

STATE OF GRANDFAMILIES 2020

FACING A PANDEMIC:
GRANDFAMILIES LIVING TOGETHER DURING
COVID-19 AND THRIVING BEYOND



**generations
united**

Because we're stronger together™

Facing A Pandemic: Grandfamilies Living Together During COVID-19 and Thriving Beyond

GENERATIONS UNITED

Welcome



Karyne Jones

President and CEO
National Caucus and Center on Black
Aging, Inc. and
Generations United Board Member

Join us on social media at
#grandfamilies2020



This report is made possible with support from the
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Casey Family Programs.

2020 Grandfamilies Champion Award



**U.S. Senator
Sherrod Brown**
Ohio



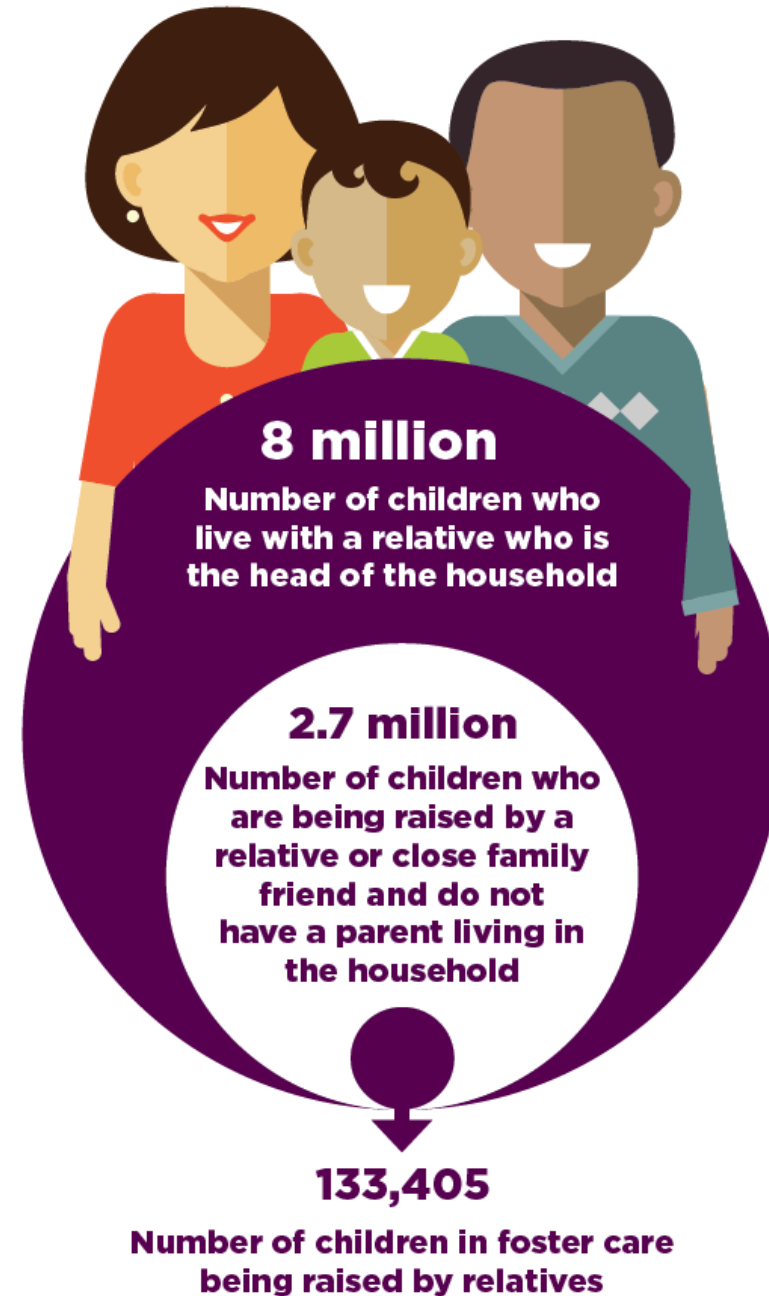
Report Highlights



Ana Beltran, JD

Special Advisor
Generations United's
National Center on Grandfamilies

Increasing numbers of children in grandfamilies/ kinship families



Parental Causal Factors Creating Grandfamilies

Substance use

Death

Disabilities

**Detainment or
Deportation**

