

**G**RANDPARENTS/RELATIVES  
**R**AISING  
**A**ND  
**N**URTURING  
**D**EPENDENT CHILDREN



**Waukesha County Resource Guide**



## **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin**

Dear Grandparents, Relatives, and Professionals,

The Wisconsin Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership, in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Children and Family Services, is concerned about our state's children. During the last decade, Wisconsin has experienced an increase in the number of children being raised by grandparents and other relatives, who give of themselves, their time, and their resources as they parent and care for children.

The GRAND (Grandparents/Relatives Raising and Nurturing Dependent Children Resource Guide) has been developed to help grandparents and relatives as they assume new roles and responsibilities. It is designed to provide vital information concerning issues such as childcare, legal concerns, finances, and parenting again. It provides information on local, state, and national resources and services available to these caregivers and the children they are raising.

GRAND was partially funded by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Children and Family Services. Numerous state and local agencies/organizations contributed to the information in GRAND or reviewed its content for accuracy. Grandparents and relatives caregivers have also reviewed the information for its useful application in the day-to-day rewards and challenges of parenting again.

We are confident that you, whether a grandparent or other relative who is parenting again or a professional who is working with these grandparents and the children they are caring for, will find GRAND a helpful resource.

Sincerely,

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin

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# Table of Contents



Introduction.....

Emergency Contact Numbers .....

Question and Answer Sections and Resource Lists.....

    Chapter 1: Child Care ..... Section A

    Chapter 2: Counseling ..... Section B

    Chapter 3: Education ..... Section C

    Chapter 4: Financial..... Section D

    Chapter 5: Health..... Section E

    Chapter 6: Housing..... Section F

    Chapter 7: Legal..... Section G

    Chapter 8: Parenting Again..... Section H

Glossary.....

List of Contributors.....



# Introduction



## Introduction

The practice of grandparents and relatives caring for children is not new. Throughout history, when adult parents died, grandparents and relatives stepped forward to raise the children. However, a new picture of this familiar arrangement is emerging.

In the years from 1980–1990, the number and percentage of children living with grandparents or relatives has grown from 2.3 million (3.6%) of all children to 3.2 million children (4.9%). In 1998, about one third of the children living with their grandparents did not have a parent living in the home with them (Lugaila, 1998). According to the U.S. Census Bureau, between 1990 and 1997 the number of families with children under the age of 18 (and no parents present) headed by two grandparents grew by 31%.

These numbers are expected to continue growing in the next decade. Grandparents or relatives who take on the job of raising their grandchildren or kin often need help meeting the needs of their grandchildren, especially with the legal, financial, medical, educational, and emotional issues that come with this new role.

While there are many different kinds of needs and care giving situations, these grandparents or other relatives who are raising their grandchildren seem to need information about what resources are available to them.

To meet this need for information, the **Wisconsin Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership** (Bureau of Aging and Long Term Care Resources; Grandparents United for Children's Rights, Inc.; and University of Wisconsin Extension), with a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Children and Family Services, developed the *Grandparents/Relatives Raising And Nurturing Dependent Children (GRAND) Resource Guide* for families who are parenting again. The Wisconsin Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership coordinated the efforts of the agencies and services that provided the information for this Resource Guide.

## Purpose of GRAND Resource Guide

If you are a grandparent or relative who has become the primary caregiver for one or more children, help is available. To get that help, you need to learn how to work with public systems such as the school system, the child welfare system, and the legal system. Be aware that most of these public systems are not set up to recognize relatives or grandparents parenting again. Which organizations you will be involved with vary greatly from community to community. When looking for help, insist that people in charge of the organization listen to you about your needs and the needs of your grandchildren. Get help from family members, friends, and grandparent support groups.

This new publication, *Grandparents/Relatives Raising And Nurturing Dependent Children*, gives caring adult relatives the information they need about the resources and services that are available for the children they are raising. **GRAND** also gives important information about issues such as child care, school registration requirements, and immunizations. **GRAND** answers frequently asked questions and lists local and state resources available to grandparents/relatives who are raising children in either formal or informal situations. While these grandparents/relatives are the intended audience, this resource guide also is available to professionals who give help to grandparents and relatives as they parent again.

## **Organization of GRAND Resource Guide**

This resource book is intended to give you a quick overview of services, programs and places to start looking for resources and how to access them. The guide also provides tips and general information that you, as grandparents, may want to think about as you courageously take on the responsibility of raising your grandchildren. It can also help you plan for the future. The **GRAND** Resource Guide may remind you of information that you may have forgotten or that may have changed since you brought up your children, such as registering a child for school or keeping immunizations up-to-date.

The **GRAND** Resource Guide is organized into chapters on issues and problems common to grandparents and relatives raising their grandchildren or kin. Each chapter contains questions you may have about services or programs available for the child or children you are raising. Each chapter is followed by a list of local resources. The guide begins with a list of numbers to help you in an emergency. The first chapter gives you information on child care. The second chapter deals with counseling and how to find help for emotional problems, drug or alcohol abuse, and where to find a support group. The third chapter examines educational resources for the child you are caring for; the fourth chapter answers questions and lists resources related to financial assistance. The fifth chapter looks at health resources, and is followed by the sixth chapter that gives information on housing. Legal questions and resources are in the seventh chapter, and the resource guide concludes with a chapter on parenting questions and resources.

Impact, Inc. of Milwaukee County, a resource and information referral agency, has identified key support services for each chapter. Wherever possible, statewide organizations or local government agencies/departments where grandparents/relatives could receive referral to specific local support (e.g., “Contact your local housing authority at \_\_\_\_\_”) have been identified.

The contents page of **GRAND** lists the order for finding the individual chapters, emergency phone numbers, and glossary of terms. Each section has a quick reference at the beginning to let you know which question addresses a particular concern. The index in the back of the book will help you find information on the same topic in the different sections, or help you locate a particular agency or service.

To make the guide easier to read, the term *grandparents* has been used to include all relative caregivers, such as aunts, uncles, sisters, step-relatives, and so forth. In the same way, *grandchild* is used to mean any child that you may be taking care of, such as niece or nephew, brother or sister, or a stepchild or step-grandchild.

Note: The guide does not list every agency and service available to grandparents raising grandchildren. It has tried to provide statewide resources and services that can give you information about or referrals that you may need. If you know of statewide services that would benefit grandparents raising grandchildren, please enter the information on the GRG Web site at: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/grand.html>

## With Grateful Appreciation

- The Wisconsin Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership (Bureau of Aging and Long Term Care Resources; Grandparents United for Children's Rights, Inc.; and University of Wisconsin Extension) has developed *the Grandparents/Relatives Raising And Nurturing Dependent Children (GRAND) Resource Guide* for grandparents and relatives raising children.

The Wisconsin GRG Partnership could not have developed the **GRAND** Resource Guide without assistance from numerous individuals and organizations. Appreciation is extended to the following individuals and organizations:

- **Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Children and Family Services.** Without their financial contribution, the publication of **GRAND** would not have been possible.
- **Susan Dreyfus, Administrator, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Children and Family Services,** who recognized the need for a resource guide for relatives and grandparents who are parenting again.
- **Milwaukee Advisory Committee**  
The committee was invaluable in helping identify the content and resources of the GRAND Resource Guide. Members of the Committee are:  
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A special thank you to **Kathy Thomas, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Children and Family Services**, for her ongoing support to the **GRAND** Resource Guide production team. She also helped link the production team to other state organizations and agencies.

- **Delaware GRAND Resource Guide Task Force**

The Delaware GRAND Resource Guide was used as a model for Wisconsin's GRAND Resource Guide. The Delaware Health and Social Services, Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities, gave Wisconsin GRG Partnership permission to adapt and revise the Delaware Guide. Carol Boyer, Program Coordinator, was an invaluable resource, providing guidance and direction based on her experience in developing the Delaware Resource Guide.

- **Authors**

Professionals with expertise evaluated the Delaware GRAND Resource Guide to determine if its information was accurate for Wisconsin. As key authors of the different chapters, they wrote revisions and, where necessary, added questions and answers. These individuals are recognized at the end of each chapter.

- **Reviewers**

Each chapter was reviewed by at least two individuals with expertise in the chapter's content. These individuals are recognized at the end of each chapter.

- **Milwaukee County Research and Focus Groups**

Analysis of research findings from three different surveys (one with service providers, one with individuals in Milwaukee County's Kinship Care program, and the third with Milwaukee County grandparents), conducted last year by Milwaukee County Extension faculty member Cathy Nelson and UW-Milwaukee staff members Paul Hausman and Teresa Bellone, provided valuable information to the development of the resource guide. Two focus groups were held to gather additional information on Hispanic and African American families. Thanks go to Janie Gonzalez (grandparent), Virginia Walker (grandparent), and Kalyani Rai (UW-Milwaukee) for conducting the focus groups.

A research report is available at the following Internet address:  
*<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/milresearch.pdf>*

- **GRAND Resource Guide Production Team**

Without the efforts of the production team, **GRAND** could not have been developed. Feel free to contact any one of them for information regarding the guide.

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Individual listings appearing in this publication cannot be construed as an endorsement or accreditation of any program, nor does omission indicate disapproval by the publisher. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin accepts no responsibility for the quality of service provided by an agency or service in this publication. Your comments should be sent to:

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608.262-5871  
*<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grgp/>*



# Emergency Contact Numbers



## Emergency Contact Numbers:

### **Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Crisis**

IMPACT Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services  
(414) 276-8487 or

- “I think my grandchild has a drug problem and I don’t know what to do!”
- “How do I know if my grandchild is using drugs?”

Addiction Resource Council  
(262) 524-7921  
Emergency Line (262) 524-7920

### **Child Abuse/Neglect**

Child/Adolescent/Juvenile Court and Family Services  
(262) 548-7212

- “I think my grandchild was abused. What should I do now?”
- “My grandchild tells me she is left home by herself at night. Is this neglect?”

After Hours Emergency (Sheriff’s Department)  
(262) 548-7117

### **Domestic Violence**

Women’s Center 24 Hour Crisis Line  
(262) 548-3829  
Or (888) 542-3828

- “My \_\_\_\_\_ has just hit me and I am afraid to stay here.”

Call 911 if you are in immediate danger!!

### **Mental Health Crisis**

Mental Health Association in Waukesha County, Inc.  
S22 W22660 Broadway Ste. 5S  
Waukesha, WI 53186

- “My grandchild is always sad. Does he need some help?”
- “I just can’t stop crying.”
- “I just can’t get out of bed today.”

For information call (262) 547-0769  
24 hour 211 line for any crisis  
(262) 547-3388 Voice/TDD  
After Hours Crisis Intervention (262) 548-7731  
4:30 pm – 11:00 pm M-F 10-11 weekends

### **Missing Child**

- “My grandchild hasn’t come home from school!”
- Call your local Police Department

### **Runaways**

“What do I do if I think my grandchild has run away?”

Pathfinders for Runaways - runaways – shelter  
(414) 271-1560  
National Runaway Switchboard  
(800) 621-4100  
Runaway and Teen Crisis Program  
(414) 647-8200

### **Medical Crisis**

- “I can’t move.”
- “I think I am having a heart attack!”
- “My grandchild won’t stop bleeding!”

Call 911 if you or your grandchild needs *Immediate* medical attention!!

### **Parenting Crisis**

- “My grandchild is out of control!”
- “I can’t handle my grandchild’s behavior anymore!”

Parents Anonymous  
(262) 549-5575  
Waukesha Memorial Hospital Behavior Medicine Center  
Assessment & Referral Emergency (262) 928-4036  
Women’s Center Counselor (262) 547-4600  
Women’s Center Crisis Line (262) 548-3829

### **Poisoning**

- “My grandchild ate something that isn’t food!”
- “My grandchild got into the medicine cabinet and took some pills!”

Poison Center – Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin  
(414) 266-2222  
(414) 266-2542 TDD

### **Sexual Assault**

- “I suspect my grandchild was raped.”
- “My grandchild says she was touched.”

Sexual Assault Treatment Center  
(414) 219-5555  
Counseling Program-Women’s Center  
(262) 547-4600

Call 911 if you or your grandchild is in immediate danger or need immediate medical attention!!

**For other situations or if you are unsure**

**Dial 211**





# **CHILD CARE**

**G**RANDPARENTS/RELATIVES

**R**AISING

**A**ND

**N**URTURING

**D**EPENDENT CHILDREN

**Waukesha County Resource Guide**



# Child Care



**For Information on:**

**See Question Number:**

Child Care: What to Look for .....	Introduction
Child Care Programs.....	1
Before- and After-School.....	3
Second Shift Care .....	3
Weekend Care.....	3
Drop-In Care .....	3
Children With Disabilities .....	2
Child Care Subsidies.....	4
Head Start.....	4
Employer-Supported.....	4
Child & Dependent Care Credit.....	4
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) .....	4
Care for Sick Children .....	5
In-Home Care.....	5
Respite Care .....	6
Resource List .....	Following the Q&A



# Child Care



The resource section at the end of this chapter gives you the locations, phone numbers, and/or Web sites of agencies where you can find help. For access to computers and assistance in reaching the information available on Web sites, contact your local public libraries, senior centers, community centers, or family resource centers.



