



HAWAII

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

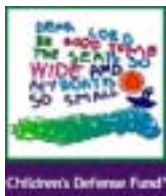


September 2005

The Brookdale Foundation

Across the United States, more than 6 million children are being raised in households headed by grandparents and other relatives; 2.5 million children are in these households without any parents present. As the children's parents struggle with substance abuse, mental illness, incarceration, economic hardship, divorce, domestic violence, and other challenges, these caregivers provide a vital safety net to children inside and outside of the foster care system. This fact sheet provides important information and resources for the grandparents and other relatives raising children in your state.

National and State Data*



The Children

- Nationally, 4.5 million children are living in grandparent-headed households (6.3% of all children under age 18). This represents a 30% increase from 1990 to 2000.
- There are another 1.5 million children in the United States who are living in households headed by other relatives (2.1% of all children under 18).
- In Hawaii, there are 38,051 children living in grandparent-headed households (3.7% of all children in the state). There are another 4,128 children living in households headed by other relatives (1.1% of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Hawaii, 13,814 are living there without either parent present.

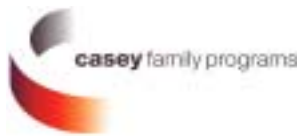
The Grandparents

- Nationally, 2.4 million grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them: 29% of these grandparents are African American; 17% are Hispanic/Latino; 2% are American Indian or Alaskan Native; 3% are Asian; and 47% are White. 34% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 71% are under the age of 60; 19% live in poverty.
- In Hawaii, 14,029 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [3,260 in Honolulu]: 17% of these grandparents are Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander; 8% are Hispanic/Latino; 40% are Asian; and 14% are White. 22% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present.

Additional Information

- United States Census data on grandparents who are responsible for meeting the basic needs of their grandchildren can also be broken down by county, congressional district, and other categories. Log on to <http://factfinder.census.gov>. Additional data on grandparents and grandchildren are available at www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/grandparents.html.
- Additional national and state data on grandparents raising children is available on AARP's website at www.aarp.org/families/grandparents.

* These data are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau Table DP-2. Profile Selected Social Characteristics: 2000.



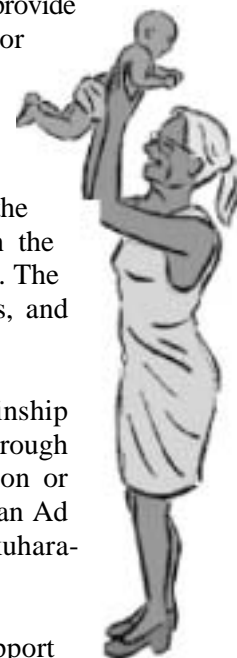
Programs That Can Help

The State of Hawaii's Executive Office on Aging and the Hawaii Caregiver Coalition has established a Relative as Parents Program (RAPP) through a grant from the Brookdale Foundation. Among its projects, RAPP is conducting a kincare survey with Hi'i Na Kupuna, Maui County's caregiver coalition. Along with Legal Services for Children, Hawaii Family Services, Institute for Family Enrichment and other state partners, RAPP will offer support groups, advocacy services, and statewide conferences. *Contact:* Wes Lum at (808) 586-7319 or wlwlum@mail.health.state.hi.us

Na Tutu ("grandmothers") is a coalition of grandparents and other relative caregivers and several state and community agencies serving kinship care families, including the Hawaii AARP, the Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service, the Honolulu Elderly Affairs Division, and Parents and Children Together. Started in 1999 in response to a video teleconference on kinship care issues at the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service, the Coalition has been instrumental in bringing attention to other kinship care-related policy and service initiatives. Na Tutu is an advocacy group and does not provide direct services. *Contact:* Jacqueline T. Chong, Chairperson, at (808) 239-8908 or chongj001@hawaii.rr.com.

Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center (QLCC)'s mission is to care for and support Hawaiian orphan or destitute children by working with its partners and the 'ohana (network of relatives) to focus efforts on strengthening families so that they will be better able to support the development of healthy, resilient children. Nine units statewide use an approach based on the philosophy of community building that is consonant with Hawaiian cultural and spiritual values. The Center provides counsel and referral services, individual and family services, group services, and community organization. *Contact:* Pat Urieff at (808) 847-1302 or purrieff@qlcc.org.

- *Na Keiki Law Center*, a project of Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii, provides advice to kinship caregivers on how to establish legal relationships with the children they are raising through guardian-ship, adoption, or agreement between family members reached through mediation or family conferencing. Na Keiki Law Center offers direct representation for caregivers, Guardian Ad Litem representation of minors, and referrals for pro bono counsel. *Contact:* Stacy Fukuhara-Barclay, Project Coordinator, at (803) 522-0676 or stacy@vlsh.org.
- *Tutu's House* (Grandparent's House) hosts a number of community-based programs to support "health of body, mind and spirit." Its lending library includes books and audio and videotapes on a variety of parenting topics. Also available is access to the internet to research parenting sites, and to receive information on other organizations which provide services to families. If requested, a kinship care support group can be added to the monthly program calendar. *Contact:* Dana Moody at (808) 885-6777 or tutu@tutushouse.org.
- *The Kaneohe Family Center's Parents and Children Together Program* has long recognized the increasing number of grandparents and other relatives parenting children, in most cases because the children's parents have substance abuse problems. The Parents and Children Together Program specifically provides grandparent support groups and specialized parenting training for kinship care families in the Kaneohe area. *Contact:* Gordon Miyamoto, Site Coordinator, at (808) 235-7747 or kcfc@pacthawaii.org.
- *The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center* hosts the Na-Tutu (The Grandparent) kinship caregiver support program. The program offers support sessions, offers educational services, hosts local speakers, and provides recreational activities for the kinship care families in Waianae. The program also provides respite care in cooperation with Timeout Services, and gives individual counseling services to kinship caregivers. *Contact:* Shannon Kaekua hiwi at (808) 696-3482.



