

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](http://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 Texas...

- There are 448,439 children living in grandparent-headed households (7.6% of all children in the state). There are another 153,381 children living in households headed by other relatives (2.6% of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Texas, 244,100 are living there without either parent present.
- 257,074 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [25,347 in Houston, 15,075 in San Antonio, and 15,019 in Dallas]: 21% of these grandparents are African American; 42% are Hispanic/Latino; 1% are Asian; and 35% are White. 32% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 74% are under the age of 60; 21% 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>

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

## Programs That Can Help

### Area Agency on Aging – Alamo

**Sponsoring Organization:** Alamo Area Council of Governments  
**Contact:** Maria Wilson, Geriatric Care Specialist  
**Phone:** 210-362-5276  
**Service area:** Atascosa, Bandera, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Medina, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr and Wilson Counties

#### Services offered:

- Grandparent/Kinship program for relatives 55 and older raising children under the age of 18
- Assistance with the purchase of utilities, clothing, school supplies, health care
- Support groups
- Respite care
- Caregiver Resource Centers

## Area Agency on Aging (AAA) – Bexar Area

**Contact:** Nellie J. Garay, Caregiver Support Specialist

**Phone:** 210-362-5271

**Service area:** Bexar aCounty/San Antonio

**Services offered:**

- Information and Assistance line – 210-362-5254
- Grandparent/Kinship Program funded by the National Family Caregiver Support Program
- Services available to grandparents or other relatives, aged 55 or older, who are raising their grandchildren 18 years and under, due to parents who are unable to unwilling to care for their children
- Service coordination
- Individual and peer counseling
- Support groups
- Parenting classes
- Respite care
- Resource book of available services for kinship care families

## Area Agency on Aging of the Capital Area (AAACAP)

**Sponsoring Organization:** Capital Area Council of Governments

**Contact:** Jill Findlay

**Email:** [jfindlay@capcog.org](mailto:jfindlay@capcog.org)

**Phone:** 512-916-6060/ 1-888-622-9111 x 6060

**Service area:** Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, Williamson

**Services offered:**

- Kinship Program for grandparents or other relatives, aged 55 or older, who have custody of relative children under the age of 18
- Member of Kinship Care Coalition
- Short-term limited assistance with clothing or school supplies, utilities or other basic needs
- Short-term respite assistance
- Information and referrals

## Area Agency on Aging - Coastal Bend

**Sponsoring Organization:** National Family Caregiver Support Program

**Contact:** Felipa Wilmot

**Phone:** 361-883-3935 x 362

**Email:** [felipa@cbcogaaa.org](mailto:felipa@cbcogaaa.org)

**Service area:** 12 counties in Coastal Texas

**Services offered:**

- Information, referral
- Support group meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 9:30am in Corpus Christie (29<sup>th</sup> & Leopard)
- Advocacy
- Assistance accessing state financial resources
- Quarterly newsletter

## Area Agency on Aging – Concho Valley

**Contact:** Mary Herbert, Caregiver Manager  
**Phone:** 325-223-5704  
**Service area:** Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Tom Green Counties

**Services offered:**

- Kinship Program for relatives, aged 55 or older, who are primary caregivers for children in their homes under the age of 18
- Service coordination
- Respite care

## Area Agency on Aging - Panhandle

**Contact:** Teana Waller, Caregiver Specialist  
**Phone:** 806-331-2227  
**Email:** [twaller@theprpc.org](mailto:twaller@theprpc.org)  
**Web:** [www.theprpc.org](http://www.theprpc.org)  
**Service area:** 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle

**Services offered:**

- Information and services to grandparents and other relatives aged 55 and over who are raising children under the age of 18
- Support groups
- Limited funding for respite services

## Area Agency on Aging of West Central Texas (WCTAAA)

**Sponsoring Organization:** West Central Texas Council of Governments  
**Contact:** Cay Collins or Kim Gurganus  
**Email:** [ccollins@wctcog.org](mailto:ccollins@wctcog.org) / [kgurganus@wctcog.org](mailto:kgurganus@wctcog.org)  
**Phone:** 325-672-8544 / 1-800-928-2262  
**Service area:** Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, and Throckmorton

