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 Email subject line.

### In California...

- There are 625,934 children living in grandparent-headed households (6.8% of all the children in the state). There are another 327,623 children living in households headed by other relatives (3.5% of all the children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in California, 389,631 are living there without either parent present.
- 294,969 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [30,511 in Los Angeles and 8,840 in San Diego]: 12% of these grandparents are African American; 42% are Hispanic/Latino, 9% are Asian, 1% are American Indian and Alaskan Native and 33% are White. 25% of these grandparents live in households without the children’s parents present. 67% are under the age of 60; 16% live in poverty.

### Programs That Can Help

**Advocates 4 Family Caregivers**

- **Sponsoring Organization**: Office of Samoan Affairs Community Center
- **Address**: 20715 S. Avalon Blvd. #210 Carson, CA
- **Contact Person**: Betty Halle
- **Phone**: 310-538-8099
- **Email**: a4fc@osacommunity.org
- **Service Area**: South Bay area of Los Angeles
- **Services Offered**:
  - Support groups/support services for children and grandparents
  - Specializes in families involved with Probate Court, Department of Children and Family Services or Family Court
BANANAS, Inc.

Contact Person: Arlyce Currie, Prog. Director
Phone: 510-658-7353
Email: BANANAS@bananasinc.org
Service Area: Northern Alameda County (based in Oakland)
Services Offered:
• Childcare information and referral

California Coalition of Grandparents & Relative Caregivers (CCG/RC)

Sponsoring Organization: Statewide coalition of support groups started in 1
Contact Person: Lenora Poe, Ph.D.
Phone: 510-845-7189
Email: lenorapoe@sbcglobal.net
Service Area: Alameda, Costa Contra Counties
Services Offered:
• Networking with other kinship caregivers and state legislators
• Meets twice yearly in Sacramento
• Information sharing and advocacy
• Grandparents as Parents Support Group
• Tutoring for grandchildren
• Legal services for prisoners with children

California Community Colleges

Sponsoring Organization: State Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges
Contact Person: Lucy Berger, Coordinator of Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE)
Phone: 916-323-5276
Email: lberger@cccco.edu
Service Area: 64 participating community colleges throughout the state
Services Offered:
• Education and workshops for kinship caregivers

Carson Family Resource Center

Sponsoring Organization: California Family Resource Association
Contact Person: Josefina Dhungana
Phone: 310-513-8070
Find Local Coordinator: jdhungana@yahoo.com
Service Area: Carson and the South Bay area
Services Offered:
• Information and referral
• Support group
### Casey Family Programs

**Contact Person:** Ruth Gonzalez  
**Phone:** 323-750-1171  
**Email:** rgonzalez@casey.org  
**Service Area:** Pasadena, South Los Angeles

**Services Offered:**
- Information and referral by telephone
- Support groups – in person and by telephone
- Family group conferencing to maintain kinship care

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### Edgewood Center for Children and Families Kinship Support Network

**Sponsoring Organization**  
Collaboration between San Francisco and San Mateo Departments of Social Services

**Contact Person:** Falope Fatunmise, Regional Director  
**Phone:** 415-375-7600  
**Email:** falopef@edgewoodcenter.org  
**Service Area:** San Francisco and San Mateo

**Services Offered:**
- Support groups
- Case management
- Emergency response services
- Recreation and respite
- Advocacy
- Mental health assessments
- Home health visits
- Family conferences

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### Family Ties, Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP)

**Sponsoring Organization**  
Kinship Center & Monterey County Dept. of Social Services

**Address:**  
124 River Rd, Salinas, CA

**Phone:** 800-454-6744  
**Email:** info@kinshipcenter.org  
**Website:** www.kinshipcenter.org  
**Service Area:** Salinas, San Jose, Santa Ana, Pasadena, Redlands

**Services Offered:**
- Food bank, clothes closet, holiday gifts and meals
- Summer camp and recreational activities
- Assistance with adoption and guardianship
- Outreach social workers
- Mental health services
Focus on Kinship

Contact Person: Sylvia Nelson  
Phone: 619-962-4470  
Email: sjnelson1@hotmail.com  
Service Area: South Bay San Diego County  

Services Offered:  
- Caregiver-led advocacy, support and outreach

Grandma’s House

Sponsoring Organization: Children’s Institute International (CII)  
Contact Person: Frances Crawford, Program Coordinator  
Phone: 213-807-1821  
Email: fcrwford@childrensinstitute.org  
Website: www.childrensinstitute.org  
Service Area: Los Angeles area

Services Offered:  
- Drop-in counseling and assessments  
- Support groups meet weekly  
- Social/recreational activities for relative caregivers and children  
- Referrals for child care, legal aid, medical and mental health services