Many grandparents today are still in the workforce. When a grandchild comes to live with them, one of their first concerns is: “Who will take care of the child?” Fortunately, a number of child care options are available, but finding the right care for your grandchild is not always easy. Here are some general steps to follow in selecting “grandchild care.”

- Allow plenty of time to make phone calls, to check for openings at programs, and to make appointments with potential providers (one week minimum).
- Try to interview at least three different providers so you can make the best decision about your grandchild’s care. Spend time in each center or home. If the provider does not offer you a checklist to help you see if the necessary steps for safety and quality have been taken, ask for a checklist from the Wisconsin Child Care Information Center at 1-800-362-7353 or your local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency. Information about the CCR&R is listed after these steps and at the end of this chapter.
- Look for programs where the groups of children are kept small. Ask the provider how many children would be in the same group as your grandchild. Ask if the center or home follows licensing guidelines (e.g., no more than four infants per teacher in a child care center), and if it is licensed or certified.
- Choose providers who have had child care training, who seem to know what they are doing, and who show warmth and caring toward children. Ask for specific information, such as how much training in child care the provider has taken.
- Look for providers who seem to understand your needs as a grandparent. You might want to ask if the center or home will accept your grandchild on a part-time basis or if extra hours can be arranged when you need time for yourself, such as for a doctor’s appointment or time to relax.
- Look for programs that focus on play as the main activity and ones where children have many choices. Toys should encourage make-believe play and creativity and be suitable for the age of the children. The size of tables and chairs should be appropriate to the child’s age. The provider should guide children’s behavior in a positive way.

- Ask to see the parent policies of the program so that you understand the policies on fees, refunds, child guidance, health issues, and other parts of the program. Look for child care homes or centers that are safe and healthy and serve nutritious food.
- Keep in mind that you are the one who is in the best position to judge what is best for your grand-child, and you are the best person to decide where your grandchild will feel most comfortable and safe. Wisconsin grandparents are fortunate to have the Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network. This is a statewide organization made up of 17 community-based CCR&R agencies committed to building a high-quality child care system for everyone. Local CCR&Rs offer child care referrals and a number of other services to parents of all income levels. As your first step in the search for quality child care, check the Network's Web site: [www.wisconsinccrr.org](http://www.wisconsinccrr.org) or call the Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network at 1-888-713-KIDS (5437), and you will be connected automatically to the CCR&R serving your area.

The Wisconsin Child Care Information Center (CCIC) also offers help for child care providers and information for families. The CCIC provides brochures, fact sheets, videos and book-lending services, and it offers free referrals to help grandparents learn about agencies concerned with child care in their area of the state. Check the CCIC Web site [www.dpi.state.wi.us/ccic](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/ccic) or call the Wisconsin Child Care Information Center at 1-800-362-7353.

In Wisconsin, the state Department of Health and Family Services regulates licensed child care programs. Anyone interested in finding out about licensing regulations for specific child care programs should contact the nearest Division of Children and Family Services Field Office.

Southeastern Office  
Waukesha (414) 521-5100

Northern Office  
Rhineland (715) 365-2500

Southern Office  
Madison (608) 243-2400

Western Office  
Eau Claire (715) 836-2157

Northeastern Office  
Green Bay (920) 448-5312

## 1. What different types of child care programs are available?

**Child care centers.** Programs offering child care, education, supervision, and guidance for nine or more children in group settings must be licensed (either full-day or part-day). When looking for good child care, ask your local CCR&R agency for names of centers that meet your specific needs. Especially ask about those that are nationally accredited (those that meet more than the basic requirements).

**Family child care homes.** These programs provide care, education, supervision, and guidance in private homes. They are required by law to obtain a license if a provider cares for four or more children (a maximum of eight, including his or her own children) under the age of seven. If providers are caring *only* for their own children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, they do not need to be licensed. Another type of family child care is a *certified* or *provisionally certified* family child care home. These providers offer care for fewer than four children (a maximum of three to six children, including their own). They do not have to meet the same training requirements or other requirements of licensed care. They are regulated by counties or private agencies using state standards.

**In-home care.** This type of care involves hiring someone to come into your home to care for your children. It is very convenient, but it is one of the most expensive forms of child care. Since you are the employer, you must pay minimum wage and contribute to the employee's taxes. There are no state licensing regulations that apply to in-home care. Such caregivers for children are sometimes called "nannies." You can locate "Nannies" in the Yellow Pages of your phone book. Some families also contact local colleges or universities to hire student help to do in-home care. Contact the Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network (1-888-713-KIDS [5437]) and/or talk to your local CCR&R to discuss the possibility of finding in-home caregivers in your area.

**Preschool care.** Group child care centers include preschools or nursery schools that offer educational, social, and developmental activities for children from three to five years of age. These programs usually run for 2 ½ to 4 hours a day, two to five days a week. However, most families need more hours of child care to fit their work schedules than preschools may offer. Many full-day child care centers also offer preschool-type programs. For more information about part-day programs, call The Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network (1-888-713-KIDS [5437]) and/or talk to your local CCR&R.

**School-age child care.** Most families know that "going to school" doesn't mean the end of a need for child care. If no adult is available, children from ages five to nine often need care and supervision before or after school—and certainly on school holidays. In fact, some children up to the age of twelve need such care, depending on their developmental needs and the neighborhoods they live in. Community organizations often offer school-age child care, as part of full-day group center services or special school-age care agencies. School-age programs will be listed with your local CCR&R.

## **2. What if my grandchild has a disability that requires special care? How do child care providers deal with children with disabilities?**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 states that child care providers must serve children with disabilities unless it would place an undue burden on their program or seriously change the nature of the program. Children with HIV are considered to have a disability and not an infectious disease. Many child care providers readily accept children with special needs and find that some of the medical conditions are not that difficult to include in their regular programs. Explaining your grandchild's special needs to the



provider and offering to work with the child care program may make it easier for the provider to care for your grandchild. If your grandchild has a serious medical or emotional problem, it might be best to contact some of the agencies below for further help in locating child care. To explore disability-related resources, visit the Family Village Web site at [www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/index.html](http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/index.html) or call one of the following:

Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network: 1-888-713-5437 (KIDS)

Wisconsin First Step (for children age six and under with special needs): 1-800-642-STEP

Easter Seals: 1-888-276-4747. Visit their Web site at [www.wi-easterseals.org](http://www.wi-easterseals.org)

**3. What if I work or need care for my grandchild at times other than “9 to 5”? What sorts of programs are available before and after school, after 5 p.m., or on weekends?**

**Before- and after-school care.** Some of the agencies that sponsor school-age programs (such as churches, YMCAs, school districts, and youth clubs) may or may not be open during school holidays, snow days, or the summer months. This type of child care is also available in many child care centers and family child care homes. Contact the Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network at 1- 888-713-KIDS (5437) and/or talk to your local CCR&R.

**Second shift care.** This type of care can be hard to find. However, some child care centers and family child care homes do offer evening and overnight care. For more information, call the Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network at 1-888-713-KIDS (5437).

**Weekend care.** This type of care may be available in some family child care homes and child care centers. To find names of providers in your area who may be able to care for your grandchild on weekends, call the Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

**Drop-in care.** Sometimes grandparents need to go to the doctor or somewhere they cannot take their grandchild. If family or friends cannot watch the child, some child care centers and family child care providers may offer care for a short time or once in a while if they have the room. There are some programs set up for just this kind of care, often called “drop-in” care or “mother’s day out.” Contact the Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network or your local CCR&R.

#### 4. What if I cannot afford child care, preschool, or school-age services for my grandchild?

**Child care subsidy.** Low-income families may qualify for Wisconsin Shares, a program that helps pay for child care for families whose income level and family size qualifies them for services. You may qualify for Wisconsin Shares even if you do not participate in Wisconsin Works (W-2). Call the Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network (1-888-713-KIDS [5437]), your local Wisconsin Job Center, W-2 agency, or tribal agency for more information or to find out if you qualify for a child care subsidy. In addition, some counties may offer child care subsidies through the Kinship Care program.

**Head Start.** This is a federally supported program for children ages three to five years who are from low-income families. Some Head Start programs offer infant and toddler care, as well. Some sites offer full-day care for those families who work, and other sites offer care for only part of the day. For more information, contact the Wisconsin Head Start Association (1-608-265-9422) or your local CCR&R agency (1-888-713-KIDS [5437]) and ask for a list of Head Start sites in your area. The resource list at the end of this chapter may contain the contact number in your area for Head Start. When you contact Head Start, ask about the eligibility cut off for family income. For more information about the Head Start program, see the Education Chapter in this resource guide.

**Employer-supported child care.** Some companies offer dependent care (including child care) as part of their Flexible Benefit Plan. This means that a portion of your salary can be set aside as pre-tax dollars by your employer and reimbursed to you as your dependent care expenses occur. Ask the human resources department at your workplace if a tax-free child care benefit is available to you as a salary reduction plan. However, this benefit is a “use it or lose it” benefit, meaning you can’t take home any of that money if you don’t use it to pay for child care. In addition, some employers offer on- or near-site child care centers for employees, sometimes at a lower cost to their employees than to the community.

**Child and Dependent Care Credit.** This type of Internal Revenue Services (IRS) credit may be a possibility if you have child care expenses for one or more children under age 13 who live with you. Families of all income levels are eligible. The higher your child care expenses and the lower the amount of your income, the larger your credit. In 1999, the amount of credit couldn’t be more than \$2,400 per child in any one year; however, this amount can be expected to change from year to year. You will need to complete a Form 2441 when you file your taxes. For more information, call the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-829-1040 and ask for publication #503. You also may want to contact a certified public accountant for details.

**Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).** The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can be claimed by a qualifying taxpayer who earns less than a set amount in any given year. In 1999, the amount was \$25,928. Grandparents may claim this credit when grandchildren live with them. It may be taken in advance by filing a W-5 form. For more information,

call the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-829-1040 and ask for publication #596. You also could contact a certified public accountant.

**5. What if my grandchild becomes ill? Is child care available for sick children in a center or in my home?**

**Care for sick children.** Children who are mildly ill or are recovering from a long illness or accident may receive care in a special program set up to meet their needs. These programs are licensed by the State of Wisconsin, and may only accept children who are mildly ill. Children with highly contagious conditions, such as chicken pox or diarrhea, are not permitted in a licensed group setting. In addition, some group centers or family child care homes in the community have staff that are trained to care for mildly ill children. However, children who are ill generally are not allowed to attend licensed programs.

**In-home care for sick children.** Some agencies may send health care staff into your home to care for a mildly ill child if you cannot take the time off from work to be there. Be sure to check how much this service costs before hiring someone to come in, since this is one of the most expensive forms of child care. Again, your local Child Care Resource and Referral agency may help answer questions about care for sick children.

**6. Is there any place my grandchildren can stay temporarily if I have a personal crisis or if I need a break in caring for my grandchild?**

For grandparents who have a grandchild with a special need, it may be necessary to find child care for a period of several days or over a weekend. This type of care is sometimes known as “respite care.” Some respite programs are available to parents and grandparents when a family is facing a difficult short-term problem or when “time out” from parental responsibilities can be of help. Some of the reasons for requesting these services are medical emergencies such as hospitalization, financial difficulties, or housing problems such as eviction. It is important for you to know when you need to have a break in order to do your best in caring for your grandchild. For information about a respite center in your community, contact the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin at 1-888-260-8207 or check their Web site: [www.respitecarewi.org](http://www.respitecarewi.org) Also check with your local county or tribal aging unit because there may be resources through the new National Family Caregiver Support Program to provide short-term respite.



The information in this chapter has been adapted for use in Wisconsin from the state of Delaware's *Grandparents/Relatives Raising and Nurturing Dependent Children Resource Guide* by Mary Roach, Child Development Specialist, UW-Extension Family Living Programs, with additional contributions from Beth Swedeen, Parent Facilitator for the Early Intervention Project at the Waisman Center; Gay Eastman, Early Childhood Education and Child Development Specialist, UW-Extension Family Living Programs; and Mary Brintmall-Peterson, Program Specialist in Aging,

UW-Extension Family Living Programs.

The chapter was reviewed by Diane Adams, Senior Lecturer/Project Manager, Child Care Research Partnership, and Lorraine Hartmann, Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS)-BMCW.

This chapter is one of eight chapters included in the *Grandparents/Relatives Raising And Nurturing Dependent Children (GRAND) Resource Guide*. Other topics addressed in the resource guide include Counseling, Education, Financial Assistance, Health, Housing, Legal, and Parenting Again, issues. They can be found on the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Web site at: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/grand.pdf>.

