

NJ Kinship Connections

A Publication of the NJ Kinship Legal Guardianship Resource Clearing House

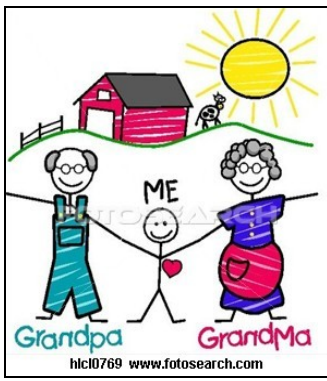


A PROGRAM OF CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

Winter 2015

The State of Grandfamilies in America: 2014

Relatives and grandparents raising relative's children are collectively referred to as "Kinship Caregivers." Some grandfamilies are multi-generational households where families pool resources and grandparents provide care so parents can work. In others, grandparents or other relatives have stepped in to keep children out of foster care when parents are unable to care for them. Sometimes, grandparents and a parent may still live in the household but the parent cannot provide the basic needs of a child when the parent is a teen. Some grandparents receive a call in the middle of the night from child protective services and become full-time, sole caregivers to their grandchildren in a matter of hours. While grandparents are most often the relative involved, these things can happen with aunts, uncles, older siblings, and even close family friends. Grand-



families are diverse and created by various circumstances including job loss, out of state employment, military deployment, divorce, deportation, illness, death, substance abuse, incarceration, or mental illness. Grandfamilies live in every part of the country, and represent all income levels, races, and all ethnicities. *

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are more than 7.8 million children under the age of 18 being raised by grandparents or other relatives without the children's parents in the home which represents 10.5% of all children under the 18. *

In New Jersey, according to the same Census, about 180,227 children under the age of 18 (8.8% of children in the State) is living in homes where the head of the house are grandparents or other relatives. Of these, 6.2% or 127,890 live with grandparents who are the head of the house. **

So what does all this information mean? It means that there needs to be as many supports Kinship Caregivers as possible. This is where KinKonnnect, Kinship Navigator and a host of other services may help. Please see the following pages for some helpful resources or call our KinKonnnect program at 877-KLG-LINE. We would love to help.

*Generations United: The State of Grandfamilies in America, 2014: www.gu.org/RESOURCES/Publications/StateofGrandfamiliesinAmerica2014.aspx

** Grandfacts: www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/relationships/friends-family/grandfacts/grandfacts-newjersey.pdf.

Points of Interest:

- ◆ GRANDFAMILIES IN AMERICA
- ◆ SUPPORT GROUPS
- ◆ PERFORM CARE
- ◆ KINSHIP COUNSELING
- ◆ NJ FAMILYCARE

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THOSE WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS!

FEDERAL APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) DEADLINES ARE DUE MARCH 1 FOR SPRING SEMESTER AND JUNE 30 FOR FALL SEMESTER. CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL FOR DETAILS.

NJ Kinship Connections



DID YOU KNOW?

ARE YOU CARING FOR A CHILD/GRANDCHILD WHO HAS A BEHAVIORAL ISSUE, DEVELOPMENTAL OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND/OR NEEDS SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES?

PERFORM CARE CAN HELP!

PERFORMCARE HELPS FAMILIES ACROSS NEW JERSEY BY OFFERING AND LINKING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN SUCH AS:

- IN-HOME THERAPY
- FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES
- BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS
- MOBILE / CRISIS RESPONSE
- CARE MANAGEMENT
- SUMMER CAMP ASSISTANCE AND MORE

CONTACT THEM AT
1-877-652-7624
24 HRS A DAY/
7 DAYS A WEEK.

PerformCARE



Kinship Care Support Groups

Would you like to meet other kinship care givers? Consider these NJ support groups that usually meet monthly:

Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS).

Each NJ county offers support groups for those who either adopted or completed KLG through the Division (DCP&P). To locate a group in your area, log onto www.kinkconnect.org or give us a call at 877-KLG-LINE.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Monthly Support Group:

Englewood; sponsored by Family Support Organization of Bergen County: 201-796-6209 Ext 102.