**Services offered:**

- Kinship program for relatives, aged 55 or older, who are primary caregivers for relative children 18 years of age or younger
- Limited assistance with respite, utilities, and other basic needs
- Support groups
- Quarterly newsletter
- Connects primary caregivers to local services and information on public benefits, and legal issues

## Calvary Baptist Church

**Contact:** Marilyn Beede  
**Phone:** 903-759-0475 or 903-235-7775  
**Email:** [beede.marilyn@gmail.com](mailto:beede.marilyn@gmail.com)  
**Service area:** Longview

**Services offered:**

- Support group on 1st Thursday of the month 6:30-8:30 pm; child care provided

## Children's Connections

**Contact:** Deborah Phillips  
**Phone:** 806-745-7995  
**Email:** [deborah@childrensconnections.org](mailto:deborah@childrensconnections.org)  
**Web:** [www.childrensconnections.org](http://www.childrensconnections.org)  
**Service area:** Statewide

**Services offered:**

- Information, referral on grandparent adoption
- Home studies and post placement services offered for a fee

## City of Dallas Office of Senior Affairs

**Contact:** Belinda Glenn  
**Phone:** 214-670-7882  
**Email:** [belinda.glenn@dallascityhall.com](mailto:belinda.glenn@dallascityhall.com)  
**Service area:** Dallas Metropolitan area

**Services offered:**

- Partners with school system, community organizations, government agencies, faith-based organizations and non-profit agencies to provide materials and resources to relative caregivers
- Connects relative caregivers to local services/information on public benefits, legal issues, support groups and coalition-building efforts
- Grandparent Caregiver Warmline 214-670-1866

## Collin County Children's Advocacy Center

**Contact:** Summer Land, M.Ed., LPC  
**Phone:** 972-633-6688  
**Email:**  
**Web:** <http://www.cacplano.org/>  
**Service area:** Collin County

**Services offered:**

- Weekly kinship support group open to any full-time relative caregiver living in Collin County – emotional support plus assistance with financial concerns, legal issues, childcare, discipline, health insurance, education; childcare provided during meetings

## Dallas County KinCare Network

**Contact:** Belinda Glenn  
**Phone:** 214-670-1882  
**Email:** [bglenn@mail.ci.dallas.tx.us](mailto:bglenn@mail.ci.dallas.tx.us)  
**Web:** [www.ccgd.org/daaa/kin\\_care.html](http://www.ccgd.org/daaa/kin_care.html)  
**Service area:** Dallas County

**Services offered:**

- Pleasant Grove Library support group meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 11:00am
  - Contact Lynne Craddock at 214-670-0965
- Audeilia Road Library support group meets 1st Thursday of the month at 11:30am
  - Resource center for grandparents
  - Contact 214-670-1350

## Elder Options of Texas

**Web:** <http://elderoptionsoftexas.com>

**Service area:** Statewide

**Services offered:**

- Online information and referral for senior housing, elder care, support groups, respite care

## ESCAPE Family Resource Center

**Contact:** Paul Sahlman, Director

**Phone:** 713-942-9500 x 38

**Email:** [pauls@escapefrc.org](mailto:pauls@escapefrc.org)

**Web:** [www.learntoparent.org/](http://www.learntoparent.org/)

**Service area:** Houston Metro Area

**Services offered:**

- Circle of Love – parenting course for kinship caregivers and the children they are raising
- Seven-week course includes topics on dealing with absence of biological parents, caregivers' loss of traditional grandparenting role, easing transitions for children, maintaining positive relationship with biological parents, problem solving, family living skills
- Caregivers and children divided into separate discussion groups and brought together to explore family issues
- Classes are \$70 per family

## A Family Affair

**Contact:** Cynthia Burleson

**Phone:** 214-206-1855

**Email:** [Cynthia.burleson@afamilyaffairoftexas.com](mailto:Cynthia.burleson@afamilyaffairoftexas.com)

**Web:** [www.afamilyaffairoftexas.com](http://www.afamilyaffairoftexas.com)

**Service area:** Statewide

**Services offered:**

- Database of support groups and services
- Information and referral via telephone, mail or in person
- Monthly telephone support group meetings