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# Child Care Resources



**Child Care Subsidy  
Application sites**      Workforce Development Center  
892 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI  
(262) 695-7971  
(262) 695-7945 Appointments  
Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Provides information on subsidies for low-income working families. These subsidies are also known as the “Wisconsin Shares” program. Locate “Wisconsin Shares” on the Internet at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/des/wshares.htm>

**Kinship Care  
Application Sites**      Waukesha County Department of Health and  
Human Services  
500 Riverview Avenue, Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 548-7212

The Kinship Care program was created to provide a monthly payment to an adult caretaker of a child who is a relative of that caretaker. (More information about Kinship Care is listed in the Financial Section of this guide.)

**Child Care Licensing  
and Regulation**      Department of Health and Family Services  
Child Care Regulation  
141 NW Barstow, Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 521-5100 – Southeastern Office

## *Complaints about LICENSED providers*

The Department of Health and Family Services regulates LICENSED childcare programs. Anyone interested in finding out about licensing regulations in specific childcare programs, should contact the field office. This office also handles complaints against licensed childcare providers. Licensed childcare providers are those that care for eight or more children either in-home or in a facility. Certified childcare providers are those that care for six or less children. Complaints about CERTIFIED childcare providers are handled by the Waukesha County Department of Human Services (see their listing). [www.dhfs.state.wi.org](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.org)

**Information & Referral**      Easter Seals Wisconsin  
(888) 276-4747  
Easter Seals Milwaukee (Milwaukee County)  
(414) 449-4444

Easter Seals staff can provide information and referral assistance to people with disabilities. A call to Easter Seals can help identify how a needed service can be obtained either through Easter Seals or another resource.

**Referrals for Waukesha County**      Four C – Community Coordinated Childcare  
116 E. Pleasant St (Lower Level)  
Milwaukee, WI 53212-3938  
(414) 562-2650

- *Sick Child Care*
- *Camps*

Information and referral to parents seeking child care. Four C lists licensed and certified childcare programs (family child care homes, group child care and preschool programs, in-home care, school age care, summer camps and sick child care). Information is sent to parents based on their specific needs. Day care training is also provided for persons wishing to start their own day care or providers needing to be accredited.

**Head Start Providers**      Child and Family Center of Excellence  
Head Start  
N4 W22000 Bluemound Rd.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 548-8080

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program that provides services both for children and their families. This federally funded program includes Early Head Start (for pregnant women, infants and toddlers to age three) and Head Start for the three to five year old children and their families. This program is for children from low income families or families with special needs. There is no cost for families enrolled in Head Start.

**Tax Credit for Child Care Expenses**      Internal Revenue Service  
(800) 829-1040  
[http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/tax\\_edu/teletax/tc602.html](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/tax_edu/teletax/tc602.html)

Families may apply for the Child and Dependent Care Credit for childcare expenses for children under the age of 13 (thirteen) who live with you.

**Child Care for families in crisis**      Parents Place – Family Support Project  
1570 E. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 549-5575

A unique child abuse & neglect prevention program that provides an alternative to parents in family crisis or in need of respite. The Center offers care for children ages newborn to 12 (twelve) It offers childcare on a temporary basis when a parent is stressed due to an emergency or needs time away from their children. Licensed daycare or certified in-home providers provide care when needed. Overnight care from licensed foster homes is also available.

**Child Care Certification and Regulation**      Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services – Child Care  
500 Riverview Avenue, Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 548-7212

- *Complaints about CERTIFIED providers*

This office regulates, monitors and handles complaints on CERTIFIED childcare providers in Waukesha County. Certified childcare providers are those that care for six (6) or fewer children. LICENSED childcare providers are those that care for eight (8) or more children. Regulation and licensing for licensed providers are handled by the Department of Health and Family Services –Child Care Regulation (see their listing).

**Respite Care**                              National Respite Locator Services  
(800) 773-5433  
<http://www.chtop.com/locator.htm>

Respite, a break for caregivers and families, is a service in which temporary care is provided to children with disabilities, or chronic or terminal illnesses, and to children at risk of abuse and neglect. Respite can occur in out-of-home and in-home settings for any length of time depending on the needs of the family and available resources. The National Respite Locator Service helps parents, caregivers, and professionals find respite services in their state and local area. The service is also useful when a family travels or must move to another state.

**Child Care Provider**                      Wisconsin Child Care Information Center  
(800) 362-7353  
(608) 224-5388

- *Provider resources*

The Wisconsin Child Care Information Center is a mail-order lending library and information center serving anyone in Wisconsin working in the field of childcare and early childhood education. CCIC provides free information services, library services, and adult learning services to help Wisconsin child care professionals give the best possible start to Wisconsin's children. CCIC is sponsored by the Office of Child Care, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, and is administered by the Department of Public Instruction's Reference and Loan Library. We welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions.

## Child Care Resources

### Child Care (CCR&R) Referrals for State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network  
(CCR&R)  
888-713-KIDS (5437)  
[www.wiconsinccrr.org](http://www.wiconsinccrr.org)

A statewide organization of seventeen (17) community-based childcare resource and referral agencies committed to building a high-quality child care system for everyone. The Network offers childcare referrals to parents of all income levels as well as a number of other services.

### Child Care

Wisconsin First Step  
(800) 642-STEP

- *Children with special health care needs*  
Information and referral provided for parents needing services for children with special health care needs, including child care, respite care, and home health care.







# **COUNSELING**

**G**RANDPARENTS/RELATIVES

**R**AISING

**A**ND

**N**URTURING

**D**EPENDENT CHILDREN

**Waukesha County Resource Guide**



# Counseling



**For Information on:**

**See Question Number:**

Counseling for Children.....	1
Signs Younger Children Need Counseling.....	2
Signs Older Children/Teens Need Counseling.....	3
Depression.....	4
Counseling: Kinds of Services.....	5
Counselors: Different Types.....	6
School Counselors .....	9
Questions to Ask Counselors.....	7
Support Groups .....	8
Resource List .....	Following the Q&A



# Counseling



The resource section at the end of this chapter gives you the locations, phone numbers, and/or Web sites of agencies where you can find help. For access to computers and assistance in reaching the information available on Web sites, contact your local public libraries, senior centers, community centers, or family resource centers.



Children who come to live with their grandparents may be afraid or upset because their lives have suddenly changed. They may feel they are unwanted or that they are the reason for this change in their family's life. They may have seen drug and alcohol abuse, HIV/AIDS, or the imprisonment or death of a parent. As a caregiver, you may also be dealing with your feelings about your adult child, the parent of this child who is now your responsibility.

Sometimes these situations require immediate attention for the safety and well-being of everyone in the family. The **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS** section in the beginning of this book will give you a quick list of phone numbers to call. The information in this section will give you an idea of some places you can call for counseling help or support groups for you and your grandchild.

## 1. My grandchild is very young. Do young children need counseling?

Although children may not be able to explain a mental health term, they can and do experience problems. Check over the list of signs in the next question that may indicate a problem.

## 2. What are some of the signs that my younger child may need counseling?

- Sudden changes in mood or behavior
- Depression – feeling unhappy for a long time
- Anxiety – strong feeling of fear or nervousness
- Getting upset over small things
- Physical aches and pains that have no real physical cause
- Dropping grades
- Not being able to sleep
- Fighting against being hugged or cuddled
- Unusual behaviors (e.g., head banging, constant rocking, or hurting themselves physically in other ways)
- Babies crying constantly or having a weak cry

### **3. What are some signs that I should be concerned about my older grandchild's or teenager's behavior?**

Older children may not speak out and tell you what's bothering them. Instead, they may *act* out in ways that may give clues that they need help. Some of the items in the list in Question 2 may also be true for older children and teenagers. Other signs may be:

- Not being able to give affection or not willing to be hugged or touched with affection
- Are difficult to control or can't control their own behaviors (constant talking, lying, stealing, extreme anger)
- May harm themselves or others (e.g., may cut or burn themselves; fighting with or hitting others)
- Don't get along well with others (e.g., bullying other children, being a loner, not trusting others)
- Cruelty to animals
- Eating problems
- Talking about or attempting suicide
- Drug and/or alcohol abuse
- Running away
- Inappropriate sexual behaviors
- Lethargy (no interest in things they previously enjoyed doing)
- Poor concentration
- Low self-esteem
- Sleeping too much

### **4. I've heard a lot about children and teenagers being depressed. What is depression and how can I know if my child is depressed?**

Many of the signs listed in Questions 2 and 3 may point to depression. Depression is being "down" or showing signs of being unhappy for more than a couple of weeks. Children or teenagers may talk about feelings of sadness or about life not being worth living. They may start cutting classes, cry or act moody for long periods of time, or want to spend most of their time alone. If you feel that your child has been acting depressed, ask someone for help.

### **5. How can I find the right counseling service for my grandchild or my particular situation?**

You can begin by checking the counseling/mental health resources at the end of this section. If you know of anyone who has had to get help for a child, ask them about the counselor they used. Did they feel that they were treated with respect? Would they recommend that counselor to other people? You also could ask your family doctor for the name of a counselor, the child's school social worker or guidance counselor. Another good place to check is the Counseling section in the Yellow Pages of your phone book. An agency that offers assessment and consultation will be able to examine the child, tell you what they think the problem is, and suggest where you can take the child to get

treatment. They will also recommend individual, family, or group therapy, whichever is best for you and your situation. When selecting a counselor, be sure to check with your insurance provider or HMO to be sure the child's counseling is covered.

## **6. What are the different types of counselors?**

Counselors can be psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors of mental health, certified mental health counselors, psychiatric nurses, marriage and family therapists, or pastoral counselors. You can find the definitions for these different professionals in the Glossary at the back of this book.

## **7. What are some questions I can ask counselors to help me decide if they can help my troubled grandchild and me?**

Finding the right mental health professional may take several tries. Do not be shy about asking questions and making sure that you find the right person. The mental well-being of you and your grandchild is important, so look at the following questions and pick those that you might want to ask to help you with your decision:

- What are your qualifications, experience and training?
- What experience do you have in working with children?
- What kind of license do you have?
- What type of therapy do you use?
- What experience do you have in treating my problem?
- What is your fee and can you adjust it based on my income?
- How will my insurance billings and co-payments be handled?
- When and how do I pay?
- Do you accept Medicaid?
- Is there a charge for the first meeting?
- What are your office hours?
- How long does it take to get an appointment?
- How often will appointments be scheduled?
- How long do your sessions last?
- Do you counsel with the child alone and also with the family together?
- How long might treatment be needed?
- Who will see my records?
- How confidential is therapy?
- What do I do if there is an emergency?
- What do I do if I have questions?
- Will we set goals for treatment?
- If you feel you are unable to treat my problem, will you refer me to someone else?

## **8. What are support groups?**

Self-help or support groups are regularly scheduled meetings (often held weekly or monthly) of people who share similar experiences. A counselor may or may not help run the group. Self-help or support groups help many grandparents and relatives who are

parenting again, by giving them a place to share information, learn about resources, and help one another.

## 9. What do school counselors do?

School counselors give students educational guidance and counseling and work on short-term problem intervention for children while they are in school. They help students with personal and social growth and career/life planning. At times, they work with other school officials, parents or guardians, and the students themselves in helping with their problems.

If a student needs long-term help, the school counselor will refer him or her to the right kind of agency.



The information in this chapter has been adapted for use in Wisconsin from the state of Delaware's *Grandparents/Relatives Raising And Nurturing Dependent Children (GRAND) Resource Guide* by David A. Riley, Child Development Specialist, UW-Extension Family Living Programs; Beth Swedeen, Parenting Associate Outreach Specialist, Waisman Center; Nancy Marz, CICSW, Clinical Consultant, Department of Health and Family Services; and Mary Brintnall-Peterson, Program Specialist in Aging, Family Living Programs, UW-Extension Family Living Programs.

The chapter was reviewed by Michelle Lameka, Milwaukee County Department on Aging, and Joyce Appel, Jewish Family Service, Milwaukee.

This chapter is one of eight chapters included in Wisconsin's *GRAND Resource Guide*. Other topics addressed in the resource guide include Child Care, Education, Financial Assistance, Health, Housing, Legal, and Parenting issues. These chapters can be found on the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Web site at:  
<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/grand.pdf>

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# Counseling Resources



## Alcohol and other drug abuse treatment resources:

The following programs provide assessments and referrals for alcohol and drug abuse treatment to the Greater Milwaukee Area (including Waukesha County) area residents without insurance. These are NOT alcohol and drug treatment facilities. (For persons WITH insurance that covers Substance Abuse treatment, check with your insurance carrier to find out how and where to obtain treatment.)

