

A Hidden Crisis- The Rise of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Oregon

JFRF

JESSIE F. RICHARDSON
FOUNDATION

Across Generations. Across Borders.

AGE+

Communities + Generations + Innovations

About Us

Jessie F. Richardson Foundation & Age+ are companion organizations, tackling issues around aging.

We are advocates and program innovators, developing partnerships that strengthen community-based resources to improve the lives of older adults, especially those with low incomes.

A Hidden Crisis

Estimates range from 38,500 to 53,000 youth in Oregon are being raised by their grandparents due to unforeseen circumstances.

- It's a 21% increase since 2008.
- Most are not involved with DHS.
- Placements range from intermittent to permanent.
- Of the 7,600 foster care placements in Oregon - 2,787 are with relatives (approximately half with grandparents)
- This can be sudden or after a traumatic event, often times finding Grandparents unprepared.

Why?

The ripple effects of the opioid crisis are rapidly accumulating, resulting in a dramatic uptick of parents unavailable to care for their children.

- 20% of grandparents cited parental drug abuse as the reason they were currently acting as parents to their grandchildren;
- Other reasons include incarceration, death, homelessness, and mental health issues.



Challenges for Grandparents

- Supports tailored to the needs of grand-families are extremely limited.
 - Many don't feel they fit into traditional parental support groups
 - Lack of cultural and linguistic considerations
- Grandparents confront unique challenges such as:
 - Obtaining custody or guardianship,
 - Accessing limited government assistance
 - Enrolling their grandchildren in school
 - Establishing medical care

Challenges for Grandparents

- Managing complex family relationships
- One-third of grandparents have a disability
- 20% live below the poverty line
- 40% are still in the workforce
- Children may have special needs or behavioral challenges
- Many don't seek assistance out of fear of the consequences for their adult child, or of losing their grandchild to "the system"

Federal Families First Prevention Act

- New federal legislation passed in February 2018
- Championed by Senator Ron Wyden
- Promotes keeping families together or children placed with Kinship Caregivers (Grandparents and other relatives)
- Allows Title IV-E funding to be used for prevention BEFORE entering the child welfare system such as:
 - In-home Parent Skill Based Services
 - Mental Health & Substance Use Prevention and Treatment
- Funding allows states to design their own program services so long as they meet certain evidence-based criteria.
- Modifies licensing standards for *relative* foster care placements
- Potential new services may include Kinship Navigators

Oregon's Response to FFPA

- Statewide Policy Workgroup out of the State Legislature convened in April 2018 by Senator Gelser
 - JFRF is a member of the Workgroup that includes executive, legislative, and judicial branches at the state level, foster parents, service providers, tribes, and young adults with personal experience in Oregon's foster care system.
 - Established to address policy, budget and communication needs related to the implementation of new federal legislation championed by our Senator, Ron Wyden.
- DHS has received a federal grant to develop Kinship Navigator Program in Oregon

What is Ties That Bind?

- JFRF's web-based response to the growing issue of grandparent and kinship caregivers.
- A program designed to provide unique peer support, consult and training.
- A place to gain access and clarity to existing resources.
- Accessible in urban and rural communities alike
- Meets grandparents' needs wherever they are and on their timeline.
- Available 24/7.
- Officially launched in 2018.



Features

NEWS YOU CAN USE

OREGON RESOURCES

TOOLS JUST FOR YOU

TAKE FIVE to SURVIVE



LET'S DO THIS - TOGETHER!

TIES THAT BIND, a new place for you.
Listening. Sharing. Coaching. Helping.

Kin raising children learn new things everyday. We believe in the wisdom of the group. You know more than you think! [We are just getting started.](#) We will need everyone's help.

SEE OUR NEW
FACEBOOK GROUP!

You are invited

- Curated database of resources by county or keyword
- Peer support
- How-to videos
- Tips & training broken down using a popular educational model
- Articles
- News/Events

Virtual Support Group

- Alternative to place-based support groups
- “Closed” Facebook group
- Provides peer support & connection
- Members share knowledge & experience
- Reduces isolation
- Moderated by peers & staff

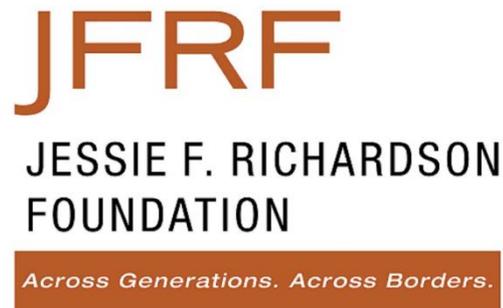


How you can be involved

- Spread the word! Share our website:
www.TiesThatBindOR.org
- Provide ideas for content
- Provide links to resources



www.TiesThatBindOR.org



Keren Brown Wilson, kwilson@jfrfoundation.org
Stephanie Hooper, shooper@jfrfoundation.org

www.jfrfoundation.org

www.ageplus.org