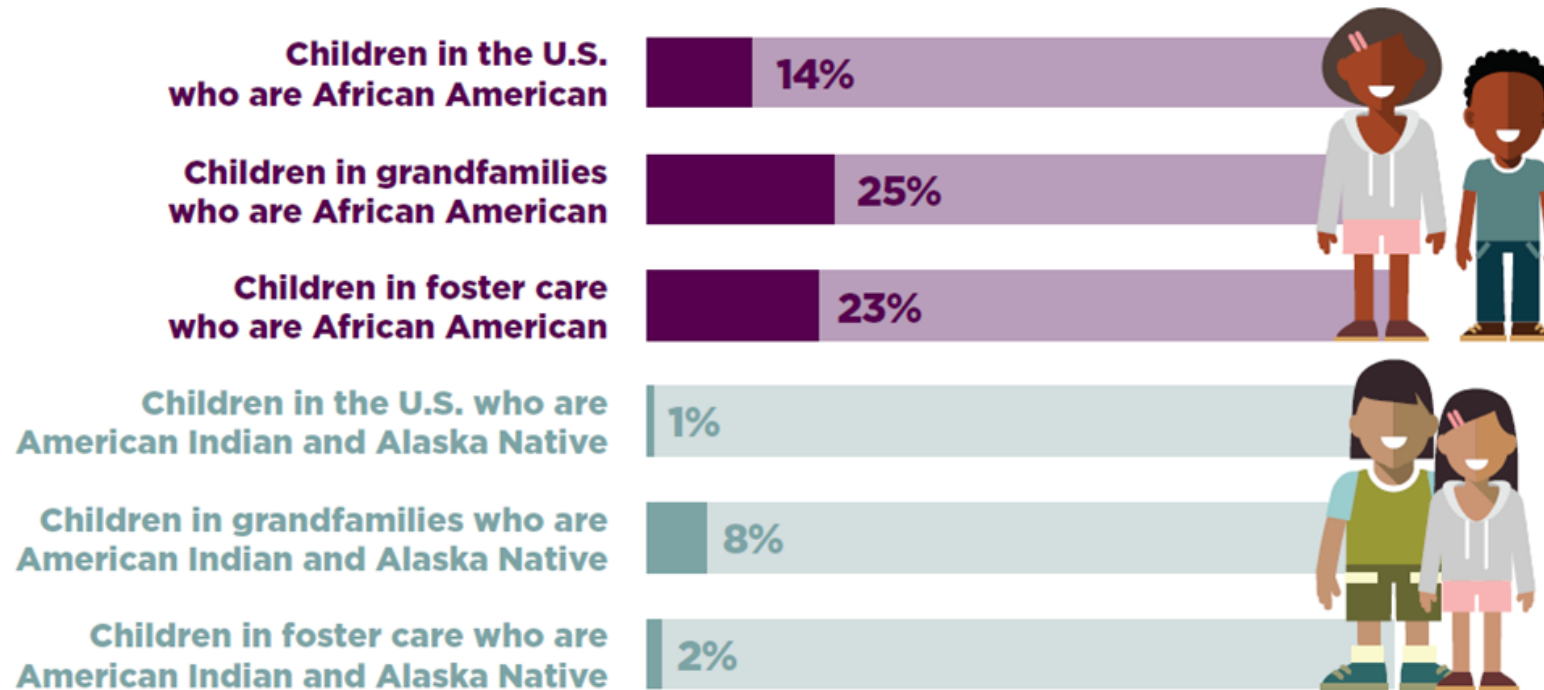
**Military
deployment**

Incarceration

COVID-19

- ▶ Reasons span racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic spectrums
- ▶ 57% of grandchildren whose grandparents are responsible for them are white children, which is less than their percentage of the overall population.
- ▶ Latinx children make up about 24% of children being raised by their grandparents, which again is slightly less than their percentage of the overall population.

Racial Overrepresentation in Grandfamilies



Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren



About 19 percent live in poverty



46 percent have raised grandchildren for at least five years



56 percent are in the labor force



25 percent have a disability



Over 48 percent are age 60 and older

COVID-19 Disparate Impact on Communities of Color



2.5X  1.5X

Black people are dying from COVID-19 at 2.5 times the rate of white people, and Native and Latinx people are dying at about 1.5 times the rate