### “Twelve Step” Support Groups:

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| AA Meetings                  | <b>Alcoholics Anonymous – Greater Milwaukee Area</b><br>7429 W Greenfield Avenue<br>West Allis, WI 53214<br>(414) 771-9119 (no restrictions)<br><a href="http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org/">www.alcoholics-anonymous.org/</a><br>(international website)  |
| CA Meetings                  | <b>Cocaine Anonymous of Wisconsin</b><br>(414) 445-LIFE (5433) (no restrictions)<br>1370 s 74 <sup>th</sup> Street, Ste 104<br>Milwaukee, WI 53214<br><a href="http://www.ca.org/">http://www.ca.org/</a><br>(international website)<br><a href="http://www.execpc.com/-cocaine">www.execpc.com/-cocaine</a> |
| NA Meetings                  | <b>Narcotics Anonymous – Milwaukee Area Helpline</b><br>(414) 390-5389 (no restrictions)<br><a href="http://www.na.org/">http://www.na.org/</a><br>(international website)<br><a href="http://www.wisconsinna.org">www.wisconsinna.org</a>   |
| Adult Children of Alcoholics | <b>Adult Children of Alcoholics Intergroup (ACOA)</b><br><a href="http://www.adultchildren.org/">http://www.adultchildren.org/</a>   |
| Gamblers Anonymous           | <b>Gamblers Anonymous – Milwaukee Area</b><br>(414) 229-0901 (no restrictions)<br><a href="http://www.gamblersanonymous.org/">http://www.gamblersanonymous.org/</a><br>(international website)   |
| Overeaters Anonymous         | <b>Overeaters Anonymous – Milwaukee Area Intergroup</b><br>(414) 259-0640 (no restrictions)<br><a href="http://www.overeatersanonymous.org/">http://www.overeatersanonymous.org/</a><br>(international website)  |

## **Alcohol and other drug abuse treatment resources:**

### **Al-Anon Family Groups of Southeastern Wisconsin**

8320 W Bluemound Road, Rm 209

Milwaukee, WI 53213-3367

414-257-2415

[www.al-anon.alateen.org](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org)

### **Adult Children of Alcoholics**

Overcomer's Outreach

Muskego, WI 53150

414-425-0181

### **Methadone Anonymous** (Community outreach with Rogers Memorial)

Oconomowoc, WI 53066

800-767-4411, Ext. 247

[www.rogershospital.org](http://www.rogershospital.org)

### **Co-Dependents Anonymous, Southeastern Wisconsin Intergroup**

Milwaukee, WI

414-299-9249

[www.homepages.infoseek.com/-recoveringmilwaukeeemen/index.html](http://www.homepages.infoseek.com/-recoveringmilwaukeeemen/index.html)

### **Debtors Anonymous** (to locate a meeting: [www.glada.org](http://www.glada.org))

West Allis, WI 53227

414-546-3622

[www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org)

### **Families Anonymous Group**

Brookfield, WI 53005

800-736-9805

[www.familiesanonymous.org](http://www.familiesanonymous.org)

### **Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling**

Green Bay, WI 54301

800-426-2535

### **Lake Area Club, Inc.**

N60 W35878 Lake Drive

Oconomowoc, WI 53066

262-567-9912

Provides meeting space for a broad range of 12 step recovery programs.



**Nicotine Anonymous Groups (Private Residence)**

Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
262-367-5150

**O-Anon Support Group**

Brookfield, WI 53005  
262-673-5019  
262-542-1366

For families and friends of people suffering from eating disorders.

**Overeaters Anonymous, Milwaukee Area Intergroup**

7441 W Greenfield Avenue, Ste 12  
West Allis, WI 53214  
414-259-0640

[www.overeatersanonymous.org](http://www.overeatersanonymous.org)

Individuals recovering from compulsive overeating.

**Addiction Resource Council, Inc.**

W228 N 683 Westmound Drive  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-524-7921

Addiction Resource Council is a non-profit agency dedicated to offering help and hope to people suffering with and/or affected by the disease of alcoholism or other drug abuse and its related problems. The agency offers information, assessment and referral services in a confidential, non-threatening environment. Services are provided for individuals dealing with their own alcohol or drug use, as well as for family members.

**La Casa De Esperanza, Inc.**

410 Arcadian Av.  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 547-0887

**La Casa Outpatient Clinic**

210 NW Barstow Street  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-928-4402

La Casa De Esperanza is a community-based organization, which provides the community with opportunities for social and economic participation, especially focusing on the increased awareness of Hispanic culture. Services are culturally sensitive and language specific to the needs of the Hispanic community; however, services are available to anyone in need. The agency serves children, adolescents, and adults.

The Outpatient Clinic conducts assessments for alcohol and other drug abuse and provides outpatient treatment to adolescents and adults or provides referrals to treatment programs.

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse: Outpatient clinic conducts assessment for alcohol and other drug abuse and provides outpatient treatment to adolescents and adults or provides referral to treatment programs.

La Casa Outpatient Clinic also provides individual, marital, and family counseling. Services include: parent/child issues, anger management, and alcohol and other drug problems.

### **Lawrence Center**

Waukesha Memorial Hospital  
Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital  
3011 Saylesville Road  
Waukesha, WI 53189  
262-928-4036

Lawrence Center provides free assessment services for individuals and families for alcohol and other drug abuse problems.

Services include: assessment for alcohol and other drug use/abuse, referral to treatment resources, and intervention planning for family members, inpatient, outpatient, day treatment, family treatment, woman's treatment, continuing care, relapse prevention, dual diagnosis treatment, support and therapy groups.

### **Norris Adolescent Center**

W247 S10395 Center Drive  
Mukwonago, WI 53149  
262-662-5900

Norris Adolescent Center provides assessment and treatment services for youth and adolescents with alcohol and other drug abuse problems. Services can be provided in the home and community setting as well as at the center.

### **Rogers Memorial Hospital**

34700 Valley Road  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
262-646-4411  
800-767-4411

Rogers Memorial provides free needs assessments are provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for substance abuse concerns. A medical doctor reviews needs assessments and a recommendation is offered for appropriate treatment.

**Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services**  
Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Outpatient Clinic  
500 Riverview Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-548-7666

The outpatient clinic provides confidential, comprehensive mental health and chemical dependency assessment and services to Waukesha County residents. Chemical dependency services are available for adolescents and adults. Emergency assessments and referrals are available during office hours. After hours, Waukesha County residents in need of emergency services can call 211/first call for help at 211 or 262-547-3388.

**For Assistance with referrals for counseling and mental illness:**

**211/First Call for Help Waukesha**  
**Waukesha, WI 53186**  
**211 – Inside Waukesha County**  
**262-547-3388**

24 hour phone service providing information and referral on human services (including support groups) and governmental services, telephone counseling, crisis intervention for any family, personal, mental health need, and suicide prevention and intervention. Trained phone counselors can assist callers in accessing these community services.

**Hispanic Health and Resource Center**  
210 NW Barstow Street, Ste 109  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-928-4181

The Hispanic Health Resource Center for the Hispanic community. Bi-lingual (Spanish and English) staff provides information and referral to health and health-related services and assistance in accessing those services.

**Mental Health Association in Waukesha**  
Mental Health Advocate  
S22 W22660 Broadway, 5S  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-547-0769

Mental Health Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting mental health and improving acceptance and treatment of persons with a mental illness. The Mental Health Advocate provides assistance and information for families and individuals needing mental health services and provides assistance in accessing those services.

Services include: address issues of child mental health, advocate for appropriate legislation, and monitors the development and funding of local mental health services.

**Wisconsin Family Ties, Inc.**

Waukesha County Family Advocate  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-646-4455

The Waukesha County Family Advocate provides advocacy and support services for parents and families of children and adolescents with emotional, behavioral or mental disorders.

The advocate helps parents to clarify their options and understand their rights with regard to securing appropriate services for their children in the areas of education, mental health treatment, social services, and juvenile justice.

**For assistance with referrals for social service, services/programs:**

**211 Milwaukee at Impact** or  
(414) 773-0211 – outside Milwaukee Co.

211 Milwaukee is a central access point for inquiries about family, health and social services, including providing referrals for persons seeking counseling, regardless of their income or having access to insurance. It is prevention and pre-crisis focused. When someone calls the Community Information Line, they will speak with a Community Resource Specialist - a professional trained to listen carefully to the caller's needs, help assess their situation and helps to connect them to an agency that will respond to their needs. 211 Milwaukee also has information on over 300 providers of counseling for alcohol and other drug use.

**Mental Health Association – Milwaukee County**

734 N 4th St #200  
Milwaukee, WI 53203  
(414) 276-3122  
<http://www.mhamilw.org/>

MHA of Milwaukee County is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to removing the stigma of mental illness, promoting mental health, improving the care and treatment of persons with mental illnesses, and helping persons cope with the recovery from mental illnesses. Education, advocacy, and information and referral programs help the MHA achieve these goals. Staff and volunteers present programs in schools, businesses, community organizations, and civic groups about mental health/illness. Volunteer advocates are placed at the Mental Health Complex and the Child and Adolescent Treatment Center to assist in patient problems. Information and referrals are given to persons who call or come into the office. MHA provides advocacy, one-on-one support, and free literature on depression, grief, self-esteem, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, stress, anger and suicide. Support groups are offered for families and consumers on depression, suicide and anxiety.

**NAMI Waukesha**

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill  
S22 W22660 Broadway, 5S  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-534-8886

**NAMI - Waukesha County**

217 Wisconsin Ave. #311  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 524-8886  
[namiwauk@aol.com](mailto:namiwauk@aol.com)  
<http://www.namiwaukesha.com>

NAMI provides emotional support, education, referrals, and advocacy to individuals and family members challenged by mental illness and new to the mental health system. Services include: individual advocacy to assist individuals with a mental illness to secure appropriate care and treatment, consumer and family support groups, suicide survivor support groups, educational meetings, court support, and a lending library.

**NAMI - National Alliance for the Mentally Ill**

Colonial Place Three  
2107 Wilson Blvd Ste 300  
Arlington, VA 22201-3042  
(800) 950NAMI (6264) – Information & Service Center  
(703) 524-7600  
<http://www.nami.org/poc.htm>

The *Information & Service Center* is NAMI's Information and Referral service. *Information & Service Center* is staffed by trained volunteers and provides information, referral and support to all who have questions about or are affected by serious mental illness. The *Information & Service Center* DOES NOT provide counseling, legal advice, medical advice or referrals to professionals (psychiatrists, attorneys, etc.). The *Information & Service Center Online* makes available some of the more commonly requested fact sheets.

## **Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Counseling:**

### **Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services**

Child/Adolescent/Juvenile Court and Family Services

500 Riverview Avenue

Waukesha, WI 53188

262-548-7212

Investigates reports of child abuse and neglect. Anyone may report anonymously. After hours calls receive a message instructing callers to contact their local police department if the situation is an emergency or life threatening or to call 211/First Call for Help Waukesha County to request assistance from a crisis intervention worker. Services include: child protective services, child foster care, group and residential treatment, and parent counseling. Services are designed to enable families to stay together. If a child must be placed temporarily outside of the home, the least restrictive resource is sought and efforts are immediately initiated to facilitate the child's return home.

### **Norris Adolescent Center**

W247 S10395 Center Drive

Mukwonago, WI 53149

Fax: 262-662-5688

Clinical Director: 262-662-5900

Norris Adolescent Center specializes in the assessment and treatment of adolescent males who are the victims and perpetrators of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse traumas. Services include individual, family, parenting, and group counseling. Services can be provided in the home or community setting as well as at the center. Psychiatric and psychological services are available when needed.

### **The Women's Center, Inc.**

Women's Center Counseling Program

Beeper Advocate Program

505 N East Avenue

Waukesha, WI 53186

262-542-3828 - Crisis Line

262-547-4600 - Business Line

The Women's Center is a non-profit agency dedicated to providing safety and support to women and children and to facilitate their development. Women's Center provides services for victims (children, adolescent, and adults) of domestic violence, sexual assault and sexual abuse.

Services include: crisis intervention, short-term counseling, and support groups.

Support groups include: Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse, Adult Survivors of Sexual Assault, Adolescent Survivors of Sexual Abuse or Assault, Child Victims of Sexual Abuse, Children Who Have Witnessed

Domestic Violence, Parents of Sexually Abused Children, Pre-Adolescent Victims of Sexual Abuse or Assault, and Victims of Domestic Violence.

The Beeper Advocate Program provides trained advocates to respond to victims of sexual assault at hospitals or police stations (advocates do not go to victim's home). Assault must be recent, occurring within the last 72 hours. Advocates provide emotional support and information about the victim's options. Services also include: bag containing a set of clean clothing, information on support services available, and transportation to shelter if needed.

### **Child Protective Services / Bureau of Child Welfare Waukesha County**

(262) 548-7212

Investigates reports of child abuse and neglect. Takes whatever action is necessary for child's safety. **Anyone may report anonymously.** After hours calls receive a recorded message instructing callers to contact their local police if the situation is life threatening.

### **Inpatient and Residential Treatment Centers for children and adolescents:**

#### **Lad Lake, Inc.**

W350 S1401 Waterville Road  
Dousman, WI 53118  
262-965-2131

Lad Lake is a residential treatment center for adolescent boys experiencing emotional, behavioral or learning problems.

Services include: comprehensive treatment for emotional and behavioral problems, comprehensive special education services, mentoring, and independent living skills.

