

What is Kinship Care?

- Kinship Care is an initiative by the State of Ohio to actively address the needs of our older citizens or other relatives who may be raising a grandchild or other relative.

Grandparents have always cared for their grandchildren. Why is there a need for this program now?

- In 1998, the University of Cincinnati was commissioned by the state to perform a needs assessment of grandparents and other relative caregivers. Their findings indicated that grandparents are actively involved in raising grandchildren in 10% of Ohio households with children. One out of four of these households, had grandparents as sole providers and the numbers are growing.

- Their findings further indicated that many of these same adults were not eligible for basic services granted to foster care providers.

- Concerns about the well-being of the child, health concerns, financial hardships and emotional concerns were cited as major concerns as well.

“You need not feel alone – Lorain County Office on Aging is here to address your needs and concerns”

Lorain County Office on Aging Grandparents

& Other Kinship Caregivers

440-326-4800

www.lcooa.org

Services:

We are here to serve you as Service Link, Coordinator, Source of Information, or Advocate for Grandparents and Relative Caregivers. We may be able to link you to:

- Child Care
- Educational Services
- Legal Services
- Medical Programs
- Mental Health Services
- Respite Services
- Support Groups
- Transportation
- Information about Financial Benefits

Some Services have eligibility requirements.

We want to know what you need.

Kinship Caregivers fall into three categories:

1. Custodial – Legal custody is granted. The caregiver takes on responsibility of daily care with sole responsibility for the care of the child.
2. Living With – The parent lives with the child. The caregiver is there for economic and emotional support without legal recourse in determining what is best for the child.
3. Day Care – This is the more traditional role where the grandparent provides routine care and the child does not reside in the caregivers household.

If you fall into any one of the above categories, and are feeling overwhelmed, or just need to take a break from your responsibilities, we may have solutions.

You Are Not Alone

If you or someone you know has taken on the responsibilities of raising a grandchild or other relative, they may need our help.

Call us today for information, assistance or simply just to have someone listen and offer reassurance. We can be there to help sort out the tough choices and connect you with services.

Rewards:

There are many rewards for grandparents and other relatives caring for family members. A majority of caregiving grandparents report they feel and experience a greater purpose for living. Providing care to their grandchildren helps some caregivers feel young and active. Grandparents say their grandchildren have reawakened them to simple pleasures and joys they had forgotten about. They take the responsibilities out of love because they want to keep the family together. Caregivers give the children love, instill values and morals. Most of all, the children are with people they know and trust. Kinship caregivers make a difference in their lives.

Contact:

Lorain County Office on Aging

440-326-4800

Telephone Hours:

Monday – Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

on the web

www.lcooa.org

Where To Get Help

Lorain County Office on Aging

Elyria (440) 326-4800
Lorain (440) 244-6261
Ext 4800

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Other Co-Operating Agencies

El Centro

De Servicios Sociales, Inc.

Lorain (440) 277-8235

First Call For Help

Toll Free..... 1-800-275-6106

Lorain County Office on Aging
Grandparents & Other Kinship Caregivers
is funded by grants from

The Brookdale Foundation

Family Connections to Success Grant
Administered by Public Children Services
of Ohio (PCSAO)

Lorain County Children's Services

Nord Family Foundation

Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging

Kinship Care



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Grandparents & Other Kinship Caregivers
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