

Kinship/Grandfamilies: Child Welfare & Aging Network Supports

Presentation for GWAAR, September 26, 2023

Leland Kiang, Program
Manager, Grandfamilies &
Kinship Support Network,
USAgging, Washington, DC



GKSNetwork.org

* NEW: Apply to have your policy, practice, or program designated as "exemplary" →



ESPAÑOL

Request Assistance →

WHO WE SERVE ▾

RESOURCE LIBRARY

EVENTS

ABOUT US ▾



The First-Ever National Technical Assistance Center for those who Serve Grandfamilies & Kinship

We help government agencies and nonprofit organizations in states, tribes, and territories work across jurisdictional and systemic boundaries to improve supports and services for grandparents, other relatives, close family friends, and the children they raise when parents cannot.

GKSNetwork.org



Providing Technical Assistance to Enhance the Level of Support Grandfamilies & Kinship Families Receive

Our umbrella of technical assistance provides professionals with opportunities to engage in learning, enhance quality of services, and build capacity to better serve kinship/grandfamilies.

[What is Technical Assistance? →](#)



This morning

1. Overview of Kinship and Grandfamilies
2. Overview of Child Welfare
3. How the Aging Network Can Help

Kinship and Grandfamilies

An overview



Who are Kinship and Grandfamilies?



What else do we know?



What else do we know?

2.7 million grandparents are raising their grandchildren

1 million other kin like aunts, uncles, cousins etc. also raise relative children

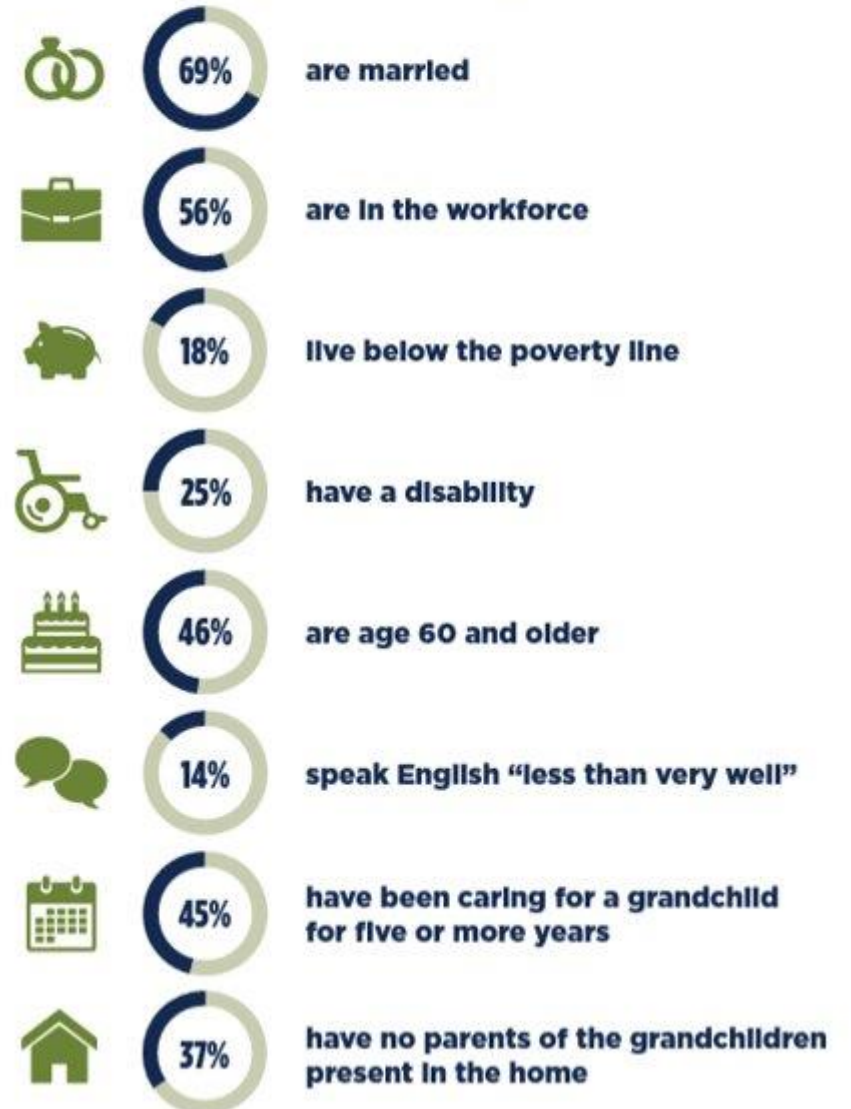
Two-thirds of grandparents raising grandchildren are age 55 or older

Caregivers Across the Country

Sources: [Generations United's State of Grandfamilies Report-2022](#) and [GAO Report on Child Welfare and Aging Programs \(2020\)](#)

Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren

More than 2.4 million grandparents are householders responsible for grandchildren living with them.