Grandparents Support Group

sponsored by the Family Partners of Morris and Sussex Counties. For information and directions call 973-940-3194.

Grandma K.A.R.E.S

Monthly support group, South Orange NJ. www.grandmakares.vpweb.com; 973-327-4114.

For a list of statewide Family Support Organizations (FSO's) that offer parent/grandparent support groups, log onto www.state.nj.us/dcf/families/support/support/ or contact us at 877-KLG-LINE to find a group near you.

Kinship Navigator Programs:

CarePlus, NJ - (201) 797-2660 or (201) 398-9110, serving Bergen, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties

The Salvation Army - (973) 373-5045 serving Essex County.

Children's Home Society - 1-800-396-4518 serving Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, Hunterdon, and Union Counties

Family Service Association, 1-877-569-0350 serving Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties

Or call 2-1-1 or 877-652-1148

For details log onto: www.nj.gov/dcf/families/support/kinship/

Summer Camps

While it's only March, now is the time to start thinking about Summer Camp for the children in your care. What a great opportunity to have your grandchild meet new friends, learn a new skill or just have fun! It may

also give you some rest during those hot summer months! For a list of NJ camps please log onto www.kinkconnect.org and select "Resources" or give us a call at 877-KLG-LINE (877-554-5463.)



Kinship Counseling and Resources in NJ

Living in New Jersey, we are very fortunate to have supports for grandparents and relatives raising children. The following are Kinship or Kinship Legal Guardian (KLG) Counseling Services that may be available to you and your family:

If you were awarded KLG through the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) - formerly known as DYFS, there may be KLG Counseling or services available in your area:

Bergen, Passaic and Essex Counties (excluding Newark): Children's Aid and Family Services, 201-740-7124

City of Newark (only): Family Service Bureau of Newark, 973-412-2056

Union County: Family and Children's Services, 908-352-7474

Burlington County: Twin Oaks Community Services, 609-953-5714

Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean Counties: Children's Home Society, 609-695-6274

Hudson County: Catholic Charities, Dioceses of Newark Family Resource Center, 201-798-9900

Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties: Robins Nest, 856-881-8689.

If you received Guardianship or Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG) privately through the courts (usually without DCP&P involvement) the following may be available to you:

- **Kinship Navigator Wraparound Services**: Depending on income, you may be eligible to receive a \$500 per family/per year voucher to pay for some necessities such as school supplies, clothing, furniture, etc. (See insert on previous page for Navigator locations.)

- **Caregiver Connections**: Free in-home counseling for grandparents and other adult relatives over the age of 60 who are raising children in their home (Essex County only). For information, please call (973) 715-9756

www.familyconnectionsni.org.

- **Family Support Organizations (FSO's)** are family-run, county-based organizations that provide direct family-to-family peer support,

education, advocacy and other services to family members of children with emotional and behavioral problems. Some provide KLG Support Groups. Call 1-877-652-7624 for information.

- **New Jersey Children's System of Care or Perform Care**: Serves children and teens with emotional and behavioral health care challenges, as well as counseling services. For information call 1-877-652-7624.

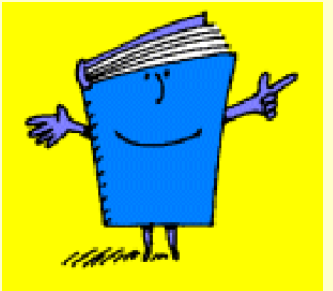


Need additional resources or have other questions?

Please contact our KinConnect Warm Line at 877-KLG-LINE (877-554-5463) for other support services or log onto www.kinkconnect.org and view our Resource page.

The KinConnect Free Lending Library
1-877-KLG-LINE
(1-877-554-5463)

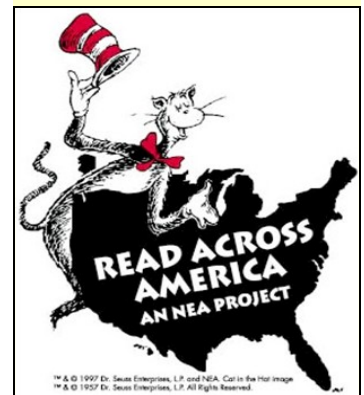
Did you know that our KinConnect Program has over 1,500 Books, that you may borrow? Many focus on Kinship Care!



