

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.

New York

Grandfamilies Data

436,700

Children living in homes where a relative is head of household

127,000

Children being raised by kin with no parent present

4,936

Children in foster care being raised by kin

97,966

Grandparents responsible for their grandchildren in New York

For every **1** child raised by kin in foster care, there are **25** 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: <https://www.gksnetwork.org/kinship-grandfamilies-data/>

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 New York

Area Agencies on Aging- Caregiver Support Services

Website: www.aging.ny.gov/local-offices

Description: Supportive services through the National Family Caregiver Support Program, including information and referral, support groups, and community education.

Together for Youth

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

Phone: 518-456-1969

Service Area: Statewide

Description: Provides statewide Kinship Foster Parent certifications and emergency certifications with wrap around support for kinship families including 24-hour on call, home-based clinical and care management services, psychoeducation surrounding medical needs, tailored caregiver trainings and more.

Catholic Charities of Buffalo - Kinship Caregiver Program

Website: www.ccwny.org

Phone: 716-372-0101

Service Area: Cattaraugus

Description: Support groups for kinship caregivers and children, outreach, advocacy, case management, assessment and referral to family counseling, parenting education, and referral and linkage.

Catholic Charities of Buffalo - Preventive Services Kinship Program

Website: www.ccwny.org/services/preventive-services-kinship

Phone: 716-218-1400

Service Area: Erie County

Description: Serves Erie County families involved with the child welfare system. Conducts home visits to observe family interactions and provide referrals, as well as offer counseling and support for

caregivers and biological parents, including filing for benefits and petitions in family court. All families must be referred through the Erie County Department of Social Services.

Catholic Family Center- Kinship Caregiver Program

Website: www.cfcrochester.org

Email: ccfcs@fcscharities.org

Phone: 585-546-7220

Service Area: Monroe and Wayne Counties

Description: Information, referral, help obtaining financial assistance, parenting groups, support group and quarterly fun activities.

Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country, Inc.-*Family Forever!* Resource Centers and Kinship Program

Website: www.cccnc.org/permanency-resource-center-and-kinship-program

Phone: 518-561-4999 (General/Clinton and Eastern Essex Counties)
518-481-7281 (Northern Franklin County and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe)
315-854-4804 (St. Lawrence County)
518-561-8167 (Southern Franklin, Essex and Hamilton Counties)

Service Area: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and St. Lawrence Counties

Description: Information and referral, advocacy, respite care, support groups with accompanying child care, educational workshops, home visits, youth programs and family events.

Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.

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

Phone: 516-358-9250

Email: info@childcarenassau.org

Service Area: Nassau County

Description: Resource and referral services can assist caregivers and guardians in finding and choosing child care. Also offers educational workshops.

Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dutchess County – Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP)

Website: <http://ccedutchess.org/family/relatives-as-parents-program>

Phone: 845-677-8223

Email: jmc646@cornell.edu

Service Area: Dutchess County

Description: Monthly support groups for caregivers and youth, respite events, mental health and legal service referrals, workshops, support, and intergenerational activities.

Cornell Cooperative Extension, Orange County - Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)

Website: <http://cceorangecounty.org/family/parenting-and-family-life/relatives-as-parents-program-rapp>
Phone: 845-344-1234, ext. 269
Email: cmo223@cornell.edu
Service Area: Orange County
Description: Monthly support programs, educational resources, youth programs and other support services.

Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tioga County- Family Resource Centers (FRC)

Website: <http://tioga.cce.cornell.edu/family/family-resource-centers-frc>
Phone: 607-687-4020, ext. 305
Email: jds77@cornell.edu
Service Area: Tioga County
Description: Drop-in playtimes, parent/caregiver- child activities, parenting workshops, links to community resources, and help with family goal setting.

Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ulster County – Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP)

Website: <http://ulster.cce.cornell.edu>
Email: kp376@cornell.edu
Service Area: Ulster County
Description: Education, referrals and support for kinship caregivers and the children they raise through monthly support groups and youth and teen programs. Intergenerational programs, field trips and career exploration events and activities are held throughout the year.