Racial Overrepresentation in Grandfamilies



Latino, Asian, and white children are not overrepresented in grandfamilies without parents in the home – they are either equally or more likely to live in parent-headed homes.

However, Latino, Asian, and Black children are more likely to live in multigenerational households than white children.

Children in Kinship/Grandfamilies

See:

<https://www.gksnetwork.org/resource/s/grandfamilies-kinship-families-strengths-challenges/> and <https://www.gksnetwork.org/kinship-data/>

For every **1 child** being raised by kin in foster care, there are **18 children** being raised by kin outside of foster care



2.5 million

Number of children who are being raised by a relative or close family friend, with no parent living in the household

133,873

Number of children in foster care being raised by relatives

Challenges

- 18 percent of grandparents raising grandchildren live below the poverty line.
- 25 percent of grandparents raising grandchildren have disabilities.
- Many children in grandfamilies also have disabilities

Unique Challenges

- Raising children at time wasn't planned or expected
- Often get children at a moment's notice – in a traumatic situation
- Emotional and role changes with children and with the children's biological parents
- Do not have an automatic legal relationship to the children

Grandfamilies Strengths: Children Thrive



Resources for Learning More

- [Who Are Grandfamilies and Kinship Families? - Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network \(gksnetwork.org\)](#)
- [Kinship/Grandfamilies Data - Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network \(gksnetwork.org\)](#)

Questions about Kin Caregivers and Grandfamilies?

Child Welfare

Overview

Child Welfare



What is Child Welfare?

- **Child welfare is a complex system of many agencies**
- **U.S. Administration for Children & Families provides oversight and funding**
- **States primarily administrate child welfare**

What is Child Welfare?

- **States primarily administrate child welfare**
 - Regulations vary state by state
 - Local service providers include social services departments, child and family service departments, private child welfare agencies etc.

Child Welfare Terms

- **Title IV-E (of the Social Security Act)**
 - **Foster Care**
 - **Adoption Assistance Program**
 - **Guardianship Assistance Program**
- **Title IV-E Agency**
- **Child Welfare Agency**

More Child Welfare Terms

- **Formal care**
 - *inside* the system
- **Informal care**
 - *outside* the system
- **Involved in foster care and Not involved in foster care.**



More Child Welfare Terms

- **Licensed** foster parent
 - Wisconsin administrative code, chapter DCF 56
- **Not licensed**

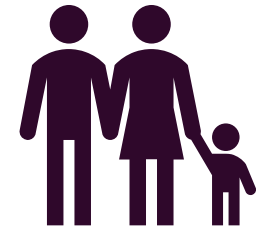
Grandfamily Variations



Inside and Licensed

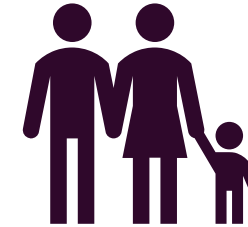
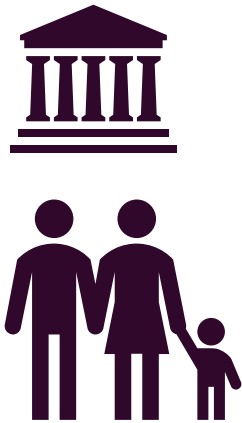