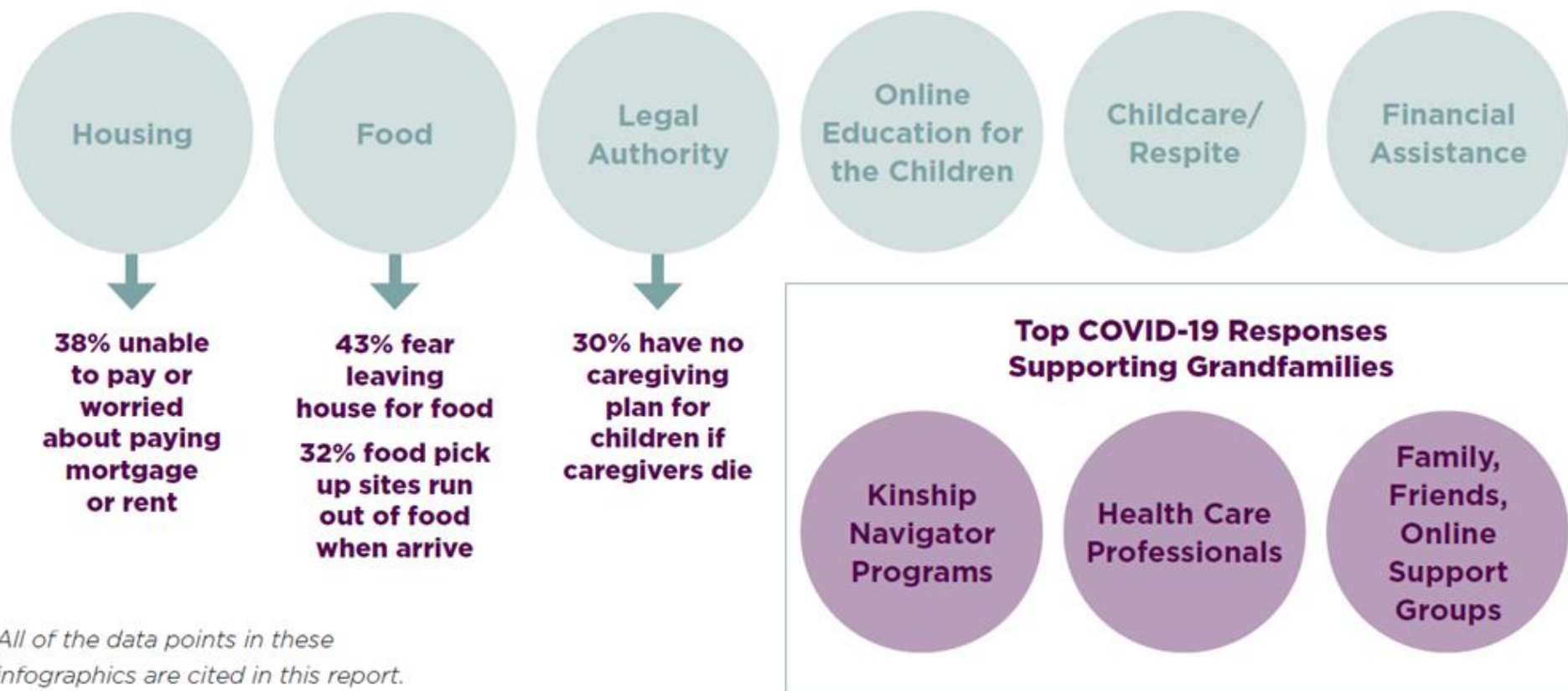


Children Thrive in Grandfamilies



COVID-19 Challenges Facing Grandfamilies

A survey of 600 caregivers showed:



All of the data points in these infographics are cited in this report.

Select Federal Policy Recommendations

Fund and establish

Fund and establish an independent, nonprofit-based National Grandfamilies Technical Assistance Center.

Invest

Invest in additional federal support for kinship navigator programs.

Provide

Provide all children in the legal custody of the foster care system with the same support and services.

Increase

Increase funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and encourage states, tribes, and localities to increase the monthly child only grant amount.

Allow

Allow for child-only SNAP.

Select Local Practice Recommendations

Engage

Authentically engage kinship caregivers, birth parents, foster parents, and young people.

Coordinate

Coordinate COVID response efforts across systems to ensure that grandfamilies can obtain services and support.

Establish

Establish robust kinship navigator programs that link caregivers and the children they raise, whether inside or outside the foster care system, with services and supports.

Use

Use inclusive language and images in outreach materials.

Grandfamilies Perspective



Gail Engel

GRAND Voices Network Member (Colorado)
and Executive Director, Grand Family
Coalition, Inc.

Grandfamilies Program Perspective



Ali Caliendo, PhD

Founder and Executive Director
Foster Kinship

Grandfamilies Perspective



Victoria Gray

GRAND Voices Network Member (Arizona)
and Founder, GreyNickel, Inc.

Questions and Answers



Jaia Peterson Lent
Deputy Executive Director
Generations United

Thank You



Karyne Jones



Ana Beltran



Gail Engel



Ali Caliendo



Victoria Gray



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Report is available at
www.gu.org

Recording of today's event will
be available at
[www.youtube.com/generations
united](http://www.youtube.com/generationsunited)