Grandparent Advocacy Network of Northern California (NorCal)

Contact Person: Sandy Weiss  
Phone: 530-756-0183  
Email: WeissSBK@cs.com  
Service Area: Northern California counties

Services Offered:  
- Advocacy to local officials, social agencies and public about needs of relative caregivers  
- Information about resources, services, events and pertinent legislation and judicial decisions to relative families  
- Community forums, workshops, discussion groups  
- Monthly activities for families, holiday events  
- Monthly "grandparents night out"

Grandparent Project

Sponsoring Organization: Senior Legal Hotline of Legal Services of California  
Phone: 1-800-222-1753 or 916-551-2140  
Email:  
Website: www.seniorlegalhotline.org (see “History…and Activities”)  
Service Area: Statewide; some services Sacramento County only

Services Offered:  
- Legal advice by phone or email from website  
- Assistance with guardianship petitions  
- Clients must be over age 60 (no income restrictions) or low-income residents of Sacramento County of any age  
- Booklet on grandparent rights (custody/visitation)  
- Training and mentoring for advocates
### Grandparent Support Group – Contra Costa County

**Sponsoring Organization**: Early Childhood Mental Health Program  
**Contact Person**: Barbara Grotjahn  
**Phone**: 510-412-9200  
**Email**: cfrank@ecmhp.org  
**Service Area**: West Contra Costa County  
**Services Offered**:  
- Support group

### Grandparents as Parents (GAP)

**Contact Person**: Madelyn Gordon, Exec. Dir. (P: 818-264-0880)  
**Phone**: Sylvie de Toledo at 818-789-1177, 562-421-7991, 310-839-2548  
**Email**: Madelyn@grandparentsasparents.org  
**Website**: www.grandparentsasparents.org  
**Service Area**: Los Angeles area  
**Services Offered**:  
- Counseling, guidance, referral to services to meet urgent or ongoing needs  
- Support groups (Carson, Compton, Inglewood, Long Beach, Panorama City, Pasadena, Pamona, Santa Fe Springs, Sherman Oaks, Woodland Hills)  
- Newsletter, quarterly  
- Family social events  
- Educational events, including annual conference  
- Clothing exchange

### Grandparents Parenting…Again (GPA)

**Contact Person**: Anne Pierce  
**Phone**: 707-566-8676  
**Email**: grands@sonic.net  
**Service Area**: Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Lake & Mendocino Counties  
**Services Offered**:  
- Support groups (8 groups in Sonoma County)  
- Self-help guardianship clinics (held in partnership with Sonoma County Superior Court)  
- Relative Resource Workshops on issues important to caregivers  
- Family gatherings (children’s holiday party, annual kinship care conference)

### Grandparents, Relatives and Neighbors Raising Children

**Sponsoring Organization**: Nevada County Superintendent of Schools  
**Contact Person**: Mary Jane Ryan-Connelly  
**Phone**: 530-478-6400 x 210  
**Email**: maryjane@nevco.k12.ca.us  
**Service Area**: Nevada County  
**Services Offered**:  
- Information and referral during the school year  
- Support group – in person and by telephone  
- Seasonal events
## Grandparents & Relatives as Second Parents (GRP)

**Address:** 274 Eastmont Town Center Oakland, CA 94605  
**Contact Person:** Julienne Brown, MSW, Executive Director (P: 510-567-1163)  
**Phone:** Warm line number: 510-568-7786  
**Email:** gaspoakln@aol.com  
**Service Area:** Northern California/East Bay  
**Services Offered:**  
- Support group meets weekly in Oakland

## Jewish Family Service of LA, South Bay Counseling & Resource Center

**Contact Person:** Karen Tobias, RAPP Program Coordinator  
**Phone:** 310-373-0321 x 103  
**Email:** ktobias@jfsla.org or jfssouthbay@jfsla.org  
**Website:** www.jfsla.org  
**Service Area:** Los Angeles  
**Services Offered:**  
- Support groups meet weekly during school months  
- Educational forums twice a year for all kinship caregivers  
- Individual/family counseling  
- Information/referral

## Kids and Families Together

**Sponsoring Organization** County of Ventura Human Resources, Area Agency on Aging  
**Contact Person:** David Friedlander, Exec. Dir.  
**Phone:** 805-643-1446 x1  
**Email:** TheDavid@aol.com  
**Service Area:** Ventura County  
**Services Offered:**  
- Information and referral by phone or in person  
- Support group  
- Activities for families  
- Kinship Support Service Provider  
- Se habla Español

