Grandparents/Kin Raising Children Advisory Council of Northern New Mexico

2021-22 Needs Assessment Results (78 total)
Number of children in your care:

76 responses

1 (1.3%) 27 (35.5%) 32 (42.1%) 10 (13.2%) 5 (6.6%) 1 (1.3%)

Updated on 3.7.22
Ages of children under your care:
75 responses

- 0-2: 12 (16%)
- 3-4: 17 (22.7%)
- 5-8: 32 (42.7%)
- 9-11: 28 (37.3%)
- 12-14: 24 (32%)
- 15-17: 13 (17.3%)
What is the legal status of the relationship with your grandchild/grandchildren?

69 responses

- 58% Don't know or uncertain
- 14.5% No legal relationship
- 11.6% Consent or power of attorney
- 7.2% Legal Custody
- 5.8% Open or cooperative adoption
- 3.2% Guardianship
- 0.7% Adoption
- 0.7% Relative Foster Care
If other, please state the other legal status of the relationship with your grandchild/kin?

- Permanent legal and physical guardianship from Santa Clara Pueblo
- Full guardianship-parents have no rights to the kids
- Taking them to doctors if ill or appointments, dentist, buying them clothes and what they need. My 14 year old grandson needs a lot of things being that he is in sports and growing up. He has a lot of needs
- Father helps or keeps 2 year old.
- We care for the children 80% of the time, with one parent living close to us and offering help 30% the other parent take them 2 nights a week
- Judge sent girls back to the same abusive mom. Mom never went to pick up child from babysitter. After months Las Cumbres sent me to Pegasus. Went to court, got guardianship but not allowed adoption. 4 years later...no mom! They just stayed with me when the dad dad. Their mom, my daughter, helps me.
- Do not have guardianship, hoping for the best. We are supporting the only way we know how. We are supporting where our son cannot be present.
- I am watching my cousins baby. She just left him and we took him in. I have 3 kids so one more was ok
- My grandsons were co-parented by me and my son Dennis, but he passed away 6 months ago.

Living with me
How long have you been responsible for your grandchild/grandchildren?

78 responses

- 73.1% Less than 6 months
- 17.9% 6-11 months
- 1.3% 1 to 2 years
- 1.3% 3 to 4 years
- 1.3% 5 years or more
Parents were addicted

Legal guardian 9 years, court orders

Their mother lives here also, however, they don't work. I care for their needs, diapers, clothing, etc.

Kids removed by the state

Parents passed away

Birth parents are addicts, unable to care for child. Circumstances let me to have Court appointment as Kinship Guardian.

Children come during the summer to visit. Father ended up in jail, mother abandoned children. Family was actually homeless living in Alb and we offered our home. The family moved and lived with us.

The mom and dad struggles

Grandchild is 19 and recovering from fentanyl addiction. Her home situation is not so good so we have taken her in to help her get healthier and back on her feet again

The mom left and dad struggles

Both parents are meth/heroin addicts living on the streets. DV and neglect. I was able to petition the courts for custody.

Both parents were struggling with substance abuse. They both gave up their parental rights to me in court June of 2020

They came to live with me, I took them in.

Addiction and neglect made us step into the situation

State took the children away from the parents

The dad died. He drank, was sick.

Gain custody after parents could not care for them

CYFD has taken them away from their mom and dad but dad died, so my daughter is going to college to get her PHD or she is studying for ultra sound

My son, her father passed away. Mother is not available

Their Father, Mother and my Niece died

Placement through CYFD

Father died and mother is homeless and on drugs

Daughter was removed from the parent by the state

Children were removed from the parent by the state

The mom left when they were small and we cared for them.

When her mother had to work and my granddaughter did not have a daycare that my daughter approved of, I accepted the responsibility of caring for her as long as her parents are working.

My cousin struggles with addiction Her mom dies of an overdose and my cousins dad left to Las Vegas, NM and doesn't call.

Daughter in need of help, had to get kids to make sure their fine. After father of kids passed away it has gotten hard

The mother in our care

Daughter murdered. Father died

Daughter was addicted to drugs for 9 years, had children while addicted

Parents were unable to care for children. Both parents were on drugs at the time. Father went to jail and mother abandoned the kids.

Mother lost rights, my son tries the best he can to do for her, he is out of work. I step in to support her and raise her the best I can.
Agreement with biological pattern bra an be legally granted custody through judge in court.

My daughter was on drugs and her father also. So CYFD and the courts gave me full guardianship.

Father was injured and disabled also alcohol abuser. Mother unable to care for children due to substances.

CYFD asked my daughter who would take care of her baby at the time.

My daughter just left and left him behind.