#### **Lawrence Center**

Waukesha Memorial Hospital  
Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital  
3011 Saylesville Road  
Waukesha, WI 53189  
262-928-4036

Lawrence Center provides non-hospital inpatient treatment for adolescents and adults.

Services include: free assessment for individuals and families, detoxification, day treatment, individual therapy, family therapy, and multifamily therapy, relapse prevention, dual diagnosis treatment, and support groups.

#### **Norris Adolescent Center**

W247 S10395 Center Drive  
Mukwonago, WI 53149  
262-662-5900

Norris Adolescent Center provides residential treatment to adolescent males in the areas of anger management, sexuality, alcohol and other drug abuse, and serious emotional disturbance. A 30-day assessment and stabilization service, offering a variety of in-depth assessments is also available. Norris Adolescent Center also maintains three group homes on or near the residential center campus. Two group homes are licensed to serve adolescent males age 14-17 years. One group home is licensed to serve males age 13-16 years. All residents attend the Department of Public Instruction certified Norris School.

### **Rogers Memorial Hospital**

Mental Health Treatment Center for Children and Adolescents  
34700 Valley Road  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
262-646-4411

The Mental Health Treatment Center provides intensive, short-term acute care for children and adolescents age 14-17 years. Assessment services, stabilization, and medication management is provided under the supervision of board certified psychiatrists. Behavioral health concerns treated include but are not limited to: acute/chronic emotional disorders, ADHD, Asperger's and autism disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, bipolar/manic depressive disorder, organic disorders, trauma caused by emotional, sexual, or physical abuse. Treatment programs include individual and group therapy, experiential/activity therapy, and family education.

### **Programs offering general counseling for low cost or on a sliding scale fee:**

#### **ARO Counseling Centers**

400 W Moreland Blvd  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-524-9416  
Corporate Office: 262-641-9050

ARO Counseling Centers provides individual and family counseling at several locations in Waukesha County.

Issues addressed include: alcohol and other drug abuse problems, co-dependency, anxiety, stress management, depression, ADHD, and marital problems. Consulting psychiatrist available for medication evaluation and medication management.

#### **Catholic Charities-Waukesha Region**

Renewed Hope Counseling  
741 Grand Avenue, Ste. #210  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-547-2463



Catholic Charities is a non-profit agency dedicated to caring for those in need. Renewed Hope Counseling Service provides individual, couple, and family counseling at a several locations in Waukesha County. Religion and spirituality is not incorporated into counseling unless requested by the client.

Issues addressed include: life transitions, separation/divorce, parent/child tensions, grief and loss, alcohol and other drug problems, depression, stress related to caring for parents and/or children, family violence, physical and sexual abuse, and child behavioral problems.

### **Children's Service Society of Wisconsin**

223 Wisconsin Avenue, Ste D  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-544-5333

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin is a non-profit agency dedicated to meeting the needs of children and families.

The agency provides child-focused individual or family counseling to enhance parenting skills and to work with children with behavioral and emotional problems.

Issues addressed include: ADHD, sexual abuse, anger management, anxiety disorders, depression, and custody/marital issues.

### **Family Service of Waukesha**

414 W Moreland Blvd., Rm 205  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-547-5567

Family Service of Waukesha, a non-profit agency dedicated to helping improve the quality of individual, family, and community life, provides a broad range of support services.

The agency provides marital, individual, and family counseling.

Issues addressed include: depression, anxiety, domestic violence, anger management, child sexual abuse, adolescent adjustment to problems, marital communication, individual self-esteem issues, stepfamilies and parent/child issues.

### **Lutheran Social Services, South Region**

W226 N555 A Eastmound Drive  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-896-3446

Lutheran Social Services is non-profit agencies dedicated to helping people improve the quality of their lives. Services are open to Lutheran and non-Lutheran.

The agency provides counseling for children and adolescents, marital counseling and family counseling. Issues addressed include: grief, anxiety, depression, family violence, sexual abuse, divorce and blended family issues, behavioral and emotional disorders in children, parenting, women's issues, adult child issues, and ADHD.

**Waukesha Counseling Services**

2314 N Grandview Blvd., Ste 309  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-544-4540

The agency operates a mental health clinic to provide services to individuals, couples, and families who have identified mental health needs. Issues addressed include: relationship issues (family, marriage, divorce, friendship), depression, grief, parenting concerns, stress management, sexual abuse, chronic illness, anxiety, and identity issues.

**Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services  
Mental Health Outpatient Clinic**

500 Riverview Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-548-7666

The Mental Health Clinic provides confidential, comprehensive outpatient mental health and chemical dependency services to Waukesha County residents of all ages. The clinic also provides assessment for inpatient services at the Mental Health Center.

Mental health services include: individual, couple, group, and family therapy, child play therapy, psychological assessment, emergency assessments, and mobile crisis intervention. Psychiatric services for adults include initial evaluations and medication management. Specialized services for children with severe emotional disabilities and their families are also available.

The Mental Health Clinic provides chemical dependency services for adolescents and adults.

Services include: outpatient treatment, outpatient treatment for court-ordered individuals, dual diagnosis treatment, therapy for individuals, group therapy for spouses, case management and referral for half-way houses, day treatment, inpatient treatment, extended care, and detoxification. Emergency assessments and referrals are available during business hours.

## Services for youth runaways and parents:

**Hotlines:** **Boys Town National Hotline** (Kids and Teens)  
*Runaway* (800) 448-3000  
*Hotlines-* www.boystown.org  
*National*  
*Assistance for* **Nineline**  
*Parents* (800) 999-9999

**National Runaway Switchboard**  
(800) 621-4000  
<http://www.nrscrisisline.org/>

**HOME FREE**  
(800) 621-4000  
[http://www.nrscrisisline.org/kids\\_homefree.asp](http://www.nrscrisisline.org/kids_homefree.asp)

### **Girls and Boys Town National Hotline**

(800) 448-3000  
TTY (800) 448-1833  
[www.girlsandboystown.org](http://www.girlsandboystown.org)  
[www.parenting.org](http://www.parenting.org)  
Business Number: 800-842-1488  
Fax Number: 402-498-1875  
Spanish Counselor and Language Line available 24/7.

The Girls and Boys Town National Hotline is a 24-hour crisis, resource and referral line. Accredited by the American Association of Suicidology, the hotline is staffed by trained professional counselors who provide short-term crisis intervention to children of all ages and to parents for a broad range of crisis needs, including: emotional crisis, abuse, runaway, and crisis pregnancy. Maintains a database of resources for all 50 states and offers a wide selection of parenting materials.

### **Nineline**

(800) 999-9999  
[www.covenanthouse.org](http://www.covenanthouse.org)  
**Spanish counselors available 24/7.**

Nineline is a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline for teens and families. Hotline is staffed by trained professional counselors who provide crisis intervention and support for a broad range of crisis needs. The hotline maintains a database of resources for all 50 states. Conference calls can be arranged between social service agencies and teens in need of service.

**The Women's Center, Inc.**  
Beeper Advocate Program  
888-542-3828

Trained advocates respond to victims of sexual assault at hospitals or police stations. Assault must be recent, occurring within the last 72 hours. Advocates provide emotional support and information about the victim's options. Services also include: bag containing a set of clean clothing, information on support services available, and transportation to shelter if needed.

**Children's Service Society of Wisconsin**  
STAR (Serving Teenage Runaways) Program  
223 Wisconsin Avenue, Ste D  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
24 Hotline and Shelter  
Assistance for Parents - 262-547-7707

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin is a non-profit agency dedicated to meeting the needs of children and to building, sustaining, and enhancing a nurturing environment for children to live and grow. Services are free and confidential. Through the 24-hour hotline, teens and family receive crisis intervention, telephone counseling, and information and referrals to support services in the community. Temporary shelter is available to teens, with parental consent, at volunteer foster homes for up to 14 days. Free, short-term counseling is available for youth and families for a maximum of 8 sessions. Mentoring is available to teens participating in the STAR Program, and follow-up services are provided to families for up to 90 days. Support groups are offered periodically for teens and parents or guardians of teens.

**Parenting Network, The**  
1717 S 12<sup>th</sup>, St #101  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
414-671-5575 – Parenting Network  
**414-671-0566 – Parent Helpline**

The Parenting Network is a non-profit agency dedicated to strengthening parenting and preventing child abuse. The Parent Helpline is a 24-hour helpline providing confidential, anonymous telephone counseling for parents and other caregivers to use when feeling stressed, angry, frustrated, or when needing assistance or information in problem solving parent issues or seeking resources in their community.

**Pathfinders**

1614 E Kane Place  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
24-Hour Hotline – 414-271-1560  
24-Hour SafePath Hotline – 414-271-9523

**Pathways** provide services to area runaway/throw-away/homeless teens and to their families free of charge, regardless of family income. Crisis phone counseling and information and referral to community resources are provided to teens, parents, and professionals through the 24-hour hotline. Temporary shelter and counseling is available at a state-licensed group home for up to two weeks for youth and teens age 11-17 years.

**SafePath** Program serves youth and teens age 11-17 years who have been sexually abused or who fear that they may be sexually abused. Services include: a 24-hour hotline, short-term crisis counseling for victims needing information and support regarding the reporting process, advocacy counseling for victims needing assistance through the reporting process, temporary shelter for up to two weeks, and after care counseling.





# **E**DUICATION

**G**RANDPARENTS/RELATIVES

**R**AISING

**A**ND

**N**URTURING

**D**EPENDENT CHILDREN

**Waukesha County Resource Guide**



# Education



**For Information on:**

**See Question Number:**

General Information.....	Section I
Preschool.....	Section II
Head Start.....	1
4-Year-Old Program .....	2
Other Preschool Programs .....	3
Preparation for Kindergarten .....	4
Kindergarten—Grade 12.....	Section III
Kindergarten Readiness .....	1
School District Policy for Cut-Off Date .....	2
Enrolling in School .....	3, 15, 16
Daily Preparation for School .....	4
Progress Reports .....	5
Communicating With Teachers .....	6, 7
Help With Schoolwork	
Tutors .....	8
Help With Homework.....	9
Languages	
English as a Second Language (ESL).....	10, 11
Learning a Foreign Language .....	12
Volunteering in School .....	13
Kinds of Schooling	
Public Schools.....	14

Charter Schools.....	17
Private Schools.....	18
Voucher Program.....	19
Home Schooling.....	20
Help for Pregnant Teenagers.....	21
GED and HSED.....	23
 Suspension and Expulsion.....	 22
 Children With Special Needs.....	 Section IV
Determining a Special Need.....	1
Finding Services.....	2
Progress Reports.....	2
 Education After High School.....	 Section V
Technical Colleges.....	1
Colleges in Wisconsin.....	2
Colleges Outside of Wisconsin.....	3
 Resource List.....	 Following the Q&A





# Education



The resource section at the end of this chapter gives you the locations, phone numbers, and/or Web sites of agencies where you can find help. For access to computers and assistance in reaching the information available on Web sites, contact your local public libraries, senior centers, community centers, or family resource centers.



The information in this chapter has been organized to help you find the questions and answers that are most important to you as the grandparent of children who will soon be attending school, are now attending school, or who have special needs. The chapter begins with general information, followed by preschool, kindergarten–grade 12, education for children with special needs/developmental delays, and education after high school.

## I. General Information

If it has been a long time since you have been involved with the schools as a parent, you may want to think about how you can become active in your grandchildren's school to support their learning. Research shows that children who have at least one adult involved in their lives, including someone who supports their learning activities, are more likely to do well in school. Wisconsin schools are encouraged to make parents and grandparents partners in children's learning by reaching out to them in at least six ways:

- **Parenting skills**, including connecting parents, grandparents, and other relatives to resources and educational opportunities in the community. Schools should also invite parents and other caregivers for children to get involved in choosing what kinds of programs should be offered to the school children's parents, grandparents, and other relatives.
- **Communicating**, which must be two-way communication. Grandparents should be encouraged and helped to find ways to talk with educators about their grandchildren, and the school staff should be willing to listen to what grandparents have to say. In addition, schools have a responsibility to give general information, including report cards, in a helpful and timely way.
- **Learning at home** includes school staff working with families to develop learning goals for children. Schools should give grandparents ideas and tools they will need to work with their grandchildren in continuing the classroom learning at home.
- **Volunteering** includes encouraging grandparents to be a part of their grandchild's learning at home, in the community, and at school. Even attending school events is volunteering. All contributions by adult family members need to be appreciated.
- **Decision-making** requires schools to accept grandparents as partners with the school. Grandparents and other adults should be seen as a part of the support given to all children, not just their own.

- **Community collaboration** recognizes that the community plays an important role in helping children learn. Resources, such as needed social and medical services or enrichment opportunities in the community, add to the success of children. Some schools have family centers—rooms in the school where parents, grandparents, and community members can meet together, read information on child development, or do volunteer activities. Many communities also have family resource centers that help grandparents find the information they need to help them as they parent again, offer workshops to grandparents, or let grandparents talk about questions they may have about the children they are raising. Family resource centers usually are listed in your local telephone book.

