

GrandFacts

State fact sheets for grandparents and other relatives raising children

AARP, The Brookdale Foundation Group, Casey Family Programs, Child Welfare League of America, Children's Defense Fund, and Generations United have partnered to produce state and national **GrandFacts** fact sheets for grandparents and other relatives raising children. The state fact sheets include state-specific data and programs as well as information about foster care, public benefits, educational assistance and state laws. Visit www.grandfactsheets.org to find this and all **GrandFacts** state fact sheets.

Idaho

The Children

- 29,287 children under age 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives (6.8% of the children in the state.) (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
 - Of these, 22,962 live with grandparents who are the householders (5.4% of the children in the state) and 6,325 live with other relatives who are the householders (1.5% of the children in the state). (*U.S. 2010 Census*)
- 10,161 children live in homes with grandparent householders where grandparents are responsible for them*
 - Of these children, 4,592 have no parents present in the home.*

The Grandparents*

- 10,679 grandparents are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them. Of these:
 - 80% of the grandparents are White and not Hispanic, 1% are Asian, 5% are American Indian and Alaska Native, and 15% are Hispanic/Latino, and may be of any race.
 - 44% have no parents of the children present in the home.
 - 66% are under age 60.
 - 14% live in poverty.**
- 943 grandparents in Boise City are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them.

*Comparable data are not currently available for homes where other relatives are the householders.

**100% of poverty level.

Data not specifically cited are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Detailed Table B09006 and Subject Tables S1001 and S1002. Additional data on related topics and sub-state areas **can** be found on the Census Bureau website at <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Programs That Can 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.

The AARP GrandCare Support Locator is a free online service where programs can self-list their services and resources. Search by your city, state or zip code. www.giclocalsupport.org

Kinship Support Groups in Idaho

Relatives as Parents or Grandparents as Parents:

Provides support groups, children's events, legal advocates, and conferences/workshops for care-givers and professionals.

Contact: Jessica Gross
Phone: 208-660-4905
Email: facebook @RAPNNorth Idaho
Service area: **Region 1 - Benewah, Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone**

Contact: No group currently
Service area: **Region 2 - Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce**

Contact: No group currently
Other Resource: Linda Dripps (assist with guardianship forms the guardianship process. I am not an attorney. I can also do limited one-on-one support, resources, and information.)
Phone: 208-863-7477
Email: Kinshipplus1@gmail.com
Service area: **Region 3 - Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Washington**

Contact: Mary Cole Allgood
Phone: 208-501-4800
Email: proudmary33415@yahoo.com
Service area: **Region 4 - Ada, Boise, Elmore, Valley**

Contact: Myril Houk (Grandparents United for Change)
Phone: 208-430-4292
Email: Grandparentsunited1@gmail.com
Contact: Shawna Wasko (CSI Office on Aging)
Phone: 208-736-2122
Email: swasko@ooa.csi.edu
Service area: **Region 5 - Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Lincoln, Jerome, Minidoka, Twin Falls**

Contact: No group currently
Service area: **Region 6 - Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, Power**

Contact: Brian Payton (EICAP)
Email: bpayton@eicap.org
Service area: **Region 7 - Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton**

Idaho Commission on Aging

Contact: Judy Taylor
Phone: 208-334-3833
Web: www.aging.idaho.gov
Service area: Statewide
Description: Provides information, referral, consultation, and technical assistance in program development and expansion

Idaho KinCare Project – The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Contact: Courtney Keith
Phone: 208-334-5771
Email: courtney.keith@dhw.idaho.gov
Service area: Statewide
Description: Education, training, and promotion of community partnerships with kinship caregivers that improve, expand and sustain programs and services.