## KinCare Program

**Sponsoring Organization** California Family Life Center (CFLC)  
**Contact Person:** Tricia Lande, Program Manager  
**Phone:** 951-791-3587  
**Email:** tellande@aol.com  
**Service Area:** Riverside County  
**Services Offered:**  
- Assistance with legal guardianship  
- Information and referral/support groups  
- Mediation and counseling  
- Tutoring and mentoring  
- Parenting classes  
- Respite care
## Kinship Care Resource Center

**Sponsoring Organization**: Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County  
**Contact Person**: Andrea Villasenor-Perry, MSW Division Director, Youth & Family Services  
**Phone**: 408-325-5194  
**Email**: avillasenor-perry@ccsj.org  
**Service Area**: Santa Clara County

**Services Offered**:
- Information and referrals
- Support groups
- “Warmline” telephone support
- Case management and advocacy
- Health screenings
- Resource library
- Educational seminars
- Recreation and respite activities
- Assistance with legal guardianship processes
- Independent Living Skills Program for adolescents living w/ relative caregivers

## Kinship Education, Preparation and Support (KEPS)

**Sponsoring Organization**: Crystal Stairs  
**Contact Person**: Denise Campos-Araujo  
**Phone**: 323-421-1247 English/ 323-421-1347 Spanish  
**Email**: flopez@crystalstairs.org  
**Website**: [http://www.crystalstairs.org/](http://www.crystalstairs.org/)

## Kinship Care Services

**Sponsoring Organization**: Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services  
**Contact Person**: Jennifer Lopez, Division Chief  
**Phone**: 562-777-1746  
**Website**: [http://lacdfs.org/kinshippublic/default.html](http://lacdfs.org/kinshippublic/default.html)  
**Service Area**: Los Angeles County

**Services Offered**:
- KEPS – Kinship Education, Preparation and Support Training
- Information/referral
- Permanency planning
- Support groups
- Respite/Recreation
- Kin Assistant Training through Community and Senior Services
- Transportation
**Kinship in Action – South Los Angeles Kinship Support Program**

**Sponsoring Organization**: Community Coalition and Casey Family Programs  
**Contact Person**: Debra Lee  
**Phone**: 323-750-8036  
**Email**: debra@ccsapt.org  
**Service Area**: South Los Angeles  
**Services Offered**:  
- Information, referral resources  
- Education and training  
- Respite and group advocates  
- Advocacy  
- Support – one-on-one and in groups

**Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP)**

**Sponsoring Organization**: California Department of Social Service  
**Contact Person**: Carole Minchew, Kinship Care Policy and Support Unit  
**Phone**: 916-657-1858  
**Email**: carole.minchew@dss.ca.gov  
**Website**: [http://www.dss.ca.gov/cfsweb/KinshipCar_343.htm](http://www.dss.ca.gov/cfsweb/KinshipCar_343.htm)  
**Service Area**: Sites in 14 counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Monterey, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Ventura  
**Services Offered**:  
- State funds provided to counties to augment other funding  
- Encourages collaborations among county social service departments, private non-profit agencies and community based organizations  
- Support services to relative caregiver families whose children are dependents of county social services/juvenile court system or are at risk of delinquency or dependency

**Lilliput Children’s Services**

**Sponsoring Organization**: KinNet  
**Contact Person**: Karen Alvord  
**Phone**: 916-830-7722  
**Email**: kalvord@lilliput.com  
**Service Area**: Sacramento  
**Services Offered**:  
- Referrals  
- Reference library  
- Periodic support groups  
- Training for child welfare professionals
Lincoln Child Center Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP)

Contact Person: Sara Lamnin  
Phone: 510-583-8026  
Email: saralamnin@lincolncc.org  
Website: www.lincolncc.org/kinship  
Service Area: Alameda County (central, southern, eastern)

Services Offered:  
- Information and referral  
- Education  
- Advocacy  
- Case management  
- Support groups  
- Recreational activities/respite care  
- Kin Navigators

Los Angeles Department of Aging

Contact Person: Jane Stumbo, Gerontologist  
Phone: 213-252-4034  
Email: jane.stumbo@lacity.org  
Service Area: Los Angeles

Services Offered:  
- Kinship Care Resource Guide 2007  
- Caring for a Relative Child: A Guide for Kinship Caregivers in Los Angeles County  
- Counseling for kinship caregivers 55 years or older  
- Family Development Network case management

Sonoma Kinship Family Center (KSSP Program)

Sponsoring Organization: Sunny Hills Services  
Contact Person: Susie McGavin, Director  
Phone: 707-569-0877 x11  
Email: smcgavin@sunnyhillsservices.org  
Website: www.SonomaKinship.org  
Service Area: Sonoma County

