

# NJ Kinship Connections

A Publication of the NJ Kinship Legal Guardianship Resource Clearing House



A PROGRAM OF CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

Spring 2017

## What is Kinship Care?

Grandparents and relatives raising relative's children are collectively referred to as "Kinship Caregivers." Some grandfamilies are multi-generational households where families pool resources and grandparents provide care so parents can work. In others, grandparents or other relatives have stepped in to keep children out of foster care when parents are unable to care for them. Sometimes, a parent is a teenager and cannot provide the basics, so they live with their parents. Some grandparents receive a call in the middle of the night from child protective services and become full-time, sole caregivers to their grandchildren in a matter of hours. While grandparents are most often the relative involved, this can happen with aunts, uncles, older siblings, and even close



family friends. Grandfamilies are diverse and created by various circumstances including job loss, out of state employment, military deployment, divorce, deportation, illness, death, substance abuse, incarceration, or mental illness. Grandfamilies live in every part of the country, and represent all income levels, races, and all ethnicities.

According to the latest GrandFacts 2017 State Fact Sheets for Grandfamilies, 57,000 or 3% of children in New Jersey live with a relative with no parent present in the home. Over 8% or 163,000 children in New Jersey under the age of 18 live in homes where the head of the household is a grandparent or other

relative. Out of those, about 120,000 New Jersey children live with grandparents and about 44,000 children live with other relatives.\* In addition, about 40% of children currently in the NJ state foster care system through the Department of Children and Families live with relative caregivers. So where can relatives receive support for the children they are raising? There are several NJ organizations that may be helpful. Your local school, area agency on ageing, community center, faith based organizations and/or children's services offices may offer support services. The next few pages offer some helpful resources. For a more complete list of Kinship Care related resources, please visit: [www.kinkonnect.org](http://www.kinkonnect.org) or call the warm line at 877-KLG-LINE (877-554-5463).

\* [www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/State%20Fact%20Sheets/Grandfamilies-Fact-Sheet-New-Jersey.pdf](http://www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/State%20Fact%20Sheets/Grandfamilies-Fact-Sheet-New-Jersey.pdf)

### Points of Interest:

- ◆ FREE KLG SERVICES FOR DCP&P FAMILIES
- ◆ HANDBOOK TO HELP KIDS TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD
- ◆ KINKONNECT FREE LENDING LIBRARY

### Inside this issue:

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### THOSE WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS!

**FEDERAL APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) DEADLINES VARY BY COLLEGES CHECK WITH THE COLLEGES YOUR CHILD IS APPLYING TO FOR THEIR DEADLINES. CONTACT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL FOR DETAILS.**



## NJ Kinship Connections

### “Helping You Transition to Adulthood” Handbook

#### DID YOU KNOW?

ARE YOU CARING FOR A CHILD/GRANDCHILD WHO HAS A BEHAVIORAL ISSUE, DEVELOPMENTAL OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND/OR NEEDS SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES?

CONSIDER CONTACTING PERFORMCARE:

PERFORMCARE HELPS FAMILIES ACROSS NEW JERSEY BY OFFERING SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SUCH AS:

- IN-HOME THERAPY
- FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES
- BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS
- MOBILE RESPONSE
- CARE MANAGEMENT
- OUT-OF-HOME TREATMENT
- SUMMER CAMP ASSISTANCE AND MORE

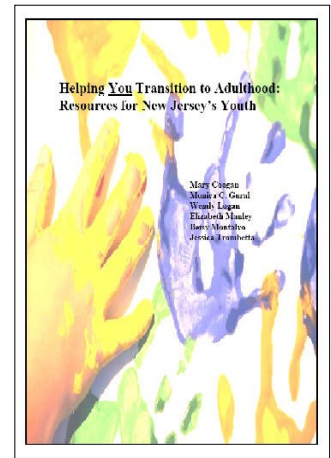
CALL  
1-877-652-7624  
24 HRS A DAY/ 7 DAYS  
A WEEK

# PerformCARE



Taking care of a child turning into a young adult? Looking for a guide that may be helping in guiding him/her in starting a bank account, car insurance, identify goals for college or vocational school? This guide could be very helpful to you and your family as a resource to help your teen transition

to adulthood. To download this guide, log onto [www.kinkconnect.org](http://www.kinkconnect.org) and select “Handbooks and Publications.” You can also request this guide by calling our KinKconnect warm line at 877-KLG LINE (877-554-5463) and we would be happy to send you a copy!