The Family Center- Family Ties

Website: www.thefamilycenter.org/what-we-do/family-support-services/family-ties/
Phone: 718-230-1379, ext. 132
Service Area: New York City (All 5 boroughs)
Description: Individual and family counseling (specializations in family transition, trauma, grief and loss), permanency plan development, case management, legal assistance, grandparent caregiver support groups, and recreational activities for families. Services available in English and Spanish.

Fort Green Strategic Neighborhood Action Partnership (SNAP) – Grandparent Caregiver Program

Website: www.fortgreenesnap.org
Phone: 718-694-6957
Service Area: Fort Green and surrounding communities
Description: SNAP collaborates with 3 neighborhood public elementary schools in conducting grandparent caregiver support groups during the school year. Caregivers meet with volunteer facilitators to discuss the challenges of parenting the second time around, and to get help and advocacy in dealing with schools and government resources.

Fulton County Office for Aging- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group

Website: www.fcofa.org

Phone: 518-736-5650

Email: fcofa@fultoncountyny.gov

Service Area: Fulton County

Description: Support group for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren that meets the third Friday of every month. Office for Aging also provides respite care, case management, caregiver workshops and a lending library of resources.

Jewish Association for the Aged Grandparent Connection Program

Website: www.jasa.org/services/grandparent-program

Phone: 212-273-5320

Email: help@jasa.org

Service Area: Co-op City and the surrounding Bronx community

Description: Monthly support groups, counseling, trips, events and assistance accessing benefits.

Family Legal Care - Legal Information Hotline

Website: <https://familylegalcare.org/helpline/>

Phone: 212-343-1122

Email: <https://familylegalcare.org/secure-email/>

Service Area: New York City (all 5 Boroughs)

Description: Free bilingual (English/Spanish) legal information Hotline for information and referral. Also produces legal resource guides on 40 different topics in eight languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Korean, Hebrew, French and Haitian Creole).

Mobilization for Justice (MFJ)- Children and Families

Website: www.mobilizationforjustice.org/projects/kinship-caregiver-law-project/

Phone: 212-417-3850; Phone Intake Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 10:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

Email: info@mfjlegal.org

Service Area: New York City (all 5 Boroughs)

Description: Guardianship, Custody & Adoption of related children; Grandparent visitation; Public Benefits, and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

The Neighborhood Center- Kinship Connections

Website: www.neighborhoodctr.org

Phone: 315-272-2600

Email: info@neighborhoodctr.org

Service Area: Herkimer and Oneida Counties

Description: Offers support and advocacy to relatives and other non-parent caregivers with informal or legal custody of children. Services include: home visits. Crisis intervention; referral and advocacy;

service coordination; case conferencing; assistance in accessing the Non-Parent Caregiver grants and other government benefits; referrals to ensure medical, legal and educational needs are met. Conducts support groups for children and adults, community education groups, and family engagement activities.

Regional Permanency Resource Center

Service Area: Herkimer, Oneida, Otsego and Schoharie Counties

Description: Provides assistance to post-adoptive and post-guardianship families so that children may be cared for in their own homes with their adoptive parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Staff work to find the resources parents/guardians need to strengthen their family and avoid foster care or other out-of-home placements.

New York City Department for the Aging- Caregiving –

Website: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dfta/services/caregiving.page>

Phone: 311

Service Area: New York City (all 5 boroughs)

Description: Information and referrals; workshops on legal issues, benefits and entitlement, nutrition budgeting and other topics; peer support groups and guidance on starting individual groups; “Parenting a Second Time Around” classes

New York Council on Adoptable Children (COAC)

Website: www.coac.org

Contact: <https://www.coac.org/contact>

Phone: 646-483-5901

Email: mholiday@coac.org

Service Area: Permanency & Resource Center (PRC) and TANF Program- All 5 boroughs; Kinship Connections Program- Manhattan and Queens

Description: Offers bi-lingual post-adoption, post-guardianship and post-custody support services. Works with families to create service plans to best suit their needs. Offers caregiver trainings and events, assistance in accessing and understanding benefits, and food, school supplies, and holiday giveaways.

