

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children



The Brookdale Foundation
Group
www.brookdalefoundation.org



New York

March 2008

The AARP Foundation, The Brookdale Foundation Group, Casey Family Programs, Child Welfare League of America, Children's Defense Fund, and Generations United have partnered to produce fact sheets for grandparents and other relatives raising children that include state-specific data, programs, and public policies. This and other state fact sheets can be viewed and printed from the website at www.grandfactsheets.org. Fact sheets are updated annually. Updates can be sent directly from the website via email. Please write "State Fact Sheets" on your e-mail subject line.

In New York...

- There are 297,239 children living in grandparent-headed households (6.3% of all the children in the state). There are another 111,806 children living in households headed by other relatives (2.4 % of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in New York, 165,493 are living there without either parent present.
- 143,014 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [83,946 in New York City]: 34% of these grandparents are African American; 26% are Hispanic/Latino; 5% are Asian; and 31% are White. 28% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 66% are under the age of 60; 23% live in poverty.
- Additional data on grandparents raising children are available from the United States Census at <http://factfinder.census.gov> or <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t17.html>.

Programs That Can Help

Brooklyn Grandparents' Coalition

Sponsoring Organization: 12 agencies that provide support groups and services to kinship caregivers in Brooklyn

Contact: Deborah Langosch, Coalition Chairperson

Phone: 212-632-4760

Email: dlangosch@jbfcs.org

Web: www.brooklyngrandparents.org

Service Area: Brooklyn

Services Offered:

- Educational forums
- Multi-cultural holiday party and summer recreational events
- Newsletter

Caregivers Support Services

Sponsoring Organization: Catholic Charities
Contact: Jodi Rosa, Kinship Care Program Director
Phone: 518-449-2001 x 29
Email: JodiR@ccalbany.org
Web: www.cccaregivers.org
Service Area: Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady Counties with consultation for people in surrounding counties

Services Offered:

- Elder caregiving
- Kinship care
- Support groups
- Youth programming
- Activities for adults and children
- Material support for special needs

Catholic Charities of Buffalo Kinship Caregiver Program

Sponsoring Organization: New York State Office of Children and Family Services
Contact: Kate Hacker, Kinship Caregiver Program Supervisor
Phone: 716-856-4494 x 3148
Email: kate.hacker@ccwny.org
Web: www.ccwny.org/service_details.php?nID=43
Service Area: Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Allegany; consultation available to residents of Wyoming, Orleans and Genesee Counties

Services Offered:

- Case management
- Legal advocacy
- Material support for kinship caregiver needs
- Information and referral
- Advocacy
- Referral to court-related programs and family counseling

Catholic Family Center – Kinship Care Resource Network

Sponsoring Organization: New York State Office of Children and Family Services
Phone: 585-262-7048
Email: jdeyager@cfcrochester.org
Web: www.cfcrochester.org, www.parentsagain.com
Service Area: Greater Rochester Area

Services Offered:

- Support groups
- Case management
- Legal advice and information
- Assistance with housing, health care, public benefits
- Family activities

Center on Addiction and the Family

Contact: Doris Smith
Phone: 646-505-2060 or 800-488-3784
Email: dsmith@phoenixhouse.org
Contact: Naomi Weinstein
Phone: 646-505-2061
Email: nweinstein@phoenixhouse.org
Web: www.coaf.org

Service Area:

Services Offered:

- Ties that Bind – supports kinship caregivers when there is parental substance abuse
- Prenatal Toolkit – to help care for child prenatally exposed to alcohol or other drugs
- Building Bridges – supports family reunification, visitation, post-treatment services; training for families and professionals
 - Contact Monique Lilakos
 1. Phone: 646-505-2062
 2. Email: mlilakos@phoenixhouse.org

Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country – Kinship Caregiver Program

Sponsoring Organization: New York State Office of Children and Family Services
Contact: Nancy Buckpitt, Kinship Program Coordinator
Phone: 518-561-4999
Email: kcp@primelink1.net
Service Area: Clinton & Franklin Counties

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Advocacy and case management
- Support groups
- Parent education
- Respite, activities for children and families
- Financial assistance

Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.