## Grandparents as Parents Program (GAPP)

**Sponsoring Organization:** Methodist Children's Home

**Contact:** 254-750-1353

**Email:** [gapp@mchwaco.org](mailto:gapp@mchwaco.org) or [rmcneil@mchwaco.org](mailto:rmcneil@mchwaco.org)

**Web:** [www.methodistchildrenshome.org/college-program.html](http://www.methodistchildrenshome.org/college-program.html)

**Service area:** Waco and McLennan Counties

**Services offered:**

- Database of support groups and services
- Information and referral by telephone, mail or in person
- Assistance with accessing legal advice from qualified professionals
- Conferences, workshops and other training
- In home case management
- Monthly support group meetings
- Enrichment activities, recreation and fellowship opportunities for grandparents and grandchildren

## Kinship Care Coalition of the Greater Austin Area

**Sponsoring Organization:** Casey Family Programs

**Phone:** 1-800-304-6427 (Helpline)

**Web:**

[www.casey.org/FriendsAndFamilies/Communities/CaseyOffices/Austin/KinshipCareCoalition.htm](http://www.casey.org/FriendsAndFamilies/Communities/CaseyOffices/Austin/KinshipCareCoalition.htm)

**Service area:** Austin area

**Services offered:**

- Coalition of local non-profits, government organizations and kinship caregivers
- Operates a Helpline to assist caregivers in accessing services and obtaining information
- Kinship Caregiver Day Out
- Training and education events throughout the year
- Two Austin area support groups (call the Helpline for dates and locations)
- Kinship Center in development

## Legal Hotline for Texas

**Phone:** 1-800-622-2520 (Austin/Travis County 512-477-3950)

**Service area:** Statewide

**Services offered:**

- Free legal services by telephone for Texas residents 60 years of age or older, Texans eligible for Medicare or indigent violent crime victims

## Liberty-Eylau Independent School District

**Contact:** Joan Strutton

**Phone:** 903-831-5347 x 4160

**Email:** [joan.strutton@leisd.net](mailto:joan.strutton@leisd.net)

**Service area:** Texarkana

**Services offered:**

- Support group for parents, grandparents, teachers to discuss needs of caregivers (health, nutrition, stress management, etc); child care provided
  - Second Tuesday of the month 6:30-7:30pm at Texarkana School, 2300 Buchanan Road

## Parent Education Project – University of Houston

**Sponsoring Organization:** A Brookdale Foundation local and regional Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) site

**Contact:** Angie Grindon

**Phone:** 713-743-5491

**Web:** [www.las.uh.edu/pep](http://www.las.uh.edu/pep)

**Service area:** Greater Houston

## Parent Education Project – University of Houston – cont.

### Services offered:

- Database of support groups in Houston area
- Three support groups
- Information and referral
- Regular informative emails to participants
- Leadership for Relatives as Parents Coalition – meets monthly to increase and improve resources for relative-headed families
- Technical assistance for groups interested in forming RAPPs in Houston area
- In-home parenting course for relative caregivers seeking legal custody of children
- Mini-RapResource Guide
- Se habla español

## Resilient Grandparent Caregiver Project – University of North Texas (UNT)

**Contact:** Bert Hayslip  
**Phone:** 940-565-2675  
**Email:** [hayslipb@unt.edu](mailto:hayslipb@unt.edu)  
**Service area:** Statewide

### Services offered:

- Conducting survey exploring the role of personal hardiness, resilience or inner strength as a resource among grandparents raising grandchildren
- Participants are asked to spend about one hour answering a survey by mail; strictly confidential
- Participants provided with results of survey