Parents were not around and are doing drugs, not responsible.

Parents could not provide for them. My guardianship is through the courts.

My daughter passed away and left her son behind. And his father passed away.

Pima Co. court in Tucson, AZ, severed parental rights of my grandchildren in 2014.

Gained custody after parents could not care for them.

My granddaughter got involved in drugs, abandoned her kids.

Their parents were not responsible to take care of them. Also, there were drug issues.

My daughter is a drug addict and was not taking care of my 3 grandkids. They need to be in a stable environment. One was disabled and needed my care always as my other two also.
What is your gender?
77 responses

Female: 90.9%
Male: 9.1%
Not Listed
Prefer Not to Say
What is your age in years?
76 responses

- Under 18: 43.4%
- 18-24: 30.3%
- 25-34: 15.8%
- 35-44: 15.8%
- 45-54: 8.0%
- 55-64: 5.3%
- 65-74: 3.9%
- Above 75: 0.0%
What language do you speak at home?

76 responses

- English: 75 (98.7%)
- Spanish: 28 (36.8%)
- Tewa: 2 (2.6%)
- Other: 0 (0%)
What is your employment status?

77 responses

- Full-time (40 hours or more a week): 23.4%
- Part-time (30 hours or less): 14.3%
- Temporary (seasonal): 9.1%
- Self employed: 16.9%
- Retired, with a part-time job: 29.9%
- Retired, with no additional job: 9.1%
- Unemployed: 14.3%
- Disabled: 9.1%
Please select the challenges that you face in raising your grandchild or grandchildren (Check all that apply).

76 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less time for myself</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interferes with job</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial difficulties</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>60.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on my own health</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel isolated or alone</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear losing custody</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stress</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty with healthcare access</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficult with school registration</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No longer qualify for public aid</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflicts with biological parent</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal difficulty</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty parenting the child</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are no challenges</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other challenges that you face in raising your grandchild or grandchildren

- Understanding and dealing with her disabilities
- Childcare, social interaction with other children (she is an only child), finding time for us
- Having the time/energy to provide learning assistance after school. He has difficulty with reading and writing.
- Looking for legal council to fight for my guardianship
- Raising boys with special Ed needs
- Maternal grandparent and her children have been nonexistent. Suddenly, they want to come visit the children without making arrangements etc. Children do not want any contact with grandmother or aunts and uncles.
- She has mental health issues that aren't getting addressed. She resents us wanting to know what is going on in her life. She is suffering from after effects of addiction, depression, PTSD and being bipolar.
- I would have retired by now had I not had this additional child. I wouldn't give her up, but I'd really like to retire.
- Not enough respite care (hours); resources/doctors etc; grandparents support - no resources out there only "groups"; mentors to help with homework/school work
- Lack of time for myself. New math I'm not aware of. Bad eating habits, difficult to feed. She is getting counseling however she still has emotional times. Trouble sleeping, she's afraid of the dark and silence.

- Technology using computers, internet, and being involved in their education all while caring for my 92 year old mother.

- Parenting because of child with ADD, ADHD, Autism spectrum
- Trauma
- Children have behavioral issues because of trauma!
Please select the services you are in need of/would like/are interested in:

72 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support group for grandparents</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial assistance (Housing)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>45.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education about available services</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance in accessing available services</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone to care for your children</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal assistance (guardianship)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology classes (using computer)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting classes</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal health education</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Training</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEP training</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendors that will accept statistical services</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutor for child</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid; cash assistance</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other services you are in need of/would like/are interested in (optional)

- No providers in area. Low pay and paper-work never ends.
- Parenting classes about disabilities
- Shorter DDR waiver approval (now 10+ yrs.)
- Computer classes
- I feel isolated and embarrassed.
- Teach them about life, I won't be here forever.
- Need to learn more about effects of drug addiction and her mental health issues.
- I do participate in asking about resources but no one are available except for Barrios Unidos for food and clothing and what Ms. Lupe can give

- I just want him safe, mom pops in every so often when it's time for shots or just needs a place to stay.
- Both boys have special needs, could use support
- I attend a support group (Cancer)
- mental health
- Tutor for student with diagnosed educational difficulties

- My child is now 16 and fairly self-sufficient. I've had her since she was 6 weeks old and could have used many of the services listed above, including the legal assistance. I paid close to $10K out of pocket in legal fees.
- Legal aid services - many do not take on adoption cases, backlogged with many cases on a waiting list for behavior therapy for children with autism due to covid
- activities for my children (sports, events for children)
For any of the services listed above, please check the reasons why you aren't currently using the service(s):