Contact: Bonnie Montalbano, Group Facilitator
Phone: 516-358-9250
Email: bmontalbano@childcarenassau.org
Service Area: Nassau County

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Grandparents as Caregivers support group (Jericho Library)

Community Place of Greater Rochester

Contact: Katy Allen
Phone: 585-224-2601
Email: rochfgp@frontiernet.net
Web: <http://www.communityplace.org/>
Service Area: Rochester

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Foster Grandparents
- Senior Companion Program
- After school programs, tutoring
- Case management/social work assistance

Co-Op City Grandparent Connection

Sponsoring Organization: Jewish Association of Services for the Aged (JASA)
Contact: Hattie Lucas, Project Director
Phone: 718-379-0433 x 3004
Email: hlucas@jasa.org
Service Area: Co-Op City and surrounding area

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Support groups for grandparents, children and adolescents
- Case management
- Respite and recreational activities for caregivers and children
- Educational forum

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Dutchess County

Contact: Patricia Healey, RAPP Coordinator
Phone: 845-677-8223 x 137
Email: pah37@cornell.edu
Service Area: Dutchess County

Services Offered:

- Legal consultation
- Counseling
- Special events
- Youth development through RAPP 4H
- Collaborates with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Ulster and Orange Counties to form the Hudson Valley Regional Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)
- Parenting a Second Time Around – 6-week educational series with topics targeted for relative caregivers (2 additional workshops to be added on adolescents in the fall of 2008)

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Relatives as Parents (RAPP) – Orange County

Sponsoring Organization: New York State Office of Children and Family Services
Contact: Brenda Reynolds, RAPP Coordinator
Phone: 845-344-1234
Email: br23@cornell.edu
Service Area: Orange County

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Support groups in English and Spanish
- Parenting series
- Legal consultation
- Counseling
- Special events
- Youth development through RAPP 4-H
- Adult peer-to-peer mentoring for new caregivers
- Collaborates with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Dutchess and Ulster Counties to form the Hudson Valley Regional Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)
- Parenting a Second Time Around – 6-week educational series with topics targeted for relative caregivers (2 additional workshops to be added on adolescents in the fall of 2008)

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Tioga County

Contact: Judy Wolf, RAPP Coordinator
Phone: 607-687-4020
Email: jrw19@cornell.edu
Service Area: Tioga County

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- RAPP resource library
- Family social activities
- Parenting a Second Time around – six-week curriculum for grandparents raising grandchildren
- Services also provided at:
 - Waverly Family Resource Center, 374 Broad Street, Waverly - 607-565-2374
 - Owego Family Resource Center, 228 Main Street, Waverly - 607-687-2374

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Relatives as Parents (RAPP) – Ulster

Contact: Erica Smith
Phone: 845-340-3990
Email: els235@cornell.edu
Service Area: Ulster County

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Relatives as Parents (RAPP) – Ulster

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Support groups in English and Spanish
- Parenting series
- Special events
- Youth development through RAPP 4-H
- Collaborates with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Dutchess and Orange Counties to form the Hudson Valley Regional Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)
- Parenting a Second Time Around – 6-week educational series with topics targeted for relative caregivers (2 additional workshops to be added on adolescents in the fall of 2008)

Dunbar Association

Contact: Michael Rosen
Phone: 315-476-4269
Service Area: Southern Syracuse

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)
- Support groups

Enhanced Relatives as Parents Program

Sponsoring Organization: Volunteer Counseling Services of Rockland County, Inc.
Phone: 845-634-5729
Email: rserranodelgado@VCS-inc.org
Service Area: Rockland County

Services Offered:

- Counseling
- Monthly respite programs for children and workshops for adolescents
- Support groups
- Information and referral
- Occasional financial assistance

Erie County Department of Senior Services

Phone: 716-858-8526
Email: caregiver@erie.gov
Service Area: Erie County

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Legal advice on guardianship and adoption

Family and Children's Society

Contact: Kerry L. Foster
Phone: 607-658-7121
Email: kfoster@uegw.stier.org
Service Area: Kinship Support Group – Broome County
Counseling – Union Endicott School District Broome

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Counseling for individuals (adults, children, family) serves anyone in the Union Endicott School District
- Kinship Support Group – Grandparents as Parents - Meets on the first and third Thursday of each month from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at UE District Office 1100 East Main Street Endicott NY 13760. Free child care available with advanced notice.

