



ABOUT US

Generations United's National Center on Grandfamilies is a leading voice for families headed by grandparents, other relatives, and close family friends. The Center's work is guided by GRAND Voices, a national network of grandfamily caregiver advocates. Through the Center, Generations United leads an advisory group of caregivers and organizations that set the national agenda to advance public interest in support of these families. As trusted voices on Capitol Hill, center staff conduct federal advocacy and support grandfamilies to elevate their own voices to improve policies and practices that impact them. The Center provides training and tailored assistance to advocates and practitioners and raises awareness about the strengths and needs of grandfamilies through media outreach, weekly communications, and awareness-raising events. The Center releases an annual State of Grandfamilies report and a broad range of guides, fact sheets and tools for grandfamilies, which cover issues from educational and health care access to financial and legal supports. Resources can be found at gu.org and grandfamilies.org.

Generations United is also home to the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network, the first-ever national technical assistance center for those who serve grandfamilies and kinship families supported through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living. Learn more at GKSNetwork.org.

KEY FUNCTIONS

1 Sets Collective Agenda

Through the convening of national symposiums of experts in the grandfamilies field, the Center has led efforts to set a united agenda and coordinate the collective work of national leaders working on behalf of grandfamilies.

2 Elevates Grandfamily Voices

Generations United's GRAND Voices is a national group of grandparents and other relatives raising children, with representation from virtually every state and many tribes, that guides the work of the Center. We support, train and engage GRAND Voices and young people raised in grandfamilies to inform policies and practice, address service gaps, and advocate for better outcomes.

3 Advocates for Policy Change

As a trusted voice on Capitol Hill, the Center advocates for improved policies for grandfamilies including through child welfare reform, specialized federal housing assistance, and the inclusion of grandfamilies in the Older Americans Act.

4 Promotes Positive Messaging

Generations United's is the go-to group for media seeking expert commentary on grandfamilies. Our awareness raising efforts have resulted in coverage in the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, New York Times, NPR and ABC News. Our communications efforts led to reframing the way we talk about families, leading with strengths and moving the term grandfamilies into the country's vernacular.

5 Shares Key Research, Information & Resources: State of Grandfamilies Report

Through our annual State of Grandfamilies report, fact sheets, policy summaries and toolkits, Generations United shares complex information in clear and consumable ways to help policy makers, practitioners, educators, community leaders, the media and grandfamilies.



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1997 Held first convening of kinship experts resulting in the first national action agenda

1998 Established the National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children (later renamed National Center on Grandfamilies)

2000 Testified before U.S. Senate HELP Committee which led to the inclusion of grandfamilies in the National Family Caregiver Support Program in the Older Americans Act

2003 First National GrandRally held in Washington DC & Legacy Intergenerational Housing Act passes

2005 Second National GrandRally leads to introduction of Kinship Caregiver Support Act

2008 Third National GrandRally, Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act passes

2009 Wall Street Journal uses term grandfamilies in front page headline "Grandfamilies Come Under Pressure"

2011 Fourth National GrandRally helps protect Social Security for All Ages

2014 Co-created the first set of national model family foster home licensing standards, established the annual Grandfamilies Champion Award

2015 Established GRAND Voices, now representing virtually every state and many tribes and influencing policy, practice, and perception across the country

2017 Fifth National GrandRally leads to introduction of Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act, Generations United testifies before Senate Aging Committee about Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in the Opioid Crisis

2019 Testified before House Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Social Security, Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren is established, Council is co-chaired by Generations United and includes five GRAND Voices as council members

2021 Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren releases its initial report to Congress & National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families is included in American Rescue Plan Act, Generations United establishes Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: National Technical Assistance Center

2022 Testified before Senate Aging Committee about Strengthening Support for Grandfamilies during the COVID-19 pandemic & beyond

2023 Kinship Unity Convening & Action Agenda Released

2024 The Pathways to Success: K-12 Education Support for Kinship and Grandfamilies – 2024 State of Grandfamilies and Kinship Care Report was released along with an interactive website.