Children in Foster Care

Sometimes state child welfare agencies place children in foster care with grandparents or other relatives. Most state agencies call these placements “kinship care.” In Hawaii, the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services Branch reports:

Number of children in kinship care: As of July 31, 2004, 2,857 children were in out-of-home placements under the Department’s supervision. Of these children, 1,131 children were placed with kin.

Preferences for kinship care: State policy requires that kin be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under the Department’s care.

Kinship care licensing: Kin have to meet the same licensing standards and receive the same foster care payment rate as non-kin foster parents.

Permanency Assistance Program: In addition to foster care payments and other benefits available to kin raising children in foster care, some states also have a subsidized guardianship program. Hawaii has a state-funded subsidized guardianship program which provides an ongoing permanency assistance payment to kin and non-kin who become legal guardians of a child in the foster care system for whom adoption or a return to the child’s parents has been ruled out. The permanency assistance payment is the same as the foster care payment. The family may continue to obtain necessary post-permanency services through a private agency after the guardianship is finalized. Call Cynthia Goss, Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services Branch, at (808) 586-5925 or cgross@dhs.hawaii.gov.

State kinship care contact: State foster care contact: Questions about kinship foster placements should be directed to Cynthia Goss, Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services Branch, at (808) 586-5925 or cgross@dhs.hawaii.gov.

Hawaii Foster Parents Association: In response to the special barriers facing kinship caregivers, Hawaii requires that special training sessions be provided to kinship foster parents caring for children in the state’s foster care system. Hawaii’s Child Welfare Services Branch has contracted with the Hawaii Foster Parents Association, a private agency, to provide a specialized training curriculum for kin. Call Sarah T. Casken, Executive Director, at (808) 263-0920 or sarah@hawaiifosterparent.org.



EPIC ‘Ohana Conferencing: EPIC ‘Ohana Conferencing is a non-profit corporation that provides Family Decision Making services for families and community agencies. EPIC started the Family Group Conferencing Program in the State of Hawaii in 1996. Over the past six years, EPIC has provided conferencing services for families, the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services Branch, and other non-profit agencies such as the Casey Family Program. ‘Ohana Conferencing is available to assist families and Child Welfare Services in collaborating to make decisions concerning their children through all stages of a child welfare case, including pre-foster care decisions, foster custody placements, and permanency decisions such as guardianship or adoption. ‘Ohana Conferencing supports kinship involvement by providing information concerning foster home licensing of kinship caregivers, the availability of financial and medical support for the child, and permanent placement options within the family. EPIC also provides free legal services for adoptions, guardianships and powers of attorney to kinship caregivers and others in confirmed child abuse and neglect cases that have not yet been adjudicated. Call Arlynn Howell Livingston, Executive Director, at (808) 838-1261 or alivingston@hawaii.rr.com.

Foster Family Programs (FFP) of Hawai‘i provide case management services to kinship and other guardianship families previously served by Casey Family Programs. The program is designed to support permanency and prevent re-entry into the foster care system. FFP also provides training, support groups, and transitional services for families and youth. Contact: Linda Santos at (808) 521-9531 or lsantos@FFPHawaii.org.

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 and their grandparents and other relative caregivers through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program:

- A “child-only grant” is for the child and based *only* on the child’s income.
- An adult caregiver may also be included in the TANF grant — based on their income and subject to work requirements and time limits.

For more information, call (808) 586-5729 or log on to www.state.hi.us/dhs/.

Food Stamps: Kinship care families may also be eligible for food stamps to help meet their children’s food and nutrition needs. For more information, call (808) 586-5722 or log on to www.state.hi.us/dhs/.

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 Hawaii’s Medicaid and QUEST programs. In some cases, caregivers may also be eligible for free coverage under Medicaid. For more information about how to apply for these programs, call (808) 587-3521 or log on to www.med-quest.us.

Other Benefits: Other state and federal benefits may also be available to eligible children, such as child care subsidies, disability benefits, and special education services. For more information about these, download CDF’s benefit guides for grandparents and other relatives raising children at www.childrensdefense.org or call (202) 662-3568. For more information on the federal benefits that may be available to caregivers, log on to the National Council on Aging’s Benefits CheckUp web site at www.benefitscheckup.org.

State Laws

The following state law may be helpful to grandparents and other relatives raising children¹:

Educational Consent (Section 1, Chapter 555, Hawaii Revised Statutes): This law allows the primary relative caregiver of the child (and who lives with the child full-time) to give educational consent (subject to penalty for perjury) for minor children.

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

National Resources

AARP Grandparent Information Center	(888) 687-2277	www.aarp.org/grandparents
Adoption Information Clearinghouse	(888) 251-0075	http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/
The Brookdale Foundation Group	(212) 308 -7355	www.brookdalefoundation.org
Child Welfare League of America	(202) 638-2952	www.cwla.org
Children’s Defense Fund	(202) 628-8787	www.childrensdefense.org
Generations United	(202) 289-3979	www.gu.org
GrandsPlace	860) 763-5789	www.grandsplace.com

KINship Information Network	(772) 501-0502	www.kinsupport.org
National Aging Information Center	(202) 619-0724	www.aoa.dhhs.gov
National Committee of Grandparents For Children's Rights	(866) 624-9900	www.grandparentsforchildren.org
The Urban Institute	(202) 833-7200	www.urban.org

Fact sheets are updated quarterly. Changes or additions should be e-mailed to the AARP Grandparent Information Center at gic@arp.org. Please write "State Fact Sheets" on your e-mail subject line.