Inside and Not Licensed



Outside and Not Licensed

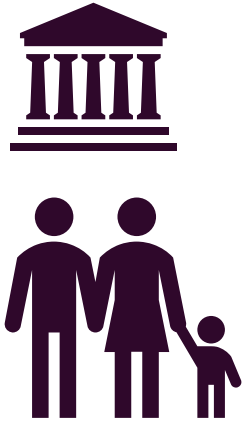
Another Variation



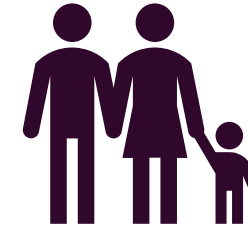
Was Involved with Child Welfare

No Longer Involved with Child Welfare

DIVERSION



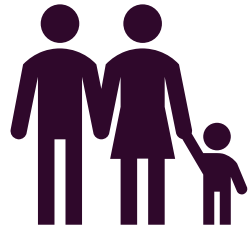
Was Involved with Child Welfare



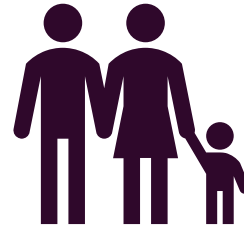
No Longer Involved with Child Welfare

Child Welfare: Services and Supports

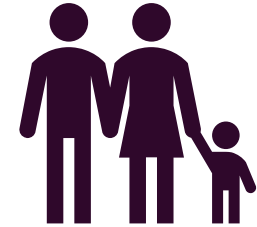
Case Management



Case worker
assigned with
defined duties



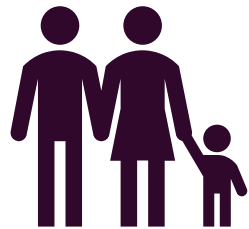
Case worker
assigned



No case worker

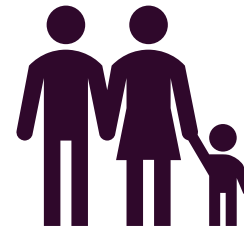
Child Welfare: Services and Supports

Health Care



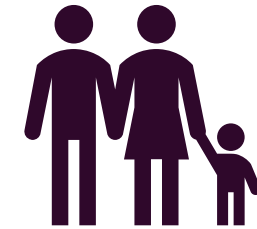
Agency has legal authority to get healthcare for the child

Child gets Medicaid automatically



Agency has legal authority to get healthcare for the child

Child may not get Medicaid automatically

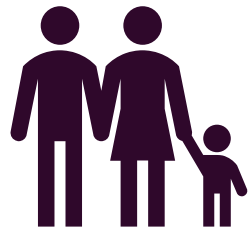


Kin caregiver may or may not be able to obtain healthcare for the child

Kin caregiver responsible for getting health coverage for the child

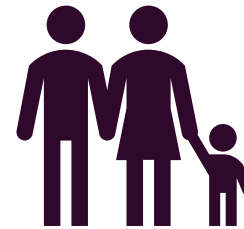
Child Welfare: Services and Supports

Legal Assistance



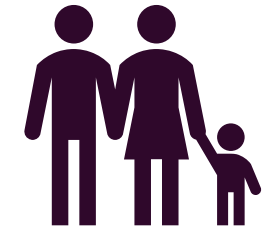
Kin caregiver may receive an attorney

Child and biological parents get attorneys automatically



Kin caregiver may receive an attorney

Child and biological parents get attorneys automatically

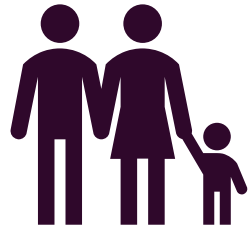


Kin caregiver must obtain an attorney on their own

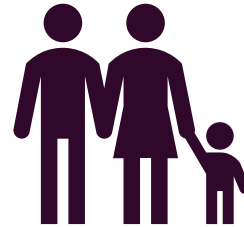
[U.S. Legal Services Corporation](#) may help

Child Welfare: Services and Supports

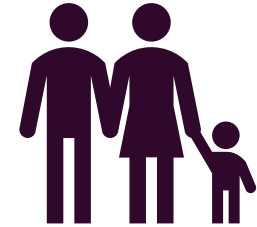
Income Assistance



Each foster child receives a monthly **Foster Care Maintenance Payment**



No Foster Care Maintenance Payments



No Foster Care Maintenance Payments

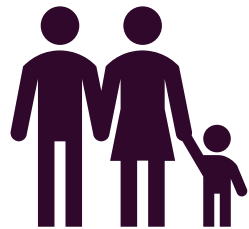
Child Welfare: Services and Supports

John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood

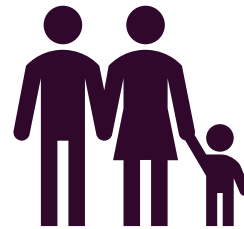
- Helps youth and young adults in foster care or recently aged-out of foster care to transition to adulthood.
- Funds can be used for help with education, employment, housing, financial management, mentoring and more.