There are many ways grandparents can help grandchildren learn more in and out of school. Contact your grandchild's school office to find out what information the school can give you as you support your grandchildren's learning.

## II. Preschool

### 1. **Young children need to be ready to start school, but I don't have much money to spend on preschool programs. How can I help my grandchild get used to being with other children and to get ready for school?**

Head Start is a federally funded program that helps children ages three to five get ready for kindergarten. Children learn how to get along with other children and are introduced to some of the basic learning skills. A child must be toilet-trained to attend Head Start. Services such as transportation, health, nutrition, social services, meals and opportunities for parents, grandparents, or other relatives to be involved in the program are provided. You must be income eligible for your grandchild to participate. Income guidelines can be found at [www.waisman.wisc.edu/earlyint/wlsa/ingu48pg.htm](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/earlyint/wlsa/ingu48pg.htm) or you can call your local county's Head Start agency. (Contact numbers for your county's Head Start are listed at the end of this chapter in the Resource List.) Since there are often waiting lists, register at least the summer before your grandchild is eligible to begin. You must register at the Head Start in the county where you live. Each county has specific qualifications.

These are some of the documents you may need to bring with you to register your grandchild in Head Start:

- Grandchild's birth certificate
- Grandchild's social security card
- Grandparent's social security card
- Proof of income
- Legal custody papers (custody authorization papers)
- Immunization papers (if possible). If there are no immunization papers, you must bring a card that proves you have a doctor's appointment scheduled and a dentist's appointment scheduled.
- Medicaid card

**2. I understand that there is a school program especially for 4-year-olds. What is the program and what do I need to know to help me decide if it is something that would help my grandchild?**

Many Wisconsin public schools have free 4-year-old programs open to all children. Public 4-year-old kindergarten programs are available in more than one third of Wisconsin school districts, and more districts are adding the programs each year. The programs are half days and may include outreach to families, which can be very helpful to you in parenting your grandchild and meeting other parents, grandparents, relatives, and teachers. Contact your school district to see if 4-year-old kindergarten is offered. If it is, it must be offered fairly to all children at no cost. Support services, such as the school library, school nurse, and specialty teachers, should also be available to your child.

**3. What are other options for preschool programs?**

Other free or low-cost programs, such as playgroups or parent groups, may be offered at local churches, community centers, or family resource centers. You can contact the Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R) at 1-888-713-KIDS (5473) to get information about programs that may be available in your area.

**4. What do I need to do to make sure my preschool-aged grandchild is ready for kindergarten?**

To do well in kindergarten and beyond, young children need stimulating surroundings that give them many different kinds of experiences. Even if a child goes to a good preschool or child care center, the caring adults in a child's life play an important role in providing these experiences. The preschool experiences that can affect later school success include the following:

- Spending time with small groups of children
- Visits to places in the community such as stores and the library
- Talking with adults and being read to often
- Opportunities to practice their physical skills, such as climbing and using scissors
- Spending time with adults other than their parents or grandparents
- Opportunities to play and use their imaginations
- Help in learning personal care, such as toileting, dressing, and eating
- Guidance of their behavior by caring adults

### **III. Kindergarten–Grade 12**

**1. How can I tell if my grandchild is ready for kindergarten?**

To enter kindergarten in the state of Wisconsin, children must be age five by September 15. What if your grandchild has a summer birthday or doesn't seem as ready for school as other five-year-olds? Though it may seem best to wait an extra year if your grandchild does not seem ready for kindergarten, it often is better for most children simply to begin

kindergarten the fall after they turn age five. While the youngest kindergartners may learn more slowly at first, they often catch up by third grade.

So what should you look for when deciding if your grandchild is ready for kindergarten? Look for a good fit between your grandchild and school. In addition to the brief school screening, spend some time in the school to be sure it meets your grandchild's needs. These are some questions to ask yourself:

- Will the kindergarten meet the individual needs of your grandchild?
- Does what is being taught in kindergarten seem to be right for your grandchild?
- Will the other children be close to the same age as your grandchild, or does the school encourage younger children to wait a year?
- If you don't think that the kindergarten choices are the right ones for your grandchild at this time, what other educational programs will your grandchild have during the year? Are there preschool choices that will better fit your grandchild's needs at this time?

All Wisconsin school districts offer kindergarten programs for 5-year-old children. Contact your neighborhood school for information about kindergarten programs for your grandchild.

**2. My granddaughter will be 5 years old shortly after September 15. She has been attending a preschool and is very curious and gets along well with other children. I know that the cut-off date for starting school is September 15. How can I be sure that my granddaughter should wait another year before starting school, or can I have her tested to see if she can handle school, even if she would be a little younger than most kindergartners?**

Work with your school district in making your decision. Find out what the policy is for enrolling children who don't meet the age at the cut-off date. Some school districts have the children participate in a week of "school" and have them take a test at the end to determine if they are ready for school. Talk with the kindergarten teacher as well as your granddaughter's current preschool teacher. You will want to make the decision based on what's best for your granddaughter.

**3. What must I bring when I register my grandchild for public school?**

The documents required for all public schools in Wisconsin are:

- Proof of custody
- Proof of child's age (birth certificate, baptism certificate, or medical assistance card)
- Proof of residence (If the grandparent and the grandchild live with someone who does not have legal custody over the grandchild, a notarized letter of proof of residence from the person they live with is necessary. Examples of proof of residence are an electric bill, phone bill, lease, or rental agreement.)
- Immunization records
- Past school records (if you have them or can get them)

#### 4. What kind of things can I do to make sure my grandchildren are ready for school each day?

Each day your grandchildren attend school, make sure they:

- Have had enough sleep
- Have eaten breakfast
- Have completed homework assignments
- Are clothed appropriately for the weather
- Understand that you think it is important for them to get to school on time every day and to try their best in school

#### 5. How can I find out how my grandson is doing in school and what he may need help with?

Many schools let parents and other caregivers know about a child's progress in school in the following ways, but always feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns about how well he is learning.

- **Report cards.** Usually given out four times a year at school. Be sure to ask your grandchild's teacher what a certain grade means or if you don't understand why your grandchild was given that grade.
- **Homework assignments and classroom tests.** The marks your grandchild receives on the homework assignments he brings home usually give you some idea of how well he understands classroom work, and what grade will eventually appear on his report card. Don't wait to talk with your grandchild's teacher if you notice a series of low grades on homework assignments.
- **Parent-teacher conferences.** Most schools schedule a special time for parents, grandparents, or other guardians to meet one-on-one with teachers near the beginning of the school year. Some schools also schedule follow-up conferences later in the year. The conferences are a good chance to talk about what your grandchild does well, what the teacher expects, and how your grandchild will be graded.
- **State assessments.** In Wisconsin, public school students in Grades 4, 8, and 10 take statewide examinations to measure children's learning in five subject areas, based on Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards: reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
  - Third grade students also take the Wisconsin Reading Comprehension Test that shows how well they read and understand what they read.
  - Beginning in the 2003-04 school year, public school students in Grade 12 must take a High School Graduation Test.
  - Each of these tests measures a child's performance at one point in time. Schools must report test results to parents or guardians of students in fourth, eighth, and tenth grades, as well as High School Graduation Test results. The results can help the student, his or her teachers, and parents or guardians understand which of the student's skills are strong and the areas where more help is needed.

Watch for more information from your local school board about the graduation requirements. For specific questions, check with school guidance counselors or principals.

## 6. How can I communicate with my grandchild's teacher?

Most schools offer many ways for parents, grandparents, or other relatives who are caregivers to communicate with teachers. If you can, meet with your grandchild's teacher early in the first three weeks of school. Check with your school to find out which of the following opportunities are available to you:

- **Parent-teacher conferences, often scheduled twice or more a year.** Teachers should also be willing to meet with you at your request to discuss your grandchild's progress.
- **School open houses, parent forums, and other informational meetings.** You will probably get notices ahead of time of these events, which are usually held at school.
- **Telephone calls.** Family members should feel that they can call teachers at school whenever they have a question or concern. Some teachers have phones in their classrooms or let you know the times and phone numbers of when and where they can be most easily reached.
- **Home-to-school notebooks, logs, or folders.** Whatever your grandchild's school may call them, many teachers ask parents and other caregivers to review weekly notes from the teacher that talk about what the child has learned in the classroom that week and what family members can do to help make the child's skills stronger. Often, family members are encouraged to answer the teacher's note with comments or observations of their own.
- **School newsletters, calendars, and parent handbooks.** Many schools send these written materials home during the school year to let families know about upcoming school events, important dates, and policies.
- **School Hotline.** Some schools publish a telephone number with recorded messages from the principal, teacher, or other community groups. The messages may have important information on classroom assignments, upcoming events, or school policy.
- **E-mail.** Many schools have Web sites and encourage parents and caregivers to communicate with teachers through e-mail addresses. To see if your grandchild's school has a Web site, ask the teacher or principal to check the Internet for a listing of Wisconsin school Web sites at: [www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/schldist.html](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/schldist.html) Also, teachers may give you an e-mail address as well as their school phone numbers, where you can send them messages when it is more convenient for you.

**7. My granddaughter doesn't like her teacher. She comes home from school every day, complaining about something that has happened. What can I do?**

First, listen carefully to your granddaughter and talk with her about exactly what it is she doesn't like and what she thinks would make things better. Then talk with your child's teacher. If you haven't met the teacher yet, send a note or call the school to set up a time to meet to talk about how together you can help make your granddaughter's time in school more comfortable. Go to the meeting with a positive, can-do attitude. You may want to have your granddaughter come to the meeting with you. You want to build a positive learning environment for your grandchild, so in a follow-up meeting, you might want to set up a contract that says how you, your grandchild, and the teacher each will work together to reach learning goals that you all agree to for your granddaughter. Sometimes it helps to ask the principal or guidance counselor for more ideas and support.

**8. My grandson is struggling with math and reading in junior high, and I would like to find a tutor for him. Where can I ask about finding a tutor? What should I be looking for when I talk with the tutor to be sure that he or she would do a good job with my grandson?**

Talk with your child's teacher first about seeking additional help for your grandson. Some schools offer after-school study sessions, which include tutoring. Talk with the guidance counselor or principal in your school, too, because they will have suggestions for getting help for your child. (See the next question [# III.9] below.)

**9. I don't feel confident helping my grandson with his homework. Are there other people or resources we can turn to for help?**

Check with your grandson's school by calling the school office or your grandson's teacher to see what resources are available for help with homework and assignments. Remember that no student will have all the right answers. Homework is given to build on the classroom learning and to encourage your grandson to strengthen specific skills.

Here are some resources that schools offer to help students complete homework assignments:

- Tutoring, either during the school day with student or adult volunteers or during after-school programs. (See the previous question [# III.8] above.)
- The Internet has many valuable learning-related sites. Contact your grandchild's teacher or your public library for a list of useful sites.
- The CESAs/Ameritech Homework Helpline: Dial (800) 222-2912 toll-free if your grandchild needs help figuring out where to turn for help with assignments. The helpline is staffed Sundays through Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. during the school year.
- Your local public library has many resource books (e.g., encyclopedias, etc.) and videotapes, and many libraries offer Internet access to the public on their computers. The library resource desk may be a good place to start.

- If you live near a college or university, see if a university work-study student or a student volunteer could tutor your grandchild.
- Always let your grandson's teacher know if he is having trouble finishing or understanding homework. The teacher will also be a good source for getting your grandchild additional help.
- Check with local youth programs to see if they offer volunteer tutoring or mentoring.
- 

**10. My grandchild does not yet speak English well. How can I find ESL (English as a Second Language) classes for her in our schools?**

To find ESL programs, contact your school's principal.

**11. How can I help my grandchild learn to speak English?**

While it is very important for your grandchild to learn English, it is also important for her to maintain her native language. The school your grandchild goes to and her playmates will help you with teaching her English, but you may be the only person who can help your grandchild maintain her native language. Studies show that speaking and reading in the native language will make it easier for your grandchild to learn to speak, read, and write in English. Before you spend a lot of time helping with English at home, ask yourself two questions: (a) Does my grandchild speak well in her native language? and (b) Can my grandchild read a story in her native language? If the answer is "no" to either of these, your most important task will be to make sure she's using her native language skills. The second most important task will be to help her with learning English.

Here are some simple, effective ways to help grandchildren learn English:

- Encourage your grandchild to make friends and join in school and after-school activities and clubs so she can make English-speaking friends.
- Ask your grandchild's teacher how you can help at school and what ideas she or he has for helping your grandchild learn English.
- Go to your library or bookstore for children's storybooks and storybooks with tape-recorded versions in English. Read to your grandchild in English, or if your grandchild can read English, ask her to read to you.
- If your grandchild is already reading in English on a first or second grade level (e.g., children's storybooks are too easy), then encourage your grandchild to read books and other reading materials that interest her.