### Kinship Navigator Programs:

Kinship caregivers without DCP&P involvement may get help addressing immediate problems, and be referred to a local Kinship agency which works with caregivers to access additional services. The local Kinship agencies serve three functions: 1) to help “navigate” other forms of government assistance 2) determine if the caregiver’s family is eligible for Kinship Navigator program benefits such as help with short-term expenses for the relative child, (e.g.: furniture, moving expenses and clothing) and 3) provide technical support and guide the family through the process of Kinship Legal Guardianship if the caregiver wishes to make a legal commitment to the child. Please see below for the number to call to get started:

**CarePlus, NJ** - (201) 797-2660 or (201) 398-9110, serving Bergen, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties.

**The Salvation Army** - (973) 373-5045 serving Essex County.

**Children’s Home Society** - 1-800-396-4518 serving Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, Hunterdon, and Union Counties.

**Family Service Association**, 1-877-569-0350 serving Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties.

**Or call 2-1-1 or 877-652-1148**

For details, log onto: [www.nj.gov/dcf/families/support/kinship/](http://www.nj.gov/dcf/families/support/kinship/)

### Summer Camps

Summer is upon us and camp can be a great opportunity to have your grandchild or young relative meet new friends, learn a new skill and just have fun! It will also give

you some rest during those hot summer months! For a list of NJ Camps, please log onto our website or give us a call at 877- KLG LINE (877-554-5463). Looking for something fun to do with

the kids during the week? Check out the latest NJ Families Magazines for lists of events at [www.njfamily.com](http://www.njfamily.com) or [www.kidsguidenj.com](http://www.kidsguidenj.com).  
*Happy Summer!*

## Kinship Family Supports in New Jersey

Are you raising your grandchild(ren), your niece/nephew or other relative? The below services may help you find some emotional support and help answer some of your questions and gain additional confidence.

### Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS):

Each NJ county offers support groups for those who either are adoptive parents, currently licensed foster parents and/or Kinship Legal Guardians (KLG) through the Division (DCP&P). To locate a group in your area, call us 877-554-5463 or visit their website at [www.fafsonline.org](http://www.fafsonline.org).

### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Monthly Support Group:

Family Support Organization of Bergen County; Meetings in Englewood, NJ. Call 201-796-6209 Ext. 102 for information.

**Grandparents Support Group** sponsored by the Family Partners of Morris and Sussex Counties. For information and directions call 973-940-3194. Other Family Support Organizations (FSO's) may offer

parent/grandparent support groups. Visit [www.state.nj.us/dcf/families/support/support/](http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/families/support/support/) or contact us at 877-KLG-LINE to find a support group near you.

**Grandma K.A.R.E.S.** located in Essex County [www.grandmakares.org](http://www.grandmakares.org).

**Caregiver Connections:** Family Connections of the Essex County Division of Senior Services [www.familyconnectionsni.org](http://www.familyconnectionsni.org).

**Rutgers Cooperative Extension—** Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program, Cape May. 609-465-5115.

If you obtained KLG through the Division (DCP&P) and need some counseling, consider contacting one of the following agencies and ask about their free KLG Counseling services:

Bergen, Passaic and Essex Counties (excluding Newark): Children's Aid and Family Services, (201) 740-7124

City of Newark: Family Service Bureau of Newark, (973) 412-

2056  
Union County: Family and Children's Services, (908) 352-7474

Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties: Oaks Community Services: (609) 953-5714

Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Somerset Counties: Children's Home Society, (609) 695-6274

Hudson County: Catholic Charities, Dioceses of Newark Family Resource Center, (201) 798-9900

Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties: Robins Nest, (856)881-8689

In addition, the **New Jersey Division of Child Behavioral Health Services (DCBHS)** serves children and teens with emotional and behavioral health care challenges, and provides counseling services. For information, call 1-877-652-7624.