Family Center

Sponsoring Organization: Funding from NY City Dept. for the Aging and NY State Office of Children and Family Services
Contact: Marya Gilborn, Director of Social Services
Phone: 212-766-4522 x 114
Email: mgilborn@thefamilycenter.org
Service Area: Family Center sites in Manhattan, Bedford Stuyvesant
Home-based services in all five boroughs

Services Offered:

- Individual and family counseling
- Case management and advocacy
- Respite
- Legal services
- Support groups/recreational activities for adults, families, teens

Family Enrichment Network – Kinship Caregiver Program

Sponsoring Organization: NY State Office of Children and Family Services
Contact: Diane LaTorrey
Phone: 607-723-8313 x 831
Email: dlatorrey@familyenrichment.cc
Service Area: Broome County

Services Offered:

- Help Line 607-352-1729
- Information/referral
- Advocacy with DSS and Family Court
- Individual Counseling for adults and children
- Support group for kinship caregivers
- Children's Anger Management groups
- Parenting the Second Time Around curriculum
- Monthly workshops
- Social activities for kinship families
- Lending library

Family Resource Center of Crestwood

Contact: Linda James, Program Coordinator

Phone: 585-436-0370 ext. 302

Email: ljames@hillside.com

Service Area: Rochester

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- SKIP Generation Support groups - one an educational support group; another for grandparents raising children with disabilities
- Workshops
- Assistance with guardianship, TANF, SSI applications
- Home visits by mentor grandparents

Grandparent Caregiver Program - Brooklyn

Sponsoring Organization: Fort Green Strategic Neighborhood Action Partnership (SNAP)

Contact: Georgianna Glose

Phone: 718-694-6957

Email: drglose@fortgreenesnap.org

Web: <http://www.fortgreenesnap.org/>

Service Area: Clinton Hill, Farragut, Fulton Ferry, Pratt Area, Vinegar Hill

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Support groups and activities
- Computer Access

Grandparents Advocacy Program (GAP)

Sponsoring Organization: Mid-Erie Counseling and Treatment Services

Contact: Dorothy Hawkins, GAP Kinship Facilitator

Phone: 716-858-4722

Email: hawkins422@aol.com

Service Area: Erie County

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Legal assistance with custody issues
- Food pantry
- Respite care
- Support group

Grandparents Coalition

Sponsoring Organization: Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services
Contact: Corina DeLeón
Phone: 914-813-6393
Email: cdd2@westchestergov.com
Service Area: Westchester County

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Brings together agency representatives and grandparents raising grandchildren
- Support groups in Mt. Vernon and Yonkers
- Individual counseling and advocacy
- Resource Center
- Educational workshops
- Recreational activities
- Transportation to events
- Guide to summer camps and summer jobs
- Fundraising for back to school clothes, supplies and holiday gifts
- Subcontractors offer help in learning to use computers
- Serves grandparents age 55 and older

Grandparents Empowerment Movement

Sponsoring Organization: Steinway Child and Family Services
Contact: Mary D. Redd, Pres/CEO of Steinway Child and Family Services
Phone: 718-389-5100
Email: marydredd@steinway.org
Service Area: Greater Harlem

Services Offered:

- Case Management
- Health Services
- Entitlements
- Information/referral
- Educational workshops
- Individual counseling and advocacy
- Recreational activities
- Respite
- Support for grandparents whose adult children are incapacitated due to HIV/AIDS, drugs or violence.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren - Oswego