48 responses

- The service doesn't exist in my... 11 (22.9%)
- Not eligible 9 (18.8%)
- Didn't know about this service 24 (50%)
- Not available in my language 1 (2.1%)
- Didn't have transportation to get... 1 (2.1%)
- Too expensive 5 (10.4%)
- Too embarrassed to access the... 4 (8.3%)
- Don't have time to access the service 6 (12.5%)
- Other 10 (20.8%)
Other reasons why you aren't currently using the service(s):

- I take care of my dad he's 88 years old. He can't walk at all anymore and my granddaughter keeps me very busy.
- Legal aid services - many do not take on adoption cases, backlogged with many cases.
- Transportation and money travelling to appointments.
- We have been told grandparents can't get compensation for caring for children however foster parents are paid. Childcare has been helpful; however, it's difficult to be motivated to do chores or other.
- I never asked for any services until I was diagnosed with cancer and wasn't eligible for some services.
- No providers in area. Low pay and paper work never ends.
- Afraid that someone will take him and he wouldn't be safe.
- I do participate in asking about resources but no one are available except for Barrios Unidos for food and clothing and what Ms. Lupe can give.
Services currently being used:

- Outpatient therapy
- Support group "Grandparents raising grandchildren"
- Medicaid
- Counselling from Family Council.
- Methadone from a clinic in Espanola.
- TANF assistance
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters a few years ago
- Granddaughter receives death benefits (Social Security) from both of her parents--which go towards her college fund.
- NFLOC: nursing level of care, Conduent
- Will be utilizing respite services soon (Las Cumbres)
- Azzy is getting child only tarif which is only $224. Approve more money for food. I qualified for $25 in food stamps.
- Khapo Community School FACE program
Keeping guardianship. I would like legal advice. I've been unemployed since I was given guardianship so my income is minimal. Bills are outstanding and I'm falling further into debt. I severely need financial help.

Financial Help

Help in getting food stamps for granddaughter; help financially so she can attend school activities; help financially with cost incurred to visit siblings.

Need diapers, need refrigerator, over, fixtures in my home, etc. Windows, painting, flooring, cabinets, just about everything needs fixing.

Services don't exist. Been raising grandkids for decades with little to no support. Systems in place have no empathy. Until you walk down the spine of a grandma you have no clue. Please help us to help others.

Parenting classes would be useful because the relationships between grandparents and grandchildren is much different than that when we were raising our own kids.

I'm on disability and don't have money for home repair. Most of my money goes for basic needs don't have any money extra after rent is paid.

Respite with qualified/experienced providers

Because I approached the Court first to obtain Kinship Guardianship, CYFD did not take my child on. Her brothers are able to get monetary help from the State, regardless of their grandparent's financial status. I was not able to do that. That money would help a lot - the State needs to change that policy. I also had to pay for the legal costs for guardianship and subsequent adoption (as well as for a guardian ad litem for my child). Those were paid by the State for the other children. Additionally, I had to pay for all childcare out of pocket while the others did not.

Financial stability

Counseling for the teenage years - some services through SKY Center in Santa Fe.

Most respite is during the week. Need some weekends free. Will soon need help w/pampers and clothing for 3 month old. 3 year old has been getting hand down clothing. Would like more help w/food and snacks for 5 year old.

Therapy for entire family in our home

I'm moving towards adoption. Attorney fees are tremendous. There are no programs that will assist with the cost of adoption (paying an attorney) that I'm aware of.
Please elaborate on your specific needs

Thank you for helping us grandparents!

Financial Stability. My vehicle needs maintenance all the commuting to school, therapist and doctors. My granddaughter needs chromebook or computer for homework, we only use cell.

Paying bills, everything has gone up. Food, clothing, gas, utilities. Utility bills are expensive during cold months.

Until Barrios Unidos approached us about grandparent support we just suffered silently. We have been included for Christmas, Thanksgiving, outreach, and gas cards. We know we're not alone.

Financial Stability. My gas water and car payment are 2 months behind. Our rent is one month behind. I had some unexpected car repairs that put me behind, but I had to fix the car in order to get to work and the kids to school.

I am in immediate need of a washing machine. Gas money for vehicles. Tickets to extra curricular activities and events. Thank you.

Some "breathing" time would be amazing. What I mean by that, is simply some "respite" on occasion to recharge.

I spend a lot of money on groceries and gas. I think help with that would be great.

Pay bills, cost of gas, food, clothes.

it's really hard getting assistance for the 4 year old, very hard child. Assistance to get 4 year old evaluated is very hard.

financially, anything would help
to be able to buy them what they may need at the time
Please share any other issues or needs related to raising a grandchild(ren) that you would like us to know about.

