mentors to guide them in developing the knowledge and skills to become successful adults.

Generations Together, Inc.

Website: <https://generations-together.com/>
Contact: Karen Gillespie
Phone: 404-836-0443
Email: Generationstogether@yahoo.com
Service Area: Clayton, Fayette and Henry Counties
Description: Empowerment Training, Case Management, Advocacy, Food Assistance, Community Resources, Intergenerational Activities, Social Events, Annual Back to School Event, Education Scholarships, Classes/Workshops, Camps, Cultural and Recreational Activities, Children and Youth Education, Enrichment and Career Development, Kinship Angel Tree.

Georgia Department of Human Services- Kinship Navigator Program

Website: <https://dhs.georgia.gov/kinship-care-portal/kinship-navigator-program>
Service Area: Statewide through regional offices- locate your local Kinship Navigator [here](#)
Description: Provides information and referral services to kinship caregivers. There are Kinship Care Coordinators and support groups throughout Georgia to assist and support kinship families. Find a local coordinator or support group [here](#).

Georgia Department of Human Services- National Family Caregiver Support Program

Website: <https://aging.georgia.gov/tools-resources/caregiving>
Service Area: Statewide through 12 Area Agencies on Aging – locate your local agency [here](#).
Description: Supportive services through the National Family Caregiver Support Program, including information and referral, support groups, and community education. Some agencies provide respite, camp scholarships, tutoring, case management and counseling, and clothing and food vouchers.

Grandma's Hands Outreach

Website: www.grandmashandsoutreach.org
Contact: Linda Sanders
Phone: 770-599-7529
Email: linda.sanders@grandmashandsoutreach.org
Service Area: Metro Atlanta
Description: Support groups, resources, training and education for grandparents raising grandchildren.

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL)

Website: <https://palgroup.org/>; find a local meeting at <https://palgroup.org/meeting-finder/>
Phone: 480-300-4712
Email: info@palgroup.org
Service Area: Martinez
Description: PAL is a national faith-based nonprofit that helps families learn healthy ways to deal with an adult child struggling with addiction. Meetings are facilitated by parents who complete the training program and receive ongoing education. Weekly meetings include an evidence-based educational component using a curriculum written by a licensed Substance Abuse Counselor, and peer-to-peer support. Meetings are offered free of charge to both the facilitator and the attendees.

Project GRANDD (Grandparents Raising and Nurturing Dependents with Disabilities) – Atlas Alliance

Website: <https://www.atlasga.org/>
Contact: Thindiwia Bellamy
Phone: 470-310-3452
Email: info@atlasga.org
Service Area: Atlanta metro-area
Description: Evidence-based support services to kinship families raising children with disabilities, including developmental and chronic health conditions and learning and behavioral disorders. Services include case management, support groups for adults, teens and children, parenting classes and educational programs, in-home tutoring, material aid (food, clothing, school supplies etc.), respite care, assistance with IEPs, 504 Plan and guardianship, family outings, monthly newsletter and resource emails. All services are provided free of charge.

Project Healthy Grandparents (PHG) – Georgia State University**Website:** <https://phg.lewis.gsu.edu/>**Contact:** Benasha Shine-Berry**Email:** bshine@gsu.edu**Service Area:** Atlanta, south Fulton and south DeKalb Counties**Description:** Social work visits, nursing visits, grandparent support groups, parenting education classes, early childhood intervention, legal service referrals, educational support/tutoring, transportation to PHG meetings and special events.**Rockdale County Kinship Care Program – Rockdale County Senior Services****Website** www.rockdalecountyga.gov**Contact:** Sheena Berry**Phone:** 770-278-7230**Email:** sheena.berry@rockdalecountyga.gov**Service Area:** Rockdale County**Description:** Case management, support groups, information/referral, respite, recreation, and parent education.

Public Benefits

Federal and state public benefits programs can help with income, food, healthcare, 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. 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. Relative caregivers may become eligible for benefits programs when their household size increases.

Help with Public Benefits

BenefitsCheckUp

Powered by the National Council on Aging, BenefitsCheckUp 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](#).

<https://benefitscheckup.org/>

BenefitsCheckUp
State, Territory, and Federal Public Benefits

- 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 specific information on benefits, in addition to a screening tool to find out which programs you may be eligible to receive.

www.benefits.gov

Eldercare Locator

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

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

<https://eldercare.acl.gov/home>

Key Public Benefits: Income

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

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Cash assistance may be available to eligible children and their relative caregivers. There are two types of TANF grants: child-only and family grants. Under virtually all states' policies, 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. Child-only grants are not subject to time limits and work requirements like TANF family grants.

Georgia Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services
404-651-6316

<https://dfcs.georgia.gov/services/temporary-assistance-needy-families>

To apply online – Go to: <https://gateway.ga.gov/access/>

To apply by phone- Call: 877-423-4746

Generations United's Grand Resources:

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

www.gu.org/resources/

Social Security

A multigenerational program, Social Security provides income benefits to adults, older adults and children. In addition to [Retirement](#) and [Disability](#) benefits, [Survivor's Benefits](#) are based on a child's parent's earnings and may help if a child's parents die. Your grandchild 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.

Online Directory - To find your local Social Security Administration office.

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

www.ssa.gov

Key Public Benefits: Nutrition

Relative 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.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is the new name for the federal Food Stamp Program. It helps low-income individuals and families buy the food they need for good health. Although SNAP is the national name, your state may use a different name.