Sponsoring Organization: Office of Mental Health in Syracuse
Contact: Peggy Cuyler Salem, Families with Attention Deficit Disorder
Phone: 315-216-6425
Email: peggy@faddhouse.com
Website: www.faddhouse.com
Service Area: Oswego County and surrounding area
Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Support group – emphasis on children with special needs; open to all grandparents raising grandchildren; on-site child care

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program – Steuben County

Sponsoring Organization: Steuben County Office for the Aging
Contact: Patty Barody
Phone: 607-664-2298 or 607-776-7813
Email: pattyb@pfcinc.ny.us
Website: www.steubencony.org (Office of Aging Section)
Service Area: Steuben County
Services Offered:

- Information/referral via phone, in person, email
- Newsletter
- Workshops
- Legislative advocacy on kinship care issues

KinCare Project

Sponsoring Organization: New York Legal Assistance Group
Phone: 212-613-5000
Web: <http://www.nylag.org/>
Service Area: New York City metro area – all five boroughs
Services Offered:

- Assistance with Family Court and Surrogate Court proceedings, custody, child support, visitation, public assistance
- Office open Tuesday – Friday 9am – 3pm

Kinship Care Program (KCP)

Sponsoring Organization: Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services
Contact: Deborah Langosch, Project Director
Phone: 212-632-4760
Email: dlangosch@jbfcs.org
Service Area: Brooklyn

Kinship Care Program (KCP) – cont.

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Case management
- Legal advocacy
- Support group
- Individual and family counseling
- Assistance to access entitlements and benefits
- Forums/recreational events through Brooklyn Grandparents Coalition (see above)
- Free workshops to the community at large on issues of loss, trauma and grief for relative caregiving families to help reduce risks and utilize strengths (Brookdale Foundation RAPP grant)

Kinship Care Resource Network

Sponsoring Organization: Catholic Family Center
Contact: Mary Penet, Program Manager
Phone: 585-232-1840 x 354
Email: mpenet@cferochester.org
Service Area: Monroe County

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Education
- Counseling
- Support groups in Plymouth Manor and Carlson Commons Townhomes
- Legal and financial counseling
- Case management – case manager onsite each Monday morning

Kinship Caregiver Law Project

Sponsoring Organization: MFY Legal Services, Inc.
Contact: Ramonita Cordero, Supervising Attorney (Spanish-speaking)
Phone: 212-417-3774
Email: rcordero@mfy.org
Contact: Amy Roehl, Staff Attorney/Equal Justice Works Fellow
Phone: 212-417-3743
Email: aroehl@mfy.org
Service Area: New York City (All 5 Boroughs)

Services Offered:

- Assistance in Family Court proceedings, including custody, guardianship, adoption, and visitation proceedings
- Information/referrals
- Advice and counsel
- Direction representation through our pro bono program
- Professional education for service providers and kinship caregivers

Kinship Connections

Sponsoring Organization: New York Council on Adoptable Children/New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Contact: Joann Buttaro
Phone: 212-475-0222
Email: jbuttaro@coac.org

Contact: Beatrice Sanchez
Phone: 212-475-0222
Email: bsanchez@coac.org
Web: www.coac.org/
Service Area: New York City
Services Offered:

- In-home family counseling and case management

Kinship Navigator Program

Sponsoring Organization: New York State Office of Children and Family Services and Rochester Catholic Family Center

Phone: 1-877-454-6463
Website: <http://www.nysnavigator.org>
Service Area: Statewide
Services Offered:

- Assistance in identifying kinship-care services in local area
- Information/referral
- Referrals to legal service organizations
- Fact sheets, county guides, news and events
- Guide to applying for public assistance

Liberty Resources, Inc. – Kinship Caregiver Program

Sponsoring Organization: New York State Office of Children and Family Services and Rochester Catholic Family Center

Phone: 315-598-4642 x 47
Email: pheilveil@liberty-resources.org
Website: www.liberty-resources.org
Service Area: Oswego County
Services Offered:

- Information and referral
- Case management
- Training and support
- Intensive clinical services to support relative caregivers

LIFT (Legal Information for Families Today)

Phone: Legal Information Hotline 212-343-1122
Web: www.LIFTonline.org
Service Area: New York City

LIFT (Legal Information for Families Today) – cont.

