



Because we're stronger together®

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### **Generations United's National Center on Grandfamilies**

Generations United's National Center on Grandfamilies is a leading voice for issues affecting families headed by grandparents or other relatives. More than 2.7 million children are raised in Grandfamilies (or Kinship Care). Through the Center, Generations United leads an advisory group of organizations, caregivers and youth that set the national agenda to advance public will in support of these families. Center staff conduct federal advocacy and provide technical assistance to state level practitioners and advocates. The Center is a proud partner of the [Advocates for Families First](#) collaborative which enhances advocacy and support of kinship, foster and adoptive families. The Center raises awareness about the strengths and needs of the families through media outreach, weekly communications, and awareness raising events. It offers broad range of guides, fact sheets and tools for grandfamilies, which cover issues from educational and health care access to financial and legal supports and can be found at [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org). In addition Generations United supports the Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resources Center ( [www.grandfamilies.org](http://www.grandfamilies.org)), created and maintained in partnership with the American Bar Association, and [www.grandfactsheets.org](http://www.grandfactsheets.org), maintained with several national partners. Generations United also trains grandfamilies to advocate for themselves.

Support for activities of Generations United's National Center on Grandfamilies comes from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Brookdale Foundation, Casey Family Programs, the W.K.Kellogg Foundation and Generations United members.

For nearly three decades, Generations United has been the catalyst for stimulating cooperation and collaboration among generations, evoking the vibrancy, energy and sheer productivity that result when people of all ages come together. We believe that we can only be successful in the face of our complex future if generational diversity is regarded as a national asset and fully leveraged.

The work of Generations United's National Center on Grandfamilies has led to:

- **POLICY CHANGE:** The inclusion of grandfamilies in the National Family Caregiver Support Act, the passage of LEGACY (the first legislation supporting affordable housing for grandfamilies), and supportive relative caregiver provisions in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.
- **A STRONG GRASSROOTS NETWORK:** In partnership with other national leaders, Generations United's National Center on Grandfamilies has facilitated four successful national GrandRallies at the U.S. Capitol mobilized more than 1,000 grandparents at each rally to take their concerns to elected officials.
- **POSITIVE MESSAGING:** Generations United's seminal publication, Grand Voices for America's Children, and subsequent communications efforts led the way to changing the way we talk about families where children are being raised by grandparents or other relatives. It has increased efforts to lead with a focus on the child when highlighting these families. The work also created and increased the use of the term "grandfamilies" when referring to the families, a term and frame which tested more positively with the general public than the traditional "kinship care."
- **ELEVATED AWARENESS:** 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.
- **COLLECTIVE AGENDA:** Through the convening of four national symposiums of experts in the grandfamilies field, The National Center has led efforts to set a united agenda and coordinate the collective work of national leaders working on behalf of grandfamilies.
- **RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** The National Center on Grandfamilies is home to countless publications, issues, briefs and tool kits for grandfamilies and professionals working with them. These resources in addition tools like the Grand Fact Sheets and The Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center provide the basis of the Center's extensive technical assistance to state, local and community based organizations serving grandfamilies.

For more information about Generations United's National Center on Grandfamilies Advisory Council contact Jaia Peterson Lent, [jlent@gu.org](mailto:jlent@gu.org) or 202-777-0115.