Child Welfare: Services and Supports

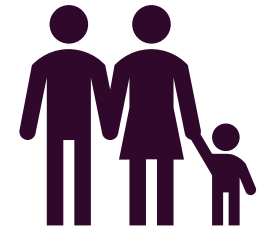
John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood



Eligible for Chafee Program supports



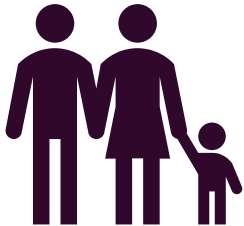
Eligible for Chafee Program Supports



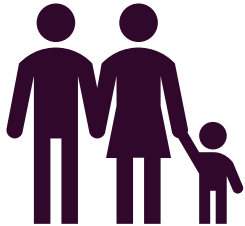
Note Eligible for Chafee

Kinship Navigators

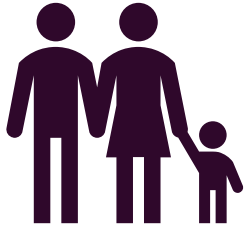
Information & Referral on Local Supports for Grandfamilies



Eligible for Help
from Kinship
Navigators



Eligible for Help
from Kinship
Navigators



May be Eligible
for Help from
Kinship
Navigators

Kinship Navigators

- Kinship navigators provide information and referral about local supports for grandfamilies.
- Many (but not all) kinship navigator programs are run by child welfare (a.k.a. Title IV-E) agencies
- Federal funds available, but many kinship navigator programs don't receive these funds
- Established by the Family First Prevention Services Act as an optional program; not available nationwide

Resources for Learning More

- [Administration for Children and Families' How the Child Welfare System Works \(2020\)](#)
- [Generations United's Kinship Caregiving Options: Considerations for Caregivers \(2021\)](#)
- [Kinship Navigator | Wisconsin Department of Children and Families](#)

Questions about Child Welfare?

Aging Network Expertise and Services

To entice kinship navigators to the
table



Aging Network

(Formal)



Federal

U.S. Administration on Aging



State

State Units on Aging



Local and Tribal

Area Agencies on Aging,
Title VI Native American Aging
Programs and Aging & Disability
Resource Centers (ADRC's)

Aging Network

(Informal)

Community-Based Organizations



Aging Network

Services



Aging Network

**Family Caregiver
Services**

- **National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP)**
- **Native American Caregiver Support Program (NACSP)**

NFCSP & NACSP Required Services

- Information on available services
- Assistance accessing services
- Respite
- Counseling, support groups or training
- Supplemental services

NFCSP & NACSP Services

...must be offered to caregivers of older adults.



...may be offered to kin caregivers ages 55+

Why is the Aging Network a Key Partner?

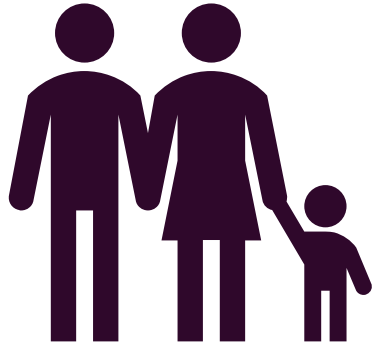


**generations
united**
Because we're stronger together®

**GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP
SUPPORT NETWORK**
A National Technical Assistance Center

USAging
Leaders in Aging Well at Home

Why the Aging Network is a Key Partner



46 percent are age 60 or older
66 percent are age 55 or older



44 percent no longer are employed



18 percent living below the poverty line



**generations
united**
Because we're stronger together®

**GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP
SUPPORT NETWORK**
A National Technical Assistance Center

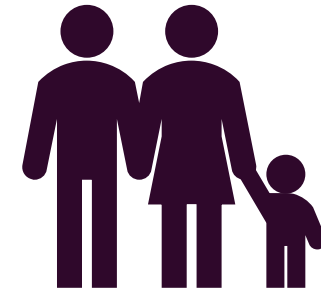
USAging
Leaders in Aging Well at Home

Sources: [Generations United's State of Grandfamilies Report-2022](#) and [GAO Report on Child Welfare and Aging Programs \(2020\)](#)