To learn more about COAC’s services, read their brochure: [English](#) / [Español](#)

New York Legal Assistance Group

Website: www.nylag.org

Phone: 212-613-5000

Email: info@nylag.org

Service Area: New York City (all five boroughs)

Description: Assistance with family court proceedings (custody, visitation). Family issues hours: Tuesday and Friday 9 AM to 3 PM.

New York State Kinship Navigator Program

Website: www.nysnavigator.org

Phone: 1-877-454-6463 (toll-free) or TTY: New York Relay 711 or 1-800-421-1220 (toll-free)

Email: navigator@nysnavigator.org

Service Area: Statewide (Virtual Case Assistance is available in Albany, Onondaga, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Washington and Warren Counties)

Description: Assists caregivers by providing information on financial assistance, legal information and referrals, and other types of issues related to stability and permanency.

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL)

Website: <https://palgroup.org/>; find a local meeting at <https://meetings.palgroup.org/meetings>

Phone: 480-300-4712 (8:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. MST)

Email: info@palgroup.org

Service Area: Plattsburgh, Utica and Walden

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.

Presbyterian Senior Service Kinship Caregivers Program and Grandparent Family Apartments

Website: <http://pssusa.org/>

Phone: 212-874-6633

Email: office@pssusa.org

Service Area: Bronx County

Description: Support groups in English and Spanish, workshops, legal consultation, information and referral, and youth programs. The service provider at Grandparent Family Apartments, which is affordable housing with services onsite.

Steuben County Office for the Aging - Caregiver Resource Center

Website: <https://www.steubencountyny.gov/244/Caregiver-Resource-Center>

Phone: 607-664-2298

Email: ofainfo@SteubenCountyNY.gov

Service Area: Steuben County

Description: Information and referral, workshops, and legislative advocacy.

Town of Southampton- Senior Services

Website: <http://southamptontownny.gov/150/Senior-Services>

Phone: 631-728-1235

Service Area: Southampton Township

Description: Information and referral, case management, and help accessing financial aid. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group meets every Wednesday at 1:00pm over Zoom.

Volunteer Counseling Services of Rockland County, Inc.

Website: www.vcs-inc.org/

Phone: 845-634-5729

Service Area: Rockland County

Description: Support and Discussion Group for Relatives Raising Children in English and Spanish.

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.

New York Temporary Assistance Program

Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

1-800-342-3009 (toll-free)

Email: nyspio@otda.ny.gov

<https://otda.ny.gov/programs/temporary-assistance/>To apply online – Go to

<https://mybenefits.ny.gov>

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)

<https://secure.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.

New York Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance

1-800-342-3009 (toll-free)

Email: nyspio@otda.ny.gov

<https://otda.ny.gov/programs/snap/> To apply online – Go to <https://mybenefits.ny.gov>

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 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 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 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.

To find your state office that manages the WIC program- <https://www.fna.usda.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.

www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx

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. **BenefitsCheckUp** 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.

New York Child Health Plus

Department of Health

1-855-355-5777

Email: chplus@health.ny.gov

www.health.ny.gov/health_care/child_health_plus/

To apply online – Go to <https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov/>

New York Medicaid

Department of Health

1-855-355-5777

www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/

To apply online – Go to <https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov/>

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 families](#) 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/parents

New York State Education Department

Office of P-12 Education

518-474-3852

Email: NYSEDP12@mail.nysed.govwww.p12.nysed.gov**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.

New York State Education Department, Office of Special EducationEmail: speced@nysed.govwww.p12.nysed.gov/specialed**New York State Early Intervention Program**

New York Department of Health

518-473-7016

Email: bei@health.ny.govwww.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/index.htm

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- New York has an approved Title IV-E Guardian Assistance Program (KinGAP)
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/kinship/kingap.asp>

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/>

Comparing Adoption and Guardianship in New York State

This chart, created by Generations United and the ABA Center on Children and Law, is designed to help kinship foster parents in New York 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.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/Documents/NYGrandfamilies-Adoption-Guardianship-StateChart%20FINAL.pdf>

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 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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