Services Offered:

- Free Bilingual (English/Spanish) Legal Information Hotline and NYC Family Court-based Information Sites offering information about family and criminal law (in Spanish and English) and referrals to community-based social service organizations and legal service providers
- Legal Resource Guides: easy to understand guides on family court and criminal justice topics available in Chinese, English, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian and Spanish; available for download at www.LIFTonline.org
- Children’s activity books about Family Court (in Spanish and English)
- Legal education workshops for relative caregivers on family law, Family Court procedure, juvenile justice, and PINS proceedings offered citywide
- Family Legal Center - offering individualized assistance to self-represented individuals involved in child support, custody and visitation cases

Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center

Contact: Wendy Golub
Phone: 212-874-0860x109
Email: wgolub_lsnc@yahoo.com
Web: www.lsneny.org/
Service Area: Upper West Side New York City

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Spanish-speaking Support group at Settlement House
- Educational advocacy
- Lunch for grandparents
- Day care for preschool children; after school children for older youngsters
- Wide range of senior services

Long Island Kinship Connection

Sponsoring Organization: National Committee of Grandparents for Children’s Rights
Phone: 631-444-3160 or 516-446-1539
Email: abcast@optonline.net
Service Area: Long Island

Services Offered:

- Volunteer caregivers
- Case management
- Information and referral
- Support groups
- Counseling
- Family group conferencing

Mid-Erie Counseling and Treatment Services

Sponsoring Organization: New York State Kinship Caregiver Program
Phone: 212-874-0860x109
Email: kachurka@mid-erie.org
Web: www.erie.gov/depts/seniorservices/rac/sg_mid-erie.phtml
Service Area: Erie County

Services Offered:

- Support services targeted to children under 18 and/or caregivers
- Advocacy and legal representation for relative caregivers who are trying to obtain legal custody
- Services offered to families who meet TANF eligibility requirements
- Family team includes Kinship Services Facilitator, Family Advocate, Attorney

National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights (NCGCR)

Contact: Brigitte Castellano, Executive Director
Phone: 1-866-624-9900
Email: bcastellano@grandparentsforchildren.org
Service Area: Statewide (national coalition)

Services Offered:

- Lobbying/rallies for state legislation
- Long Island KinCare Connection Program – Nassau, Suffolk Counties
- Information on state law/entitlements/services
- Free family/individual counseling
- Free legal consultation
- Case Management
- Monthly support groups
- Weekly support groups facilitated by a trained counselor

New York City Department for the Aging

Grandparent Resource Center

Contact: Yvonne Torres, Director
Phone: 212-442-1094
Email: ytorres@aging.nyc.gov
Service Area: New York City

Services Offered:

Services Offered:

- Information and Referral
- Case Assistance
- Support groups in each borough
- Training for Professionals and Grandparent Caregivers
- Multiple educational forums
- Grandparent Information Workshops
- Free Publications

New York State Kincares Coalition

Sponsoring Organization: AARP
Phone: 212-407-3784
Email: NYKincarecoalition@aarp.org
Service Area: Statewide

Services Offered:

- 90 government agencies and service providers
- Identifies barriers and challenges to kincares
- Advocates for improved strategies
- Networking and education by and for members

New York State Office for the Aging

Contact: Nanci Hawver
Phone: 518- 473-7259
Email: Nanci.Hawver@ofa.state.ny.us
Web: <http://aging.state.ny.us/caring/index.htm>
Service Area: Statewide

Services Offered:

- Established the Governor’s Family Caregiver Council to work with other state agencies providing services to caregivers
- Maintains a “Families and Caregivers” website
- Support services provided through local offices for the aging and other partner agencies
- Advocacy for policy, program and resource development
- Directory of Grandparent/Kinship Caregivers Support Programs at <http://aging.state.ny.us/caring/index.htm>

New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

Contact: Bob Resnick, Project Coordinator
Phone: 518-402-6775
Email: Robert.resnick@ocfs.state.ny.us
Service Area: Statewide