Do not worry about correcting errors in English. Make learning English fun for your grandchild. Between what you do and what your school does, your grandchild should be speaking well within 1 to 2 years, and should be able to keep up in reading and writing in school within 5 to 7 years.



## **12. When should grandchildren begin to learn a foreign language and what is the best language for them to learn?**

It is best for young children to learn another language before age 10. Studying a foreign language in elementary school also helps children do better in reading, language arts, and mathematics than students who don't study another language. Learning another language also can help children understand another culture's music, arts, and literature, and to respect others.

Check with your local school district to see what languages are offered and when your grandchild would be able to study another language or call the Department of Public Instruction Foreign Language Consultant at 608-266-3079.

After-school programs, tribal school programs, and Saturday schools also help children learn languages.

## **13. How can I volunteer in my grandchild's school?**

Grandparents contribute special gifts to children's learning and schools. You act as a "volunteer" at home whenever you help your grandchild with his homework or when you attend a school event. When you volunteer at school, you are letting your grandchild know how important you think school is. Your volunteering at school can bring lessons of the past and real-life experiences into the classroom.

Here are some ways schools use grandparent-volunteers. In addition to doing traditional volunteer activities such as chaperoning a field trip, a grandparent-volunteer may be:

- A tutor or mentor, working one-on-one with children to help with their reading, strengthen math skills, or just listening
- A room grandparent, spending time with students on a less formal basis than tutoring
- Career counselors, talking about their jobs or the workplace, or showing children how to do a specific job skill
- An oral historian, talking about what schools and communities were like when they were children
- A teacher's helper, working with children on arts and crafts or constructing a bulletin board

Ask about volunteer opportunities available at your grandchild's school or offer to create some new opportunities.

## **14. Where can I call to get information on the public schools in Wisconsin?**

If you are not sure which school district you live in, you can call the Department of Public Instruction in Madison free at (800) 441-4563. If you know your school district, you can call that office directly. See your local phone book for the number.

**15. If my grandchild is transferring school districts in order to live with me, how can I have the necessary records sent to the new school?**

If your grandchild is transferring schools, you must give the new school the name of the school your grandchild last attended. After you sign a release that allows the transfer of the records, the new school will get your grandchild's records.

**16. I would prefer my grandchild attend a school other than the one the school district office tells me he or she is assigned to. Is this possible?**

Any students in grade kindergarten through 12 may attend any public school in the state if space is available and if certain conditions are met. (These conditions are listed at the Web site [www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/sms/choiqa.html](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/sms/choiqa.html)) In Wisconsin there is a program called School Choice. The school districts must approve your application, and you must provide your own transportation. You can get applications from any school district. Applications are accepted only in the first three weeks of February before the school year that the child will attend a school of your choice outside of the district. It is important to apply on time. For more information, call the school in your district (listed at the end of this section or in your local telephone book) or see the Web site on open enrollment at [www.dpi/dfn/sms/oeparinf.html](http://www.dpi/dfn/sms/oeparinf.html)

**17. What are Charter schools and how can I find out about them?**

Charter schools do not have to follow most state requirements for public K-12 education but must follow federal laws governing education or civil rights policies and local school board policies. In charter schools, teachers must be licensed by the DPI; students must participate in the Wisconsin Student Assessment System and in the annual school performance report produced by DPI; and students must be counted for membership of the local school district. Any school board, the Milwaukee common council, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee or the Milwaukee Area Technical College can contract with an individual or group to operate a school as a charter school. They must have public hearings before the contracts are made. There are currently 92 charter schools operating in the state of Wisconsin.

Some of the Charter schools emphasize particular subjects such as math and science. Others may focus on children with particular problems. You can find out more about Charter schools by calling the Department of Public Instruction free in Madison at (800) 441-4563 or check with your local school district to see if there is a charter school in your community.

**18. If I want to register my grandchild in private school, where can I find out which private schools are in my area?**

Private schools are listed in your telephone book. You may want to call to ask about scholarships and financial assistance.

**19. A friend told me that she is looking into the voucher program for her child. I think my grandson could benefit from that kind of program, but I need to know more. Where can I get information about the voucher program to find out exactly what it is and if I should enroll my grandson?**

The voucher program provides the opportunity for students, under certain conditions, to attend a private school at no charge. Your grandchild qualifies if he or she lives in the Milwaukee School District and if your family income meets the eligibility for household size. The DPI Web site provides detailed information of household size requirements. You can go to the State Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) Web site: <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/sms/choice.html> to get more information. If you don't have access to a computer, go to your public library for help. A parent brochure is also available, which you can get from the DPI (call 1-800-441-4563), or the school you are interested in having your grandchild attend. The DPI and/or your school district should have a list of eligible schools.

**20. My grandchildren have come to live with me after a family crisis. I am interested in home schooling them because they have not done well in the traditional school programs. Where can I get more information about home schooling requirements?**

You can request the registration form PI-1206 from the Department of Public Instruction, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841, or call (608) 266-5761 or (888) 245-2732, Extension 1 and leave a message stating the name and address where you wish to have the form sent. In addition, the DPI Web site at <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/sms/homeb.html> provides lots of information, including a list of frequently asked questions and answers. If you don't have access to a computer, go to your public library and ask for help in getting information on home schooling.

**21. My granddaughter is pregnant. Is there somewhere other than the public schools where she can continue her education and get special help?**

Wisconsin Shares is a child care financial assistance program for young mothers that can help them to continue their education during pregnancy and sometimes after the baby is born. Call the Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) at 1-888-713-KIDS (5473) for eligibility requirements and general information. To find support services, counseling, and other programs serving pregnant teens or young mothers, you can talk with her school counselor or contact the local resources and support services for your county that are listed at the end of this chapter.

**22. My teenage granddaughter was suspended from her high school before she came to live with me. I live in the same school district, but she will be going to a different high school. Because she was suspended, what do I need to do to enroll her in the high school in my neighborhood? There was talk of expulsion if her behavior does not improve. How is expulsion different from suspension?**

A school may suspend a student for only up to five days. However, if a notice of an expulsion hearing has been sent, the pupil may be suspended for up to 15 consecutive school days. Expulsion first requires a hearing and may result in a student's being expelled until he or she reaches the age of 21. The length of expulsion may vary and may include conditions under which your granddaughter can be readmitted to school.

Despite being suspended, your granddaughter still has a right to make up missed work and to get credit for the classes. For answers to frequently asked questions about suspensions and expulsions, compulsory school attendance, and dropouts, go to the following DPI Web site: <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlsea/sspw/index.html> You may also ask the DPI (800-441-4563) for a copy of "Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About Compulsory School Attendance, Suspension and Expulsion, Dropouts, Educating Incarcerated Youth, and Contracting with Technical Colleges," August 2000, or speak directly to a consultant.

**23. My grandson, who dropped out of high school, would now like to get a General Education Development (GED) certificate or High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED). What is the difference between the two, which would be the better choice, and where can he go to get help?**

A high school diploma or an HSED is a minimum requirement for most jobs today. For all branches of the military, the University of Wisconsin System, and a growing number of employers, the GED certificate is not the same as a high school diploma or HSED.

The state of Wisconsin requires that before your grandson can take the GED, he must be at least 18 years and 6 months of age and that the class with which he entered ninth grade has graduated. Your grandson can take the GED tests, pass them, and receive a GED Certificate. Or he can go further by taking all of the GED tests and a health, citizenship, employability skills, and career-awareness program—or the options listed below—and receive an HSED.

Earning Wisconsin's HSED is similar to the studies required for high school graduation. Five options are available to earn an HSED:

- Pass the GED tests, complete the health, citizenship, and employability skills requirement, and receive career-awareness counseling
- Earn any missing high school credits at a local high school or technical college
- Finish 24 semester credits or 32 quarter credits at a university or technical college, including instruction in any area of study not covered in high school
- Complete a foreign degree or diploma program

- Complete a program offered by a technical college or community-based group that has been approved by the state superintendent of public instruction as a high school completion program

For most persons, the best option in making the choice is to enroll in a technical college or to participate in a program offered by a community-based group. A counselor there will test your grandson's reading skills and talk with him about his career interests and working skills in a counseling session. In that counseling session, the counselor will also explain all of the high school equivalency diploma options.

You and your grandson can find more information about the requirements for Wisconsin's GED/HSED program by calling the Department of Public Instruction at (800) 441-4563 or going to DPI's Education Options Web site:  
<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlsis/edop/gedhsed.html>

#### **IV. Education for Children With Special Needs/Developmental Delays**

##### **1. I think my grandchild has a special need and/or a developmental delay. What should I do?**

The sooner you recognize and question what seems to you to be a delay in your grandchild's growth and/or development, the sooner she can begin to receive help. Every county in Wisconsin has a Birth to 3 program that will give your grandchild a free evaluation of her development. You may refer your grandchild to the Birth to 3 program yourself at any time if you have concerns. If your child is 3 or older but is not yet in school, you can call the school your grandchild will go to for kindergarten. You may ask the school to screen your child for special needs or developmental delays by writing a letter to the principal of the school. With your written permission, the school district will give your grandchild a free developmental screening. They will ask you to meet with them and talk about services your grandchild may need before she is old enough for kindergarten. These services are special education services but are especially designed for young children.

There are many services available for children with developmental delays and disabilities. Some are listed here.

- Wisconsin First Step Information and Referral Center (1-800-642-STEP)
- Children with Special Health Care Needs Resource Centers:
  - Northeastern Region: St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin; (920) 433-8958
  - Northern Region: Family Resource Connection, Sacred Heart/St. Mary's Hospital in Rhineland; (715) 365-8030
  - Southeastern Region: Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee; (414) 266-NEED (6333)

- Southern Region: Board of Regents, University of Wisconsin System at the Waisman Center in Madison; (608) 263-5764
- Western Region: Chippewa County Department of Health in Chippewa Falls; (715) 726-7900

## **2. My grandchild has a disability. What kinds of services are there for her in school?**

If you believe your grandchild has a disability, special education may be able to help her in school. You can talk to your grandchild's teacher about your concerns, or you can ask the school to decide if she needs special education by writing a letter to the principal of your grandchild's school. The letter should say that this is a referral for special education and tell why you think she may need special education. Include the date you write the letter, your grandchild's first and last name, date of birth, the name of the school and your name and telephone number. Make a copy of the letter if you can, and start a file for the paperwork the school will send you.

Public schools must follow state and federal laws. They must get permission from a child's parent to test a child or give her special education. If you have legal custody of your grandchild, the school may ask you to agree in writing for the school to test your grandchild. The school will give you information about your rights and include you in making decisions about what services your grandchild needs in school. These services are free. Depending on your grandchild's needs, services may include special help from teachers, special materials or equipment, and related services like physical therapy and occupational therapy to help your grandchild benefit from special education. If she needs nursing services or other medically related help to be able to attend school, these also will be provided.

Children with disabilities may need additional help outside of school to improve their medical problems or to help them learn how to take care of themselves at home or in the community. You can ask your grandchild's doctor to recommend services like nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, or other special services. These services are not free but may be paid for by health insurance or medical assistance.

## **3. What federal laws are there that ensure equal educational opportunities for children with disabilities?**

Schools, colleges, universities, and other educational institutions must ensure equal educational opportunities for all students, including students with disabilities. This responsibility is based on Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), federal laws that are enforced by the federal Office of Civil Rights. Section 504 covers all schools, school districts, and colleges and universities that get federal funds. Under this law, school districts must provide a free appropriate education to students with disabilities based on their individualized educational needs. The services may include special education and related aids and services such as physical therapy. Services may also include changes to the

regular education program, like special test-taking procedures and different rules about absences when a student's absences are due to a disability. School districts must also ensure that students are not harassed by other students or staff because of their disabilities. Disability harassment is a form of discrimination prohibited by Section 504 and ADA.

Students who have an individualized education program (IEP) are already protected by Section 504. If your grandchild does not have an IEP but needs special accommodations for a disability, find out who is the Section 504 coordinator in your grandchild's school. You can discuss your concerns with that person and ask for a Section 504 evaluation. Individuals and organizations also may file complaints with the Office of Civil Rights if they believe a student is experiencing discrimination in school because of a disability. The nearest Office of Civil Rights is:

OCR Region V  
111 North Canal Street  
Chicago, IL 60606  
(312) 886-8434; (312) 353-2540 (TTY)

On the Internet, the Office of Civil Rights can be found at  
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/>

#### **4. How will I know how my grandchild with a disability is doing in school?**

If you need more information from the school or have concerns about your grandchild's progress, you can call your grandchild's teacher. If your grandchild needs special education, and you are acting as her parent, you will work as part of a team along with her teachers to make a plan called an Individualized Education Program or IEP. The IEP is developed at a meeting, and the school will ask you to come and be a part of the meeting. At this meeting, you also will get information about how your grandchild is doing, and you will be able to tell other members of the team what your concerns are for your grandchild. As a part of the team, you will write goals for your grandchild to work toward during the school year, decide how the school will measure her progress, and decide how you will be kept informed of that progress. Since you are part of the team, you will help make these decisions. The school will give you a copy of the IEP. If you think the IEP needs to be changed during the year, you can ask the school for another IEP meeting. There will be an IEP meeting at least once a year.