Why the Aging Network is a Key Partner



Child Welfare



Outside and
Not Licensed



Why the Aging Network is a Key Partner

- **Benefits Counseling**
 - On Medicare, Medicaid (for older adults), Social Security, etc.
- **Congregate Meals (i.e, Senior Dining)**
- **Home-Delivered Meals**

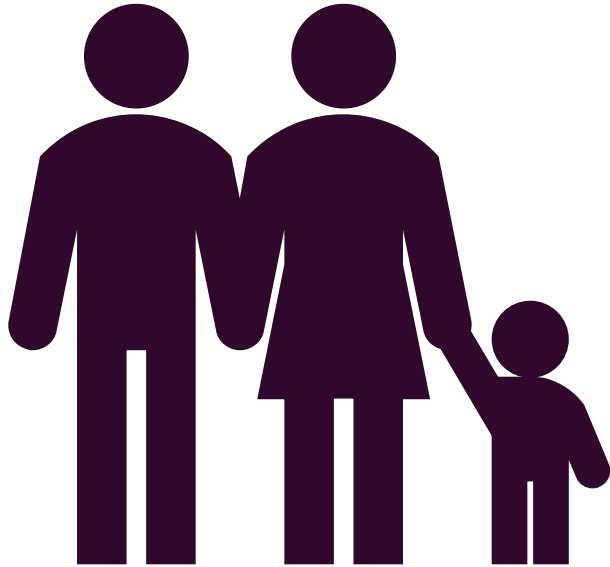
How the Aging Network Can Help



25 percent have a disability

- Homemaker and chore services
- In-home personal care
- Transportation
- Assistive devices
- Chronic disease self-management classes
- Nutrition counseling

Stress



- Children arrive at a moment's notice – in a traumatic situation
- Emotional and behavioral needs of the children
- Do not have an automatic legal relationship to the children



How the Aging Network Can Help

National Family Caregiver Support Program & Native American Caregiver Support Program

- Kin caregiver support groups
- Kin caregiver training
- Respite
- Information & Assistance

**Kinship/Grandfamilies:
The Role of Area Agencies on Aging and
Title VI Native American Aging Programs**

Introduction

Grandparents and other family members who are raising relative children, known as *kinship* or *grandfamilies* have unique needs (across a variety of areas) that affect their daily lives, including aging and caregiver supports, child welfare, and legal services.



Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Title VI Native American Aging Programs (Title VI programs) serve as nationwide lifelines for older adults age 60 and older, family caregivers and, increasingly, people younger than age 60 who have disabilities.

Both AAAs and Title VI programs provide a range of services for older adults including nutrition programs, family caregiver services, in-home personal care assistance, and other supportive services like transportation. AAAs also provide services promoting health, managing disease, and combating elder abuse.

USAging, as a part of its partnership with the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center (led by Generations United and funded through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Administration for Community Living), conducted a poll of AAAs and Title VI programs in early 2022 to learn more about their efforts to support kinship/grandfamilies. This report summarizes the efforts, funding sources and budgets, and technical assistance needs of respondents. This report uses the term kinship/grandfamily to refer to all families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends raise children whose parents are not available. This report also refers to the grandparents, other relatives, and close family friends raising child relatives as kin/grandfamily caregivers.

Overview of Kinship/Grandfamilies

Kinship/grandfamilies form when relatives take primary responsibility for raising children whose biological parents are unavailable for a variety of reasons that include military deployment, substance abuse, incarceration, or death.