Services Offered:

- Kinship Caregiver Program – support services in 13 community-based organizations
- Kinship Navigator Program – see below
- Information, referral, online resources

Presbyterian Senior Service Kinship Caregivers Program

Sponsoring Organization: New York State Office of Children and Family Services
Contact: Michele Chapple, Director
Phone: 718-620-1262 x1212
Email: mchapple@pssusa.org
Contact: Lysha Tejeda (Spanish-speaking)
Phone: 718-620-1262 x1213
Email: ltejeda@pssusa.org
Service Area: Bronx County

Presbyterian Senior Service Kinship Caregivers Program – cont.

Services Offered:

- Support groups in English and Spanish at GrandParent Family Apartments
- Education workshops
- Information/resources/referral
- Legal consultation on custody issues
- Youth programs – tutoring, recreation

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) – Madison County

Sponsoring Organization: Madison County Office for the Aging, Inc.
Contact: Theresa Davis, Exec. Dir., Madison County Office for the Aging
Phone: 315-697-5700
Email: ofamadco@dreamscape.com
Service Area: Madison County
Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Support group (offers breakfast plus speakers)
- Lending library

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) – Putnam County

Sponsoring Organization: Putnam Family and Community Services
Contact: Sue Schukin
Phone: 845-225-2700 x 180
Email: sschukin@pfcinc.org
Service Area: Putnam County
Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Monthly multi-generational support group offered (dinner served and children's activities available)

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) – Rockland County

Sponsoring Organization: VCS, Inc. (Volunteer Counseling Services)
Contact: Rosa Serrano-Delgado, Director
Phone: 845-634-5729 x 329
Address: 77 South Main St, New York City, NY 10965
Email: rserranodelgado@vcs-inc.org
Service Area: Rockland County

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) – Rockland County – cont.

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Counseling
- Caregiver support group
- Respite for young children
- Teen group
- School advocacy
- Limited financial assistance

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) – Tompkins County

Sponsoring Organization: Tompkins County Office for the Aging, Inc.
Contact: David Stoyell
Phone: 607-274-5492
Email: dstoyell@tompkins-co.org
Web: www.tompkins-co.org/cofa/GatewaytoSeniorServices.htm
Service Area: Tompkins County

Services Offered:

- Resource Guide (hard copy or online)
- Referral to Tompkins County support group for grandparents raising grandchildren sponsored by Family and Children's Service

Second Time Around Parents for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Sponsoring Organization: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County
Contact: Isabelle Doran Jensen, Extension Resource Education
Phone: 585-394-3977 x 408
Email: idj1@cornell.edu
Service Area: Ontario County

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Education and Parenting Series
- Support group meets in Canandaigua plus Brown Bag RAPP Lunch
- Warm-line
- Printed resources, lending library
- 4-H club for 6-12 year old grandchildren – child care for under 6 year olds
- Family social activities

Southampton Town Department of Human Services

Sponsoring Organization: Division of Senior Services and the Southampton Youth Bureau
Contact: Tracy Kolsin, LCSW
Phone: 631-702-2421
Email: tkolsin@town.southampton.ny.us
Service Area: Southampton Township

Southampton Town Department of Human Services – cont.

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Grandparents Raising Children Support Group
- Help accessing financial aid
- Case management
- Recreation
- Services for grandchildren – job mentoring, healthy eating, counseling, education, social events

Ulster County Office of the Aging

Contact: Evelyn Flynn
Phone: 845-334-5169
Email: efly@co.ulster.ny.us
Service Area: Ulster County

Services Offered:

- Support group at Everett Hodge Community Center in Kingston

Utica Kin Caregivers Support Network

Sponsoring Organization: Municipal Housing Authority of City of Utica
Contact: John Furman
Phone: 315-735-3362 x 34
Service Area: Utica

Services Offered:

- Information/referral
- Support group
- Client-needs assessment system
- Case management
- Legal education seminars
- Referral to services through Community Network Coalition

