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.
Report Highlights

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Special Advisor
Generations United’s
National Center on Grandfamilies
Increasing numbers of children in grandfamilies/kinship families

- **8 million**: Number of children who live with a relative who is the head of the household
- **2.7 million**: Number of children who are being raised by a relative or close family friend and do not have a parent living in the household
- **133,405**: Number of children in foster care being raised by relatives
Parental Causal Factors Creating Grandfamilies

- 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

- Children in the U.S. who are African American: 14%
- Children in grandfamilies who are African American: 25%
- Children in foster care who are African American: 23%
- Children in the U.S. who are American Indian and Alaska Native: 1%
- Children in grandfamilies who are American Indian and Alaska Native: 8%
- Children in foster care who are American Indian and Alaska Native: 2%
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:

- Housing: 38% unable to pay or worried about paying mortgage or rent
- Food: 43% fear leaving house for food, 32% food pick up sites run out of food when arrive
- Legal Authority: 30% have no caregiving plan for children if caregivers die

Top COVID-19 Responses Supporting Grandfamilies:

- Kinship Navigator Programs
- Health Care Professionals
- Family, Friends, Online Support Groups

All of the data points in these infographics are cited in this report.
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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fund and establish</td>
<td>Fund and establish an independent, nonprofit-based National Grandfamilies Technical Assistance Center.</td>
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<td>Invest</td>
<td>Invest in additional federal support for kinship navigator programs.</td>
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<td>Provide</td>
<td>Provide all children in the legal custody of the foster care system with the same support and services.</td>
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<td>Increase</td>
<td>Increase funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and encourage states, tribes, and localities to increase the monthly child only grant amount.</td>
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<td>Allow</td>
<td>Allow for child-only SNAP.</td>
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<td>Select Local Practice Recommendations</td>
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<td><strong>Engage</strong></td>
<td>Authentically engage kinship caregivers, birth parents, foster parents, and young people.</td>
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<td><strong>Coordinate</strong></td>
<td>Coordinate COVID response efforts across systems to ensure that grandfamilies can obtain services and support.</td>
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<td><strong>Establish</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td><strong>Use</strong></td>
<td>Use inclusive language and images in outreach materials.</td>
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Gail Engel
GRAND Voices Network Member (Colorado) and Executive Director, Grand Family Coalition, Inc.
Grandfamilies Program Perspective

Ali Caliendo, PhD
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Foster Kinship
Victoria Gray
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Questions and Answers

Jaia Peterson Lent
Deputy Executive Director
Generations United
Thank You

Karyne Jones  Ana Beltran  Gail Engel  Ali Caliendo  Victoria Gray

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

casey family programs
Report is available at www.gu.org

Recording of today’s event will be available at www.youtube.com/generationsunited