Georgia Food Stamp Program (SNAP)

Department of Human Services- Division of Family and Children Services

877-423-4746 (Customer Contact Center)

<https://dfcs.georgia.gov/food-stamps>

To apply online – Go to: <https://gateway.ga.gov/access/>

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

School Meal Programs - The schools, early childhood education programs, child care centers, afterschool programs or other programs that children attend may offer free or reduced meals through the federal School Meal Program, which provides breakfast, lunch, snacks, summer meals and milk. Contact the school, center or program to ask if they participate in any of the school meal programs and how to apply. Relative caregivers should inform the program that they are raising the child and whether or not they are doing so through a court order.

Online State Directory - To find your state office that manages the School Meal Programs.

www.fns.usda.gov/contacts

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

Online State Directory - To find your state office that manages the WIC program.

<https://dph.georgia.gov/wic>

Foodbanks

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

Online State Directory - To find local food banks.

Key Public Benefits: Health Care

Relative caregivers and the children they are raising may be eligible for health insurance through Medicare and/or Medicaid and help with prescription drugs. **Benefits Check Up** can help you find these benefits.

<https://benefitscheckup.org/>

Health Insurance for Children

Relative 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 both Medicaid and separate CHIP programs. CHIP and Medicaid are the national names, and your state may use different names.

Georgia Medicaid

1-877-423-4746 (toll-free)

<https://medicaid.georgia.gov/>

To apply online – Go to: <https://gateway.ga.gov/access/>

PeachCare for Kids

Georgia Department of Community Health

Phone: 1-877-GAPEACH (427-3224)

<https://dch.georgia.gov/peachcare-kids>

To apply online – Go to: <https://gateway.ga.gov/access/>

Consent to Obtain Health Care

Even with insurance, consenting to health care for a child can be a challenge for relative caregivers who do not have legal custody. Some states have laws that allow these caregivers to “consent” to such treatment.

Grandfamilies.org Online Database - To see if your state has such a law.

www.grandfamilies.org/Search-Laws

Key Public Benefits: Tax Credits

The following information is about tax credits from the federal government available throughout the United States. Similar tax credits may exist in your state for state taxes. For example, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), 29 states and the District of Columbia offer a state tax credit based on the

federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and four states offer a Child Tax Credit. See CBPP's "[Get it Back Campaign](#)" for more information on state tax credits.

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.

Child Tax Credit is a tax credit per dependent child. But, it is not refundable.

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.

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.

Adoption Tax Credit can help if you have adopted your grandchild or other relative. It can give you a credit for the money you spent to adopt. If you adopted a child from the foster care system with special needs, 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.

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

Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) – To find out about tax credits in your state.
www.cbpp.org

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) – To find out more information about each of these tax credits
www.irs.gov

Education

The **U.S. Department of Education** offers [resources for parents and family](#) with 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.

1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (toll-free)
www.ed.gov

Georgia Department of Education
404-656-2800 or 1-800-311-3627 (toll-free)
www.gadoe.org

Educational Enrollment

Relative 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 relative 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.

Grandfamilies.org Online Database - To find out if your state has an education consent law.
www.grandfamilies.org/Search-Laws

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

Georgia Department of Education, Special Education Services and Supports
404-656-3963
www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/default.aspx

Parent Centers across the country provide information to help parents *and* caregivers with children who have special education needs and disabilities.

Online State Directory - To find Parent Centers in your state.
www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/

Generations United's Grand Resources:

A Grandparent's and Other Relative's Guide to Raising Children with Disabilities
www.gu.org/resources/

Early Childhood Education

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

Online Directory - To find Head Start or Early Head Start centers in your state.
1-866-763-6481 (toll-free)
eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator

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.

Online Directory - To find your local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency.

1- 800-424-2246 (toll-free)

www.childcareaware.org/families/

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 are available in several states.

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

Adoption

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

Families Rising - To get information about your state's subsidy, in addition to other adoption information.

<https://wearefamiliesrising.org/>

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption - To find adoption resources that may be helpful to you.

www.davethomasfoundation.org

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, a guardianship allows them to access 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 relative caregivers who choose to get guardianship of the children in their care who are exiting the child welfare system.

Subsidized Guardianship- Find out more about whether your state has guardianship assistance.

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.

<https://www.gu.org/resources/adoption-and-guardianship-for-children-in-kinship-foster-care/>

Legal Custody

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

Other Options

In some states, relative caregivers who do not want or have a legal relationship to the children in their care have laws that make it possible 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 your state, 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 families. You will also find explanations of legal topic areas, practical implementation ideas, personal stories and many other resources.

Topics Covered:

- Adoption
- Care and Custody
- Education
- Federal Laws
- Foster Care Licensing
- Financial Assistance
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Kinship Navigator Programs
- National Family Caregiver Support Program
- Notification of Relatives
- Subsidized Guardianship

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 Fact Sheets, please email grandfamilies@gu.org.

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Disclaimers: None of the sponsoring organizations or foundations of this fact sheet assessed or evaluated listed programs for their responsiveness or effectiveness. Consequently, none of the sponsoring organizations or foundations assume any liability for any program's usefulness or accuracy of their listed information. The programs are included solely based on their own claim that they provide services or supports to grandfamilies. Omission of any relevant program is not intentional. We welcome feedback and updates via email to grandfamilies@gu.org.

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