Wyoming County Office for the Aging

Contact: Jane Stevens
Phone: 845-334-5169
Email: jstevens@wyomingco.net
Service Area: Ulster County

Services Offered:

- Respite for grandparents – summer camp for children

Children in Foster Care

Numbers – September 2007

- 10,716 children in out-of-home placements under supervision of New York Office of Children and Family Services.
- Of these children, 1,898 were in kinship foster care, with another 593 in “child specific” placements (with friends or other caregivers who have had a relationship with a child before placement)

Preferences

- State law requires that kin be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under the care of the state.
- No separate licensing program for kinship foster parents. Kin have to meet the same licensing standards and receive the same foster care payment rate as non-kin foster parents.

Subsidized guardianship

- New York does not have any subsidized guardianship programs.

State kinship care information

- Contact: Jamie Greenberg, Prog. Specialist, NY Office of Children and Family Services
 - Phone: 518-473-1327
 - Email: Jamie.greenberg@dfa.state.ny.us

Public Benefits

Children are often eligible for state and federal benefits even if their caregivers do not have legal guardianship or custody. These programs include:

Financial Assistance

- Cash payments may be available to children who live with a relative through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program:
- Contact:
 - Phone: 800-342-3334
 - Web: <http://www.otda.state.ny.us/main/workingfamilies/>

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps to help meet their children’s food and nutrition needs.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 800-342-3334
 - Web: <http://www.otda.state.ny.us/main/workingfamilies/>

Health Insurance

- Grandparents and other relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance on behalf of the children they are raising through New York Medicaid and Child Health Plus programs. In some cases, caregivers may also be eligible for free coverage under Medicaid. For more information about how to apply for these programs
- Contact for Medicaid:
 - Phone: 800-342-3334
 - Web: http://www.health.state.ny.us/health_care/
- Contact for Child Health Plus:
 - Phone: 800-698-KIDS (5437)
 - Web: <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/chplus/>
 - Email: chplus@health.state.ny.us

Benefits QuickLINK

- Screens you and/or the children you are raising for 15 major public benefits for older adults and families with children
 - Web: www.aarp.org/quicklink

Other Benefits – child care, disabilities, special education, older adult benefits, etc.

- Children’s Defense Fund benefit guides for grandparents and other relatives for information about state and federal benefits
 - Phone: 202-662-3568
 - Web: www.childrendefense.org (Kinship Care Resource Kit)
- National Council on Aging – Benefits CheckUp www.benefitscheckup.org

State Laws

The following state laws may be helpful to grandparents and other relatives raising children.¹

Medical Consent to Immunizations and Emergency Medical Care

N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 2504

- Enables grandparents, adult aunt or uncle, adult brother or sister, or non-relatives acting in a parental relationship to consent to the immunization of a child.

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Standby Guardianship

N.Y. Surr. Ct. Proc. Act § 1726

- Allows a progressively, chronically, or irreversibly ill parent, legal guardian or legal custodian to designate an alternate or “standby guardian” of a child.

Permanent Guardianship Status

NY A 1514

- Provides for permanent guardianship status for suitable relatives of children who have been placed in a relative’s care when parental rights of the children are terminated or the children are otherwise freed for adoption.

Grandparent Rights Act

S. 224-A and A.8302-B

- Defines how long a grandchild must reside with a grandparent before a grandparent is able to seek legal custody. If a child has resided for two or more years in a grandparent's home, judges must decide legal custody based on the best interests of the child.
- Requires social service departments to find all grandparents and inform them of their options when child protective services removes a child from his or her parents' home. Once located, these grandparents and any other known relatives must be told that: (1) they may qualify as foster parents; (2) they may become legal custodians or guardianship independent of the foster care system; and (3) their failure to intervene may ultimately result in adoption by an unrelated foster family.

Search for Kin

Chapter 671 of the Laws of 2005

- Requires social services personnel to conduct an expansive search for a child's relatives and to notify them of the opportunity to serve as foster parents.

¹Laws change and are subject to different interpretations. These general descriptions are not intended as legal advice in any particular situation.

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