No PC? No Problem!

Contact a KinConnect warm-line representative at 877-KLG-LINE ((877) 554-5463) to request a book or ask a question about Statewide resources!

Celebrate "Read Across America" in March by reading to a child!





NJ KINSHIP LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP
RESOURCE CLEARING HOUSE

WWW.KINKONNECT.ORG

A PROGRAM OF CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

WWW.CAFSNJ.ORG

Children's Aid and Family Services
76 South Orange Avenue, Suite 209
South Orange, NJ 07079

KLG Warm line: 877-KLG-LINE
877-554-5463

E-mail: warmline@kinkonnnect.org
Visit us at: www.kinkonnnect.org

Children's Aid and Family Services is one of northern New Jersey's leading non-profit human service agencies. Since 1899, we have built better lives for thousands of disadvantaged children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. For more information, visit our website: www.cafsnj.org.

DISCLAIMER

While NJ Kinship Legal Guardianship Resource Clearing House (KinKonnnect) or Children's Aid and Family Services makes every effort to present accurate and reliable information, neither KinKonnnect nor Children's Aid and Family Services guarantees the completeness, efficacy or timeliness of such information. In addition, reference herein to any specific product, process, service, organization, or viewpoint does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation or favoring by KinKonnnect or Children's Aid and Family Services.



On January 1, 2014, new healthcare rules began in New Jersey. The Department of Human Services, which administers the state subsidized health insurance program called NJ FamilyCare, wants to ensure that individuals who have applied for health insurance know their status and where to go for assistance:

- If you applied for NJ FamilyCare coverage through the website www.njfamilycare.org, or by phone, you can track your application's status by calling 1-800-701-0710.
- If you applied for NJ FamilyCare coverage through a county welfare office or board of social services, your application still may be in process. Please wait for communication by mail regarding your eligibility or your local office to follow-up. A list can be found on: <http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dfd/programs/njsnap/cwa/index.html>.
- If you applied for NJ FamilyCare coverage through the federal government's website, www.HealthCare.gov, technical issues with the Marketplace may impact your coverage. Individuals who applied through the federal government's website and were determined eligible or potentially eligible for NJ FamilyCare discover they were not enrolled. This is because the accounts have not been transferred from the Marketplace to New Jersey.

The New Jersey Department of Human Services is working with the Marketplace to obtain the necessary information to complete the enrollment process as quickly as possible. If you received a plastic New Jersey Health Benefits ID card in the mail (insert above), your enrollment with NJ FamilyCare has become effective. You will be receiving enrollment confirmation information in the mail.

Who is Eligible?

On October 1, 2013, new federal rules changed Medicaid eligibility. **NJ FamilyCare** includes: children, pregnant women, parents/caretaker relatives, single adults and childless couples. Financial eligibility is determined by the latest federal tax return which, when filed, will be electronically verified.

Children 18 and under continue to be eligible with higher incomes up to 350% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), (\$82,425 for a family of four). Parents still need to renew the coverage each year.

Parents/Caretaker Relatives with income up to 133% FPL (\$31,322 for a family of four) must have tax dependent children in their household in order to be eligible under this category. This is a new Medicaid Expansion eligibility group. Dependent children in the household must be insured also.

Adults without dependent children ages 19-64 and incomes up to 133% FPL (\$15,282 single/ \$20,629 couple) are considered to be another new Medicaid Eligibility Expansion Group.

Pregnant Women up to 200% FPL. There are no changes to pregnant women.

Aged, Blind or Disabled programs or Long Term Care, there are no changes in eligibility. **For other medical assistance programs log onto:** www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/. For a full listing of who is eligible for NJ Family Care, please log onto www.njfamilycare.org/docs/elig_groups.pdf or contact our KinKonnnect Warm Line at 877-KLG-LINE (877-554-5463) and we would be happy to send you the worksheet.