



# PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

K-12 Education Support  
for Kinship and Grandfamilies

2024 STATE OF GRANDFAMILIES AND KINSHIP CARE REPORT



Scan the code with your  
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We will be starting soon.

Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/z-mfLqHdqml?si=hGBfloalrDqLXup8>





# Welcome!



**Donna Butts**  
Executive Director  
Generations United

**generations  
united**

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



[www.gksnetwork.org](http://www.gksnetwork.org)



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K-12 Education Support for Kinship and Grandfamilies



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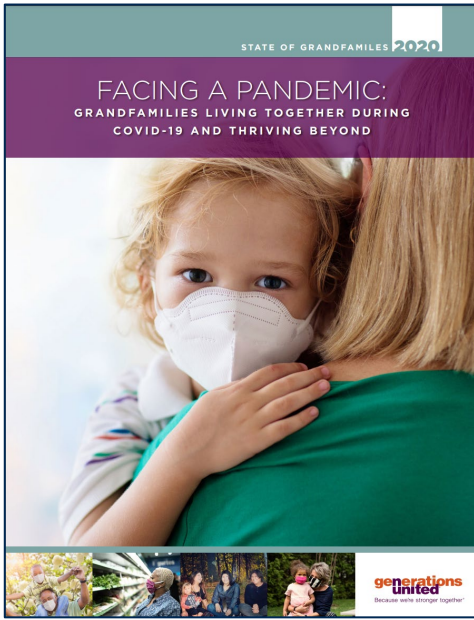
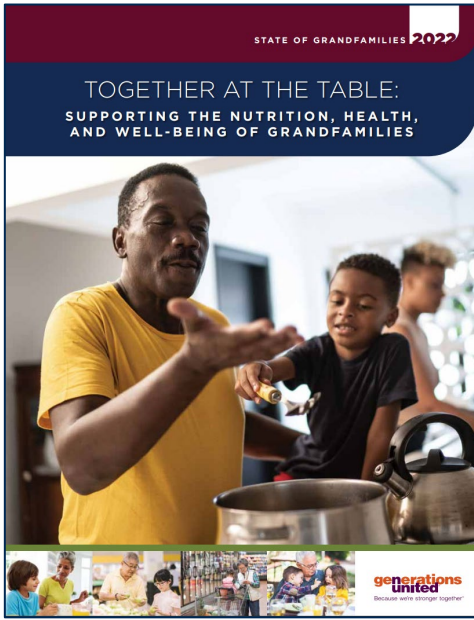
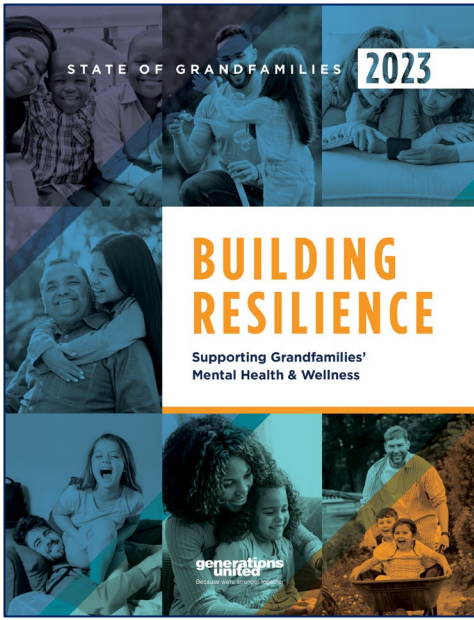


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[www.gureport.org](http://www.gureport.org)



# State of Grandfamilies & Kinship Care in America Annual Reports



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Special thanks to Centene Corporation for their support.



**CHILDREN THRIVE IN GRANDFAMILIES, ESPECIALLY WITH SUPPORT**



# Very Special Thank You

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See the report for a full listing of acknowledgments.

Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/pk4CdB7M2Mg?si=ohHktuhHWw-s3M6W>



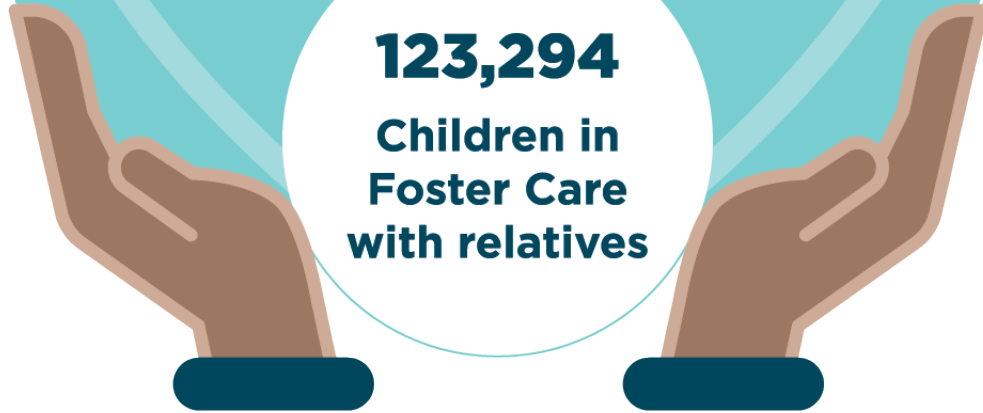
*Children in Grandfamilies and Kinship Care*

**ABOUT  
2.5 MILLION**



Children living with  
grandparents or other kin  
without parents in home

**123,294**  
Children in  
Foster Care  
with relatives





# Key Themes

1. Grandfamily caregivers face **overwhelming barriers** to supporting the education of children in their care.
2. Children in kinship care have **better academic outcomes** than children raised in foster care with non-kin.
3. And when grandfamilies get access to **critical supports**, the children's **academic outcomes can soar**.



**MEETING  
BASIC  
NEEDS**

**ADDRESSING DISABILITIES  
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS**

**MANAGING  
EFFECTS OF  
TRAUMA**

**ADDRESSING  
LEGAL  
BARRIERS TO  
EDUCATIONAL  
ENROLLMENT**

## **Educational Challenges**

**Grandfamilies  
often face serious  
challenges  
that can affect  
the children's  
education success**

**OVERCOMING  
COMMUNICATION  
BARRIERS  
BETWEEN  
SCHOOLS  
AND KINSHIP  
CAREGIVERS**

For every

**1 CHILD**

being raised by kin in  
foster care, there are

**19 CHILDREN**

being raised by kin  
outside of foster care.







**Children being raised by kin outside of foster care are less likely than those raised by kin foster caregivers to receive school-based services and other supports which may help them thrive academically.**

# Academic Outcomes



**Children living in grandfamilies and kinship families do better academically than children in foster care with non-kin. Children in foster care with kin do better academically and are more likely to receive supports and services than children raised by kin outside of foster care.**



“There is nothing I can do to repay my grandma for everything. She is the backbone of the whole family. She has been on my team 100% every step of the way, learning about therapists, schools, that helped me with my ADHD and anger issues and getting my 504 plan. She has been very supportive and trying to encourage me.”

**Keonte Jones**



# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Schools should **create and implement plans** to regularly share information about available services for grandfamilies.
- States should enact **educational consent laws**.
- Congress should support the expansion and sustained funding of **kinship navigator programs** and navigator programs should build strong relationships with schools.
- Title I schools (those with high poverty rates) should **engage grandfamilies in decision-making processes** about federal and local funding.
- Schools should be positioned as **central hubs for wraparound services**.
- Congress should continue **investment in the Grandfamilies and Kinship Support Network**.



See the report for a full list of recommendations.

# MODERATOR



**Jason B. Allen**  
National Director of Partnerships  
National Parents Union

# PANELISTS



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**Superintendent**  
**Osborn School District**  
**Phoenix, Arizona**



# INTERACTIVE WEBSITE & TOOLKIT

- Visit & share the report's interactive website [www.gureport.org](http://www.gureport.org).
- **COMING SOON** - a new toolkit, created by Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network with practical strategies and tools for professionals in the field.



# Generations United 23<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Conference

## SAVE THE DATES

**June 25-27, 2025**

**Louisville, Kentucky**

**Co-hosted by Harbor House**



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