Services Offered:  
- Bilingual support groups and workshops  
- Guardianship and public benefit eligibility assistance (completing forms, understanding processes and eligibility criteria)  
- Recreational activities for caregivers and children; homework center/tutoring  
- Advocacy and legal referrals  
- Se habla Español
### Suddenly Parents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsoring Organization</th>
<th>Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Person</td>
<td>Shawndi Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>714-543-4333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sjohnson@brightfutures4kids.org">sjohnson@brightfutures4kids.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Area</td>
<td>Orange County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Services Offered:**
- Child care (limited to 4 hours per week)
- Transportation for minors to and from therapy
- Support group meets monthly
- Homework assistance
- Services available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese

### Techniques to Wellness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsoring Organization</th>
<th>Bethany United Methodist Church in San Francisco</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Person</td>
<td>Jeannette Given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>415-647-8393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tech2well@yahoo.com">tech2well@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Area</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Services Offered:**
- Computer training
- Fitness training
- Health education

### Unplanned Parenthood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsoring Organization</th>
<th>Center for Aging Resources in Pasadena</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Person</td>
<td>Regina McClure, Ph.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>626-577-8480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rmclure@cfar1.org">rmclure@cfar1.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Area</td>
<td>Pasadena</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Services Offered:**
- Information and referral
- Support group
- Direct health services
- Se habla Español

### Children in Foster Care

**Numbers – April, 2007**

- 84,551 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the California Department of Social Services (DSS)
- 30,411 of these children placed with relatives
- 13,897 children receiving KinGAP payments
**Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program (KinGAP)**

- Subsidized guardianship program for children in foster care who have lived with relatives for at least 12 months.
- KinGAP payments equal to basic foster care rate.
- Administered by counties with oversight and training from state.
- Enhanced KinGAP enacted in 2006
  - Extends eligibility to children supervised by juvenile delinquency court
  - Establishes parity with foster care placements by providing a clothing allowance to all children and a specialized care increment to eligible children
- Contact: Carole Minchew, Kinship Care Policy and Support Unit
  - Phone: 916-657-1858
  - Email: carole.minchew@dss.ca.gov
  - Web: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cfsweb/KinshipCar_343.htm

**Preferences**

- State law requires that when a child is placed in foster care by a county, a county social worker and court must give preference to certain relatives including grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings.
- A relative’s home is exempt from foster home licensing but must be approved by a county social worker.

**Public Benefits**

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

**Financial Assistance**

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their relative caregivers through California’s Cal Works program.
- Contact:
  - Phone: 916-654-0694
  - Web: www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/California_169.htm

**Food Stamps**

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps.
- Contact:
  - Phone: 916-654-0694 or send email from website
  - Web: www.dss.cahwnet.gov/foodstamps

**Health Insurance**

- Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance through Medi-Cal or Healthy Families programs. Caregivers may be eligible for free coverage through Medi-Cal.
- Contact:
  - Phone: 800-880-5305
  - Web: www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov/hf/hfhome.jsp
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.childrensdefense.org (Kinship Care Resource Kit)
- National Council on Aging – Benefits CheckUp www.benefitscheckup.org

State Laws

These general descriptions are not intended as legal advice in any particular situation.¹

Kinship Adoption (Cal. Welfare and Institutes Code, Family Code, Education Code)

- Sets standards to guide social service agencies and the courts in determining when it is in the best interests of the child to place her/him with a relative caregiver.

Bridge Funding to Continue Foster Care Payments to Adopting Relatives

(CAL. WELF. & INST. CODE § 11404.2) (1995)

- When a child who qualifies for foster care is living with a relative, that relative is eligible for payments for the period between relinquishing parental rights and finalization of the adoption.

Medical Consent

(CAL. FAM. CODE, §§ 6550 & 6552) and Educational Consent (CAL. FAM. CODE, §§ 6550 & 6552; Education Code § 48204)

- Creates a “caregiver’s authorization affidavit” that gives the relative caregiver authority to request treatment by health care providers and enroll child(ren) in school.

Standby Guardianship

(CAL. PROB. CODE, § 2105)

- Provides for successor guardianships; caregiver may identify a preferred guardian upon her/his death or incapacity.

Probate Guardianship

(CAL. PROB. CODE, § 1514)

- Creates formal guardianship status for relative caregivers whose children are not in the state dependency system.
Welfare-to-Work Exemption

(CAL. WELF. & INST. CODE, § 11320.3 (b) (4))
- Certain relative caregivers may continue to receive welfare benefits without meeting work requirements.

Child Support Cooperation

(MPP § 82-510.5)
- A KinGAP, foster care or child-only welfare grant cannot be reduced if a caregiver relative refuses to cooperate with the state in locating the parent for purposes of collecting child support.

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

Disclaimer:
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