## Tarrant County Kinship Network

**Sponsoring Organizations:** United Way, school districts, nonprofit agencies in Tarrant County  
**Contact:** Martha Brown, Coordinator, One Church-One Child Kinship Program  
**Email:** [newbegin11@sbcglobal.net](mailto:newbegin11@sbcglobal.net)  
**Phone:** 214-755-2008  
**Web:** [www.unitedwaytarrant.org](http://www.unitedwaytarrant.org)  
**Service area:** Tarrant County

### Services offered:

- Tarrant County Kinship Fair
- One Church-One Child Kinship Support Group
- Information, referral
- Training, educational workshops

## Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services – Access & Assistance, Area Agencies on Aging - DADS AIAAA

**Contact:** Patricia Bordie, Area Agencies on Aging Section  
**Phone:** 512-438-4866  
**Email:** [patricia.bordie@dads.state.tx.us](mailto:patricia.bordie@dads.state.tx.us)  
**Web:** [www.dads.state.tx.us/contact/combined.cfm](http://www.dads.state.tx.us/contact/combined.cfm)  
**Service area:** Statewide  
**Services offered:**

- Information and referral to support groups, respite care, other support services
- Contact Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in your area for kinship care services (28 AAAs in Texas)
- DADS AAA Hotline at 1-800-252-9240

## Texas Department of Child and Protective Services

**Web:** [www.dfps.state.tx.us/child\\_protection/kinship\\_care/](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/child_protection/kinship_care/)  
**Service area:** Statewide  
**Services offered:**

- Brochure on kinship care
  - [www.dfps.state.tx.us/documents/Child\\_Protection/pdf/KinshipLeaflet.pdf](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/documents/Child_Protection/pdf/KinshipLeaflet.pdf)
- Kinship Care Manual
  - [www.dfps.state.tx.us/documents/Child\\_Protection/pdf/KinshipManualEnglish.pdf](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/documents/Child_Protection/pdf/KinshipManualEnglish.pdf)

## Texas Kincare Taskforce

**Sponsoring Organization:** Texas Legal Services Center; Collaborating State Agency: Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (State unit on aging); Web host: AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M System  
**Contact:** Bruce Bower, Texas Legal Services  
**Phone:** 512-477-6000  
**Email:** [bbower@tlsc.org](mailto:bbower@tlsc.org)  
**Web:** <http://fcs.tamu.edu/families/aging/grg/aboutus.php>  
**Service area:** Statewide  
**Services offered:**

- Publishes information on legal rights and responsibilities of kincare families, public benefits for kincare families and other pertinent topics
- Periodic meetings and conferences
- Statewide kincare symposium held in 2003
- Bilingual services and brochures
- Publishes/updates English and Spanish versions of Texas Kincare Primer
- Welcomes requests for community workshops on topics of importance to kincare families

## Texoma Kincare Support Network Caregiver Program

**Sponsoring organization:** Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities of Texoma  
**Contact:** Judy Conner, Caregiver Specialist  
**Phone:** 903-813-3575  
**Email:** [jconner@texoma.cog.tx.us](mailto:jconner@texoma.cog.tx.us)  
**Service area:** Grayson, Fannin & Cooke Counties

## Texoma Kinicare Support Network Caregiver Program – cont.

### Services offered:

- Support groups
- Mental wellness classes
- Monthly newsletter
- Individual counseling
- Educational and recreational activities for grandparents and grandchildren

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren - Amarillo

**Contact:** Norman or Dolores Spender

**Phone:** 806-352-6928

**Email:** [norm-dee@att.net](mailto:norm-dee@att.net)

**Service area:** Amarillo

### Services offered:

- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren lifegroup meets twice a month in Amarillo – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at noon, First Christian Church

## Urban League of Greater Dallas

**Contact:** Jill Payne

**Phone:** 214-915-4609

**Email:** [jpayne@ulgdncctx.com](mailto:jpayne@ulgdncctx.com)

**Service area:** Greater Dallas

### Services offered:

- Benefits check-up
- Information and referral to area support groups
- Computer training
- GED preparation
- Employment referrals

## La Voz Del Anciano

**Contact:** Trini Garza, Director

**Phone:** 214-741-5700

**Email:** [lavoz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lavoz@sbcglobal.net)

**Web:** <http://www.lavozdelanciano.com/>

**Service area:** Dallas Metro Area

### Services offered:

- Outreach, support and referral
- Case management
- Newsletter
- Identifies grandparents and other relatives through local schools and churches
- Educational workshops and monthly support groups
- Assistance meeting basic needs of seniors 60 and over and their grandchildren
- Se habla español

## 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.”

### Numbers – September 2008

- There were 26,974 children in out-of-home placements under the care of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).
- Of these children, 8,357 were in kinship placements.