They need clothes, diapers, financial assistance, and things mentioned on the page before. My doors and windows so no cold comes in the winter. Thank you

My hope is to be as envaulved in their lives and education as I possibly can all while they miss the parents which have very little to no involvement in their lives

First, it's amazing although challenging. I wish that I could be Ezra's grandmother instead of his mom for ONE day. As his mother, he's being raised just like I raised my five children.

I am currently having him in counseling - death of both parents, Dx: ADHD and Autism

One child has issues in breaking everyting and throwing food everywhere. She will be 6 next month and she can sit still and will not listen to any direction. I will be visiting with her Dr. next month to receive

We were not financially prepared to raise children once again. Financially, we are managing but could use some help. Concerns for our and their future.

Financial needs: Due to future needs for the children. We are prepared for ourselves but did not expect to be providing for children in the future.

Raising grandchildren can take a toll on grandparents - higher than normal depression, sleeplessness, emotional problems. Chronic health problems, mental stress, education concerns, etc..

Having some kind of resource for the children so they can share their feelings about the loss of their parent and having to live with grandparents/guardians.

Grandchildren will only qualify for auxiliary benefits if their situation meets these criteria: 1) Grandchild's parents are disabled; 2) Grandchild's parents are deceased; 3) You've adopted your grandchildren.

Attorney fees are costly

Hardship - financial. I am disabled

Just helping them with home work, teaching them spanish, taking them to school

Need a bigger house

My workplace is giving me a hard time to take off to take care of my daughters and take them to the doctor even though I have personal leave.

what schools in area are best in addressing my granddaughters disabilities. Developmental delays, intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, ADHD

Daniella will be five. Grace 3 years. September 28. Both girls love to sing and dance. I would love to have some place to take them for singing and dancing and learn what other activities are in the community.

Assistance with home repairs/car repairs. Additional food locations. Child care and after school care.
My grandson will be needing brain surgery here soon, would really need help such as childcare helping assist with his medical needs, school work and helping myself with any needs I might need.

Times are very hard and it's hard raising grandkids.

Pay bills, food, clothing, utilities

Would like help with Angelina, respite time for myself.

The CYFD will help another person that's not a grandparent with money, and grandparents are left to raise them alone.

Financial needs: Due to future needs for the children. We are prepared for ourselves but did not expect to be providing for children in the future.

Some education to parents on drug use and how it affects the parents brain or psychology to understand better their non interest in their children.

Very hard, having to deal with parents.

I'm worried what happens to kids when I'm gone.

Essential needs of both grandchildren & grandparents. Kids growing up without their parents does a lot of emotional damage to them, I believe we need more emotional support as well as financial. Thank you!

Legal aid assistance

Need technology tools for kids to be able to participate in Zoom and other e-net classes.

Respite

Financially stressed

Patience and understanding!

Not at this time. We are very fortunate to have this service to help us. I didn't know about the services until my granddaughter was 13 y/o.

I have taken on the responsibility of 2 grandchildren, getting them ready for the bus, waiting for them, feeding them, and keeping them safe. The winter is here, they need to wait in the cold for the bus so warm clothes would help and maybe making house weatherized would be big help to put put plastic, get ready for winter and warm clothes for the kids. We live far from Espanola but knowing I can ask Lupe for help has been wonderful. It would be good to have a program to help us with windows.

When disaster strikes, please have a plan B, C, and D trying to reach out and we cannot get support due to COVID. It was ridiculous and a sham. Our grandmothers have lost many family members but we still care for our children. When the opioid crisis struck, community and individuals in power turned the other cheek, we were left behind when covid struck again we were left to fend for ourselves. We need financial support, we do not need someone or outsider to come and want to educate us. We just do not have the finances.
It's hard to start over. Buying pampers, clothes, shoes, bottles, everything baby needs. No job because of COVID, makes things harder.

Please share any other issues or needs related to raising a grandchild(ren) that you would like us to know about.

grateful to have programs for grandparents as lots of help is needed.

Grandparents need to learn on children's rights and what schools need to provide about testing, IEP's, etc.

I am a single 65 grandmother, raising 11 year old granddaughter. Grandparents need to be educated on how to help and teach children with learning disabilities (ADHD, PTSD and Dyslexia).

The drug issue has got me so frustrated. My grandchildren deserve parents, but they have no choice in the situation. This isn't easy, but I am glad I can be there for them.
Needs from the 78 surveys gathered in 2021

- Respite
- Therapy/Counseling (For Both)
- Education Trainings
- Stipends
- Mentorship for children
- Access to Legal Aid Services
Questions/Ideas

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