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

Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren

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

- About 19 percent live in poverty (19%)
- 46 percent have raised grandchildren for at least five years (46%)
- 56 percent are in the labor force (56%)
- 25 percent have a disability (25%)
- Over 48 percent are age 60 and older (48%)

Percentage of Children in Foster Care Being Raised by Relatives

- 24% in 2009
- 32% in 2019

Racial Overrepresentation in Grandfamilies

- Children in the U.S. who are African American
  - 14% of children in foster care
- Children in families who are American Indian and Alaska Native
  - 1% of children in foster care

COVID-19 Disparate Impact on Communities of Color

- 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.

COVID-19 Challenges Facing Grandfamilies

- A survey of 600 caregivers showed:
  - 38% unable to pay or worried about paying mortgage or rent
  - 43% fear leaving house for food
  - 32% food pickup sites run out of food when arrive
  - 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 the full 2020 State of Grandfamilies report, Facing a Pandemic: Grandfamilies Living Together During COVID-19 and Thriving Beyond, available at www.gu.org.