### Preferences for kinship care

- State law requires that kin be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under DFPS’s care.
- There is no separate verification program for kinship foster parents.
- Kin must meet the same licensing standards and receive the same foster care payment rate as non-kin foster parents.
- Contact 512-438-3312 for questions about Texas authorized development of relative reimbursement pilot program.
- The State Foster Parent Association in Texas, Texas Foster Family Association (TFFA) serves kin and non-kin foster parents.
- Contact: Irene Clements, President
  - Phone: 512-706-7513
  - Email: [irene.clements@lsss.org](mailto:irene.clements@lsss.org)
  - Web: [www.TFFA.org](http://www.TFFA.org)

### The Relative and Other Designated Caregiver Program (Texas Kinship Program)

- For relatives and fictive kin (individuals who have a longstanding relationship with the family) of children who are in the custody of the Texas Department of Child and Family Services.
- The Texas Kinship Program offers a one-time integration payment of \$1,000 to qualified caregivers upon placement to be used for items needed to support the placement, services to qualified caregivers, family counseling not covered by Medicaid, child care services to qualified children, reimbursement for flexible expenses incurred by the kinship family up to a maximum of \$500 per child per year, and referral to determine eligibility for additional public assistance.
- After the caregiver obtains legal conservatorship, DFPS provides reimbursement benefits of up to \$500 per year per child for up to 3 years or until the child reaches age 18, whichever comes first.
- Contact: Rochelle Hoffler, LMSWS, Kinship Program Specialist
  - Phone: 512-438-4352
  - Email: [Rochelle.hoffler@dfps.state.tx.us](mailto:Rochelle.hoffler@dfps.state.tx.us)

### Subsidized guardianship programs

- In addition to foster care payments and other benefits available to kin raising children in the foster care system, some states also have subsidized guardianship programs. Most of these programs offer ongoing subsidies to children who have left foster care to live permanently under the legal custody of guardianship of relatives.
- Texas currently does not have an ongoing subsidized guardianship program.

## 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 assistance may be available to children and their grandparents and other relative caregivers through the Texas Works program.
- Contact:
  - Phone: “211” for info about all health/human services
  - Web: <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/index.shtml> or [www.yourtexasbenefits.com](http://www.yourtexasbenefits.com)

### Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may also be eligible for food stamps to help meet their children’s food and nutrition needs.
- Contact:
  - Phone: “211 for information about all health/human services
  - Web: <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/index.shtml> or [www.yourtexasbenefits.com](http://www.yourtexasbenefits.com)

### 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 the TexCare Partnership, which includes Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- In some cases, caregivers may also be eligible for free coverage under Medicaid.
- Contact:
  - Phone: 1-877-KIDSNOW (1-877-543-7669)
  - Web: [www.chipmedicaid.com](http://www.chipmedicaid.com)

### 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](http://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](http://www.childrendefense.org) (Kinship Care Resource Kit)
- National Council on Aging – Benefits CheckUp [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org)
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission brochure for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
  - [http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/032608\\_Grandparents\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/032608_Grandparents_Brochure.pdf)

## State Laws

The following state law may be helpful to grandparents and other relatives raising children<sup>1</sup>:

### Medical Consent

#### **Tex. Fam. Code Ann. §§ 32.001 et seq.**

- Allows a child's grandparent, adult sibling, aunt, or uncle and designated others to consent to medical, dental, psychological, and surgical treatment for a child when the child's parent or guardian cannot be contacted and has not given notice that he or she opposes the treatment.

<sup>1</sup>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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