Idaho 2-1-1 CareLine – The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Contact: Charles Beal
Phone: 208-287-1030
Email: charles.beal@dhw.idaho.gov
Web: www.211.idaho.gov
Service area: Statewide
Description: Information and referral, navigation services

AARP

Phone: 1-888-687-2277
Web: www.aarp.org
Service area: Statewide
Description: Idaho Caregiver's Guide
<http://states.aarp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/AARP-Idaho-Caregivers-Guide.pdf>

Powerful Tools For Caregivers

Contact: Kelle Sweeney
Phone: 208-336-5533 ext 243
Email: ksweeney@janus.org
Service area: Boise
Agency: Legacy Corps

Powerful Tools For Caregivers

Contact: Rebekah Forster-Casey
Phone: 208-771-0628
Email: strengtheningvillages@gmail.com
Service area: Coeur d'Alene
Agency: Strengthening Villages

Powerful Tools For Caregivers

Contact: Maja Ledgerwood
Phone: 208-315-2797
Email: mledgerwood@syringahospital.org
Service area: Grangeville
Agency: Syringa Hospital and Clinic

Powerful Tools For Caregivers

Contact: Heather Croft
Phone: 208-522-5370
Email: hcroft@eicap.org
Service area: Idaho Falls
Agency: Area Agency on Aging

Powerful Tools For Caregivers

Contact: Julia Christianson
Phone: 208-791-0015
Email: j.christianson@cap4action.org
Service area: Lewiston
Agency: CAP/Area Agency on Aging

Powerful Tools For Caregivers

Contact: Laramie Holtman
Phone: 208-318-1326
Email: lholtman@trhs.org
Service area: Nampa
Agency: Terry Reilly Health Systems

Powerful Tools For Caregivers

Contact: Mike Hirschi
Phone: 208-399-3077
Email: mike@sicog.org
Service area: Pocatello
Agency: Southeast Idaho Council of Governments

Children in Foster Care

Sometimes state child welfare agencies place children in foster care with grandparents or other relatives. This is often called “kinship care.”

Federal law requires states to notify all known relatives within 30 days of children’s removal from their parents.

In 2016 in Idaho:

- * 2,559 children/youth spent some time in out-of-home care
- * 40% of these children were placed with relatives.

Placement Policies

- * State policy requires that placement priority be given to relatives and then non-family members with a significant established relationship with a child.
- * Same licensing standards, training requirements & payment rates as non-kin foster parents.

Subsidized Guardianship

- * Children in the custody of Idaho’s Department of Health and Welfare who are placed in a legal guardianship may be eligible for state-funded guardianship assistance when parental rights have been terminated and there is documentation of efforts to place the children for adoption. A Guardianship Assistance Agreement must be completed before the guardianship is finalized.
- * Guardianship Assistance reimburses one-time costs to finalize the guardianship and provides Medicaid benefits plus a negotiated monthly cash payment that cannot exceed the amount the child was receiving in a foster family.
- * Idaho is in the process of implementing a relative Guardianship Assistance program for children ages 14 and older who are in the custody of the Department of Health and Welfare. This program will be available to children for whom parental rights have not been terminated.

Idaho Foster Care and Relative/Kinship Care Contacts

Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

Stephanie Miller, Permanency Program Specialist
208-334-5697

Email: Stephanie.Miller@dhw.idaho.gov

www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov

Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

Amanda Pena, Foster Care Program Specialist
208-334-5695

Email: Amanda.Pena@dhw.idaho.gov

www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov

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 legal guardianship or custody. Grandparents may become eligible for benefits programs when their household size increases.

Help with Public Benefits

AARP Foundation's **Benefits QuickLINK**

A free and private way to find out if relatives or the children they are raising qualify for programs that pay for food, increase income and cover home and healthcare costs (listed below). It gives quick results, application forms and the address and phone number of the closest office.

www.aarp.org/quicklink

Public Benefits for Older Americans:*

- 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)
- Telephone Assistance (Link-Up and Lifeline)

Public Benefits for Families Raising Children*

- Medicaid for Children
- State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- TANF-Child Only Grants
- Supplemental Security Income for Children

*Some of these programs may have age and income restrictions.

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)

www.eldercare.gov

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.

Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI)

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

1-877-456-1233

<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov>

Social Security

www.ssa.gov/

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. 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://socialsecurity.gov/locator>

-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)

www.fns.usda.gov/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.

Idaho Food Stamp Program

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

1-877-456-1233

<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov>

Child Nutrition Program

www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/schcnp/

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 Child Nutrition Program, which provides breakfast, lunch, snacks, summer meals and milk. Contact the school or program to ask if they participate in any of the child nutrition programs and ask how to apply. Relative caregivers should inform the program that they are raising the child and whether or not they are doing so through a court order.

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

www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Contacts/StateDirectory.htm

Women, Infant and Children (WIC)

www.fns.usda.gov/wic/

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

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

www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-contacts

Foodbanks

Organizations that provide free food and sometimes other items, such as diapers to families in need. Feeding America is an organization that fights hunger and has a food bank locator.

Online State Directory - To find local food banks.
1-800-771-2303 (toll-free)
www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx

-Health Care-

Relative caregivers and the children they are raising may be eligible for health insurance and help with prescription drugs. **Benefits QuickLINK** can help you find these benefits.

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 federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Although CHIP is the national name, your state may use a different name.

Idaho's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Idaho Medicaid

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
Family Medicaid: 1-866-326-2485 (toll free)
<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov>

Education

U.S. Department of Education - Offers a site for **Parents** that has 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

State Department of Education - Relative caregivers may find helpful information about the education of children they are raising

Idaho State Department of Education
(208) 332-6800 or 800- 432-4601 (toll-free)
www.sde.idaho.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 to enroll children they are raising in school. These laws are often called "education consent" laws, but may be called something else in your state.

Early Intervention, Special Education and Related Services

Child Find – A part of the IDEA that requires states to identify, locate and evaluate children in the areas of cognitive and physical functioning, hearing and vision, speech and language and social and emotional development as early as possible. Once the Child Find evaluation team, which includes a child's caregivers, has decided if a child is eligible for early intervention or preschool special education services, an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP; birth to three years of age) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP; three to five years of age) is developed and services begin shortly at no cost.

Where to find help for children with special needs:

Idaho Infant Toddler Program - serves children birth to three years of age with developmental delays and disabilities.

(208) 334-6530 or 1-800-926-2588 (Idaho CareLine – toll-free)

<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov>

Idaho Division of Special Education- Idaho Department of Education
208- 332-6800 or 1-800-432-4601 (toll-free)

<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/sped/>

The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHY) resources: organizations and resources in each state

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/nichcy-resources/>

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.

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/>

Idaho Parents Unlimited, Inc.

www.ipulidaho.org

208-342-5884

Childhood Education

Head Start and Early Head Start – 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)

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/HeadStartOffices>

The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA) - Information, resources and connection to local Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies (CCR&R) that help you find local child care through the Child Care Aware program.

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

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

www.childcareaware.org/parents-and-guardians

Educational Activities

Read.Write.Think. - Support a child's success in school with fun learning activities and interactive games you can do together using this free online resource.

www.readwritethink.org

State Laws

Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center

Provides an up-to-date online listing of state laws, policies and legislation that affect grandfamilies. A collaboration between [Casey Family Programs](#), the [American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law](#) and [Generations United](#), the website includes a searchable database of current laws and pending legislation by state, including:

- Adoption
- Care and Custody
- Education
- Financial Assistance
- Housing
- Kinship Navigator Programs
- Medical
- National Family Caregivers Support Programs
- Relative Foster Care
- Subsidized Guardianship
- Notification of Relatives

[Online Directory](#) – To find your state's laws affecting grandfamilies. www.grandfamilies.org/

GrandFacts Updates

If you have an update or a resource to be included in this or any of the other GrandFacts fact sheets, please visit www.grandfactsheets.org to submit updates or email grandfacts@aarp.org. Fact sheets are updated regularly.

GrandFacts State Fact Sheets for Grandparents and other Relatives Raising Children are funded in part by the [AARP Foundation](#) and [Read.Write.Think..](#)

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