Need other resources? Contact the KinConnect Warm line at 877-KLG-LINE (877-554-5463) or log onto [www.kinkconnect.org](http://www.kinkconnect.org).

## DID YOU KNOW?



### The KinConnect Free Lending Library

1-877-KLG-LINE  
(1-877-554-5463)

*Did you know that our KinConnect Program has over 2000 books, that you may borrow? Many focus on Kinship Care!*

### No PC? No Problem!

Contact a KinConnect warm-line representative at 877-KLG-LINE ((877) 554-5463) to request a book or ask a question about statewide resources!

June is African-American Music Appreciation Month, honoring the musical contributions of African-American musicians, composers and songwriters



June is African-American Music Appreciation Month  
[www.historical.org/america](http://www.historical.org/america)



NJ KINSHIP LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP  
RESOURCE CLEARING HOUSE

WWW.KINKONNECT.ORG

A PROGRAM OF CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

WWW.CAFSNJ.ORG

Children's Aid and Family Services  
76 South Orange Avenue, Suite 209  
South Orange, NJ 07079

KLK Warmline: 877-KLG-LINE  
877-554-5463

E-mail: [warmline@kinkonnnect.org](mailto:warmline@kinkonnnect.org)  
Visit us at: [www.kinkonnnect.org](http://www.kinkonnnect.org)

Children's Aid and Family Services is one of northern New Jersey's leading non-profit human service agencies. Since 1899, we have built better lives for thousands of disadvantaged children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. For more information, visit our website: [www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org).

#### DISCLAIMER

While NJ Kinship Legal Guardianship Resource Clearing House (KinKonnnect) or Children's Aid and Family Services makes every effort to present accurate and reliable information, neither KinKonnnect nor Children's Aid and Family Services guarantees the completeness, efficacy or timeliness of such information. In addition, reference herein to any specific product, process, service, organization, or viewpoint does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation or favoring by KinKonnnect or Children's Aid and Family Services.



Affordable health coverage. Quality care.

### Affordable health coverage. Quality Care - NJ FamilyCare -

New Jersey's publicly funded health insurance program - includes CHIP, Medicaid and Medicaid expansion populations. That means qualified NJ residents of any age may be eligible for free or low cost health insurance that covers doctor visits, prescriptions, vision, dental care, mental health and substance use services and even hospitalization. NJ FamilyCare is for people who do not have employer insurance. The entire application process can be completed online at <https://njfc.force.com/familycare/quickstart> or call **1-800-701-0710**; multi-lingual operators are available. Number for hearing impaired individuals please call 1-800-701-0720.

Easily navigate the **new** online NJ FamilyCare application with:

- ◆ New menus, subheadings and smart technology.
- Applicants can register to:
- ◆ Save partially completed applications
  - ◆ View submitted applications, and
  - ◆ Receive future Medicaid notifications electronically.

### Who is Eligible?

NJ Family Care includes: children, pregnant women, parents/caretaker relatives, single adults and childless couples. Financial eligibility will be determined by the latest federal tax return which, when filed, will be electronically verified.

**Children 18 and under** are eligible with higher incomes up to 355% FPL (\$7,278/month for a family of four). Parents still need to renew the coverage each year. Children age 18 and under who are lawfully admitted can be eligible even if they have lived in this country fewer than five years.

**Parents/Caretaker Relatives** with income up to 138% FPL (\$2,829/month for a family of four) must have tax dependent children in their household in order to be eligible under this category. The dependent children in the household must be insured also. Immigrant adults must have Legal Permanent Resident status in the US for at least five years in order to be eligible for NJ FamilyCare.

**Adults without dependent children** with ages 19-64 and income up to 138% FPL (\$1,387/month for a single person and \$1,868/month for a couple). Immigrant adults must have Legal Permanent Resident status in the US for at least five years in order to be eligible for NJ FamilyCare.

**Pregnant Women up to 205% FPL** (\$4,203/month for a family of four). Pregnant women who are lawfully admitted can be eligible even if they have lived in this country fewer than five years. \*

\*[www.njfamilycare.org/income.aspx](http://www.njfamilycare.org/income.aspx)

**Aged, Blind, Disabled program including Long Term Care**  
Individuals ineligible for NJ FamilyCare can find information on other insurance affordability programs at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).