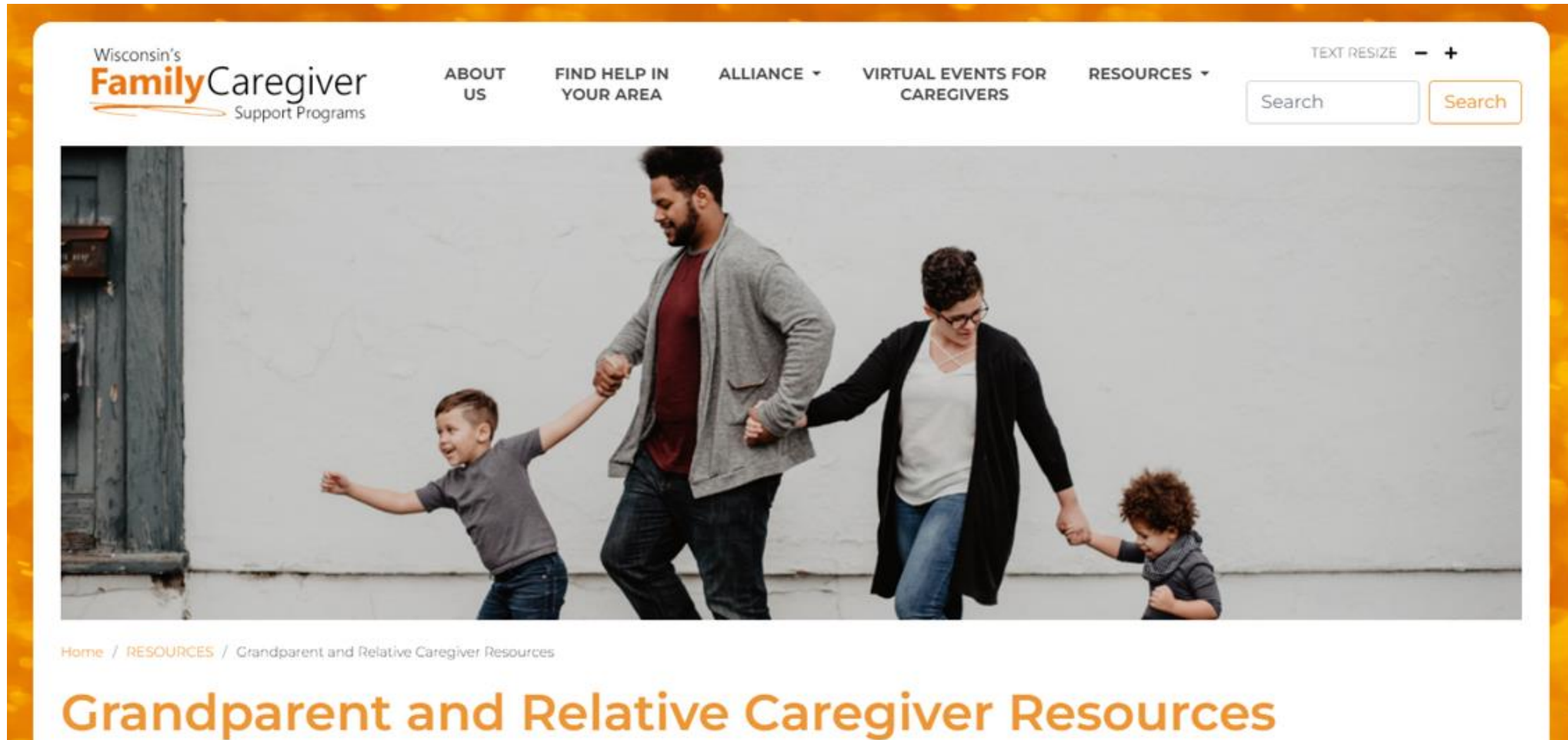
Nationwide, around 2.5 million children whose parents cannot care for them are being raised by grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other relatives. According to its 2021 *Initial Report to Congress* by the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, these numbers are on the rise.

Kinship/Grandfamilies: The Role of Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging Programs

The Aging Network's Support Nationwide

- 87% give information on services
- 77% help with service access
- 62% provide training/education
- 59% offer support groups
- 54% provide respite

WisconsinCaregiver.org




Wisconsin's **FamilyCaregiver** Support Programs

ABOUT US FIND HELP IN YOUR AREA ALLIANCE ▾ VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR CAREGIVERS RESOURCES ▾

TEXT RESIZE - +

Search Search



Home / RESOURCES / Grandparent and Relative Caregiver Resources

Grandparent and Relative Caregiver Resources

Resources for Learning More

- [Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network's Aging Network Services and Supports for Kin/Grandfamily Caregivers \(2023\)](#), prepared by USAging
- [Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network's Kinship/Grandfamilies: The Role of Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging Programs \(2023\)](#), prepared by USAging

Questions about Aging Network Services?

Thank you!

Leland Kiang

Program Manager,
Grandfamilies and Kinship
Care

USAging

LKiang@USAging.org

The Network is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$9,950,000 with 95 percentage funded by ACL/HHS and \$523,684 and 5 percentage funded by non-government sources. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.