If you have questions or need more information about the IEP, there are agencies and organizations that can help you learn how to work with teachers in IEP meetings and settle differences that may arise.

Organizations that can offer additional information include:

For Milwaukee:

Family Assistance Center for Education, Training and Support  
2714 North Martin Luther  
Milwaukee WI 53212  
(414) 374-4645

Statewide:

Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative  
CESA 1  
2930 South Root River Parkway  
West Allis WI 53227  
(800) 261-2372 extension 417

Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative  
Bldg. D-2, Mailbox 65  
800 Wisconsin St.  
Eau Claire WI 54703  
(877) 844-4925

Parent Education Project of Wisconsin  
2192 S 60th Street  
West Allis WI 53219  
(800) 231-8321

## **V. Education After High School**

### **1. What are technical colleges and how can my grandchild apply?**

Your grandchild should begin by talking with the high school guidance counselor and ask for information about the colleges she is interested in, what areas she wants to study, and what classes she should be taking to get ready for attending a technical college.

To get more information, you and your grandchild can access the Wisconsin's Technical College System Web site: <http://www.witechcolleges.com> or contact:

Wisconsin Technical College System  
310 Price Place  
P.O. Box 7874  
Madison, WI 53707-7874  
Phone: (608) 267-2485  
Fax: (608) 266-1285  
TTY: (608) 267-2483



## **2. Where can my grandchild call to find out about the various colleges in Wisconsin, including financial aid and scholarship information?**

The best place to start the college search is with the high school guidance counselor. He or she can help find the most appropriate schools to apply to as well as help search for scholarships and financial aid. All high schools offer parent nights on this subject that you can attend. Contact your grandchild's school for more information or you can go to the following list of Web sites for public and private colleges in Wisconsin at <http://badger.state.wi.us/education/> A free, uniform application for financial aid is available at the beginning of each calendar year from your child's school, most public libraries, or at the federal Web site <http://www.ed.gov./offices/OSFAP/Students/apply.html> Beware of sending money to organizations that promise to find your student financial aid. Such information is available at no cost to you.

## **3. Where can my grandchild find out about colleges that are not in Wisconsin?**

Start with the school counselor. There is a guide in all public libraries called *Peterson's Guide to Four-Year Colleges*, a complete guide to all colleges in the United States.



The information in this chapter has been adapted for use in Wisconsin from the state of Delaware's *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource Guide* by Madeline Uranek, International Education Consultant, Department of Public Instruction; Beth Swedeen, Parent Facilitator for the Early Intervention Project at the Waisman Center; Jane Grinde, Director, Bright Beginnings, Department of Public Instruction; Ruth Anne Landsverk, Family and Education Coordinator, Department of Public Instruction; Gay Eastman, Child Development & Early Childhood Education Specialist, UW-Extension Family Living Programs; Mary Roach, Child Development Specialist, UW-Extension Family Living Programs; Stephanie Petska and Patricia Bober, Department of Public Instruction; Dena Targ, Extension Specialist, Purdue University; and Mary Brintnall-Peterson, UW-Extension Family Living Programs. Additional contributions were made by Tim Boals, English as a Second Language Consultant, Department of Public Instruction; Paul Sandrock, Foreign Language Consultant, Department of Public Instruction; and Jill Hagland and Jenny Lange, Early Childhood Consultants, Department of Public Instruction.

The chapter was reviewed by Pat Bober and Deborah Bilzing, Department of Public Instruction.

This chapter is one of eight chapters included in the *Grandparents/Relatives Raising And Nurturing Dependent Children Resource Guide* (GRAND). Other topics addressed in the

resource guide include Child Care, Counseling, Financial Assistance, Health, Housing, Legal, and Parenting Again. They can be found on the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Web site at: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/grand.pdf>

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin presents the information in the *Grandparents/Relative Raising And Nurturing Grandchildren (GRAND) Resource Guide* as a service to those who are raising grandchildren or other kin or to those who are working with them. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and reliability, member organizations of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin and contributors to this resource guide make no warranty or guarantee concerning the accuracy or reliability of the content in the resource guide.



## Education Resources



### PreSchool:

Head Start Providers in Waukesha County:

Head Start Provider-

**Early Head Start**

**#262-548-8080**

**N4 W2200 Bluemound Rd**

**Waukesha, WI 53186**

**Office Hours: M-F 8:30am-4:30 pm**

**Program Hours Vary**

**(SERVICES PROVIDED AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS)**

**Eligibility: Residents of Waukesha Co.: low Income (federal standards); pregnant women Infants, toddlers to age 3 and their families.**

**This is a federally funded family development program that promotes the healthy and successful development of children, parents, and families. Services are individually tailored to fit the unique situation of each family and may include: home based visits, meals and activities with other families, parent/child play groups, child care, and services to promote physical and mental health (provided directly or through referral). Program participants have access to Family Resource Center services including toy lending; infant and toddler playgroups; a family resource library; parenting groups for fathers, pregnant women, and new parents; computer use and internet access; a wellness center; free products (including food); and on going special activities. The program is wheelchair accessible and Spanish is spoken. Call the office for intake procedures and further details.**

**Head Start Income guidelines-**

Wisconsin Head Start Association

**122 E. Olin Avenue, Suite 110**

Madison, WI 53713

**(608) 265-9422**

**<http://vranix.waisman.wisc.edu>**

Other City of Waukesha Preschool providers-

**Four C-Community**

**Coordinated Child Care**

**116 E. Pleasant St. (Lower)**

**Milwaukee, WI 53212**

**(414) 562-2676**

## **Tutoring Resources:**

**Literacy Services of Wisconsin  
2724 W. Wells St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53208  
(414) 344-5878**

**LaCasa De Esperanza, Inc.  
410 Arcadian Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 547-0887  
Business Hours: M-F 7:30am to 5:30pm  
After School Tutoring—contact Emilia Hernandez  
for further details on times.**

**Waukesha County Technical College  
800 Main Street  
Pewaukee, WI 53072  
(262) 691-5566  
Business Hours: M-F 8am to 5PM  
Call for information.**

**Carroll College  
Educational Department  
(262) 524-7288**

**Contact individual schools—may have individual list of tutors available.**

**CESA's/Ameritech Homework Helpline  
(800) 222-2912**

**Department of Public Instruction:**

**Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
P.O. Box 7841  
125 S. Webster St.  
Madison, WI 53707-7841  
(800) 441-4563  
Or (608) 266-3390**

**General Information Web-site: [www.dpi.state.wi.us](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us)**

**School Choice: [www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/sms/choice.html](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/sms/choice.html)**

**Wisconsin. School District Web site:**

**<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/schldist.html>**

**Open Enrollment: <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/oeparinf.html>**

**Special Education Rights for Parents and Children:**

**<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/een/pcrights.html>**

**Compulsory School Attendance:**

**<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlsea/sspw/index.html>**

**Waukesha County Public School Districts:**

**Arrowhead**

**700 North Avenue  
Hartland, WI 53029-1179  
(262) 367-3611  
Web: [www.ahs.k12.wi.us](http://www.ahs.k12.wi.us)**

**Elmbrook**

**P.O. Box 1830  
Brookfield, WI. 53008-1830  
(262) 781-3030  
Web: [www.elmbrook.k12.wi.us](http://www.elmbrook.k12.wi.us)**

**Hamilton**

**W220N6151 Town Line Rd.  
Sussex, WI 53089-3999  
(262) 246-1973  
Web: [www.hamiltondist.k12.wi.us](http://www.hamiltondist.k12.wi.us)**

**Hartland-Lakeside J3**

**800 N. Shore Drive  
Hartland, WI 53029-2713  
(262) 369-6700  
Web: [www.hartlake.org](http://www.hartlake.org)**

**Kettle Moraine**  
P.O. Box 901  
Wales, WI 53183-0901  
(262) 968-6330  
Web: [www.kmsd.edu](http://www.kmsd.edu)

**Lake Country**  
1800 Vettleson Rd.  
Hartland, WI 53029-8890  
(262) 367-3606  
Web: [jgotting@badger.k12.wi.us](mailto:jgotting@badger.k12.wi.us)

**Menomonee Falls**  
N84W16579 Menomonee Ave.  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-3040  
(262) 255-8440  
Web: [www.sdmf.k12.wi.us](http://www.sdmf.k12.wi.us)

**Merton Community**  
P.O. Box 15  
Merton, WI 53056-0015  
(262) 538-1130  
Web: [www.merton.k12.wi.us](http://www.merton.k12.wi.us)

**Mukwonago**  
423 Division St.  
Mukwonago, WI 53149-1294  
(262) 363-6300  
Web: [www.mukwonago.k12.wi.us](http://www.mukwonago.k12.wi.us)

**Muskego-Norway**  
S87W18763 Woods Rd.  
Muskego, WI 53150-9374  
(262) 679-5400  
Web: [www.mnsd.k12.wi.us](http://www.mnsd.k12.wi.us)

**New Berlin**  
4333 S. Sunny slope Rd.  
New Berlin, WI 53151-6844  
(262) 789-6220  
Web: [www.nbps.k12.wi.us](http://www.nbps.k12.wi.us)

**Norris**  
W247S10395 Center Rd.  
Mukwonago, WI 53149-9145  
(262) 662-5911  
Email: [els503@aol.com](mailto:els503@aol.com)

**North Lake**  
P.O. Box 188  
North Lake, WI 53064-0188  
(262) 966-2033  
Web: [www.nlschool@nlake.k12.wi.us](http://www.nlschool@nlake.k12.wi.us)

**Oconomowoc Area**  
W360N7077 Brown St.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-1111  
(262) 567-6632 X 211  
Web: [www.oasd.k12.wi.us](http://www.oasd.k12.wi.us)

**Pewaukee**  
510 Lake St.  
Pewaukee, WI 53072-3698  
(262) 691-2100  
Web: [www.pewaukee.k12.wi.us](http://www.pewaukee.k12.wi.us)

**Richmond**  
N56W26530 Richmond Rd.  
Sussex, WI 53089-4299  
(262) 538-1360  
Web: [www.richmond.k12.wi.us](http://www.richmond.k12.wi.us)

**Stone Bank**  
N68W33866 County Road K  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-1442  
(262) 966-2900  
Web: [www.stonebank.k12.wi.us](http://www.stonebank.k12.wi.us)

**Waukesha**  
222 Maple Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53186-4725  
(262) 970-1012  
Web: [www.waukesha.k12.wi.us](http://www.waukesha.k12.wi.us)

## **School District of Waukesha—Alternative Programs:**

Harvey Philip's Alternative Charter School  
621 W. College Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 970-4355

**There are several alternative programs in the Harvey Philip building. They include the following:**

### **High School Alternative School-Competency Program:**

Age 17 and up; only senior age students are eligible, must have less than 16 credits, and must enter by Oct. 1.

Students usually have had previous attendance issues: includes work and community service requirement.

**High School Credit Alternative Program: This program delivers a computer-assisted program (Plato) supplemented by other modules to individual students based on need. Includes work and community service component. Grades 10-11.**

**Collaborative Alternative Program (Capstone, Sr.): Parents seeking direction for their kids, some ATOD, low academic achievement-gray area kids, students want to try, most try courses while they are at their high school, TRY and bilingual programs not intensive enough to meet need, low self esteem from school failure, anger management issues resulting from home and school issues, grieve lack of a normal school and personal success. Some family issues. Grades 9 to 11.**

**SAPAR (School Age Parents Program): Students (98% female) who are or are about to become parents. Teaching and support staffs in the high schools provide additional support, when the girls return to their high school setting.**

Other alternative programs that the school district of Waukesha provides in the regular school setting are as follows:

**TRY (Take Responsibility for Yourself): Located in each middle school and high school in the district. Students who are failing; gray area students; credit deficient; may have family issues and attendance problems.**

**Lauer Program: Located at 1400 Nike Drive in Waukesha. A joint program with Waukesha County Health and Human Services; serves adjudicate and students who engage in delinquent behavior as an attempt to keep them in the community. Students have family issues, ATOD, gang issues, behavior issues, and most often special needs. Open to students countywide. Serves grades 8-12.**



Tuition Programs: Located at several different sites in the county. Contact Student Services office at (262) 970-1100. Programs include Project Success; Community Day Treatment, Norris, Kradwell, St. Charles. Children grades 7-12 who have severe behaviors; family issues, at risk of out of home placement due to serious mental health problems are served. Usually students with disabilities.

Future Point: Located at Kaiser, Inc., 237 South St. Waukesha. Serves grade 11. Takes students out of school two or three hours for service by this employment oriented CBO. Students are usually credit deficient but work force oriented. Most students have other issues.

WCTC 30 Credit Option/Special Needs: WCTC-Pewaukee Campus; Served grades 11 and 12. Recommended by schools, approved by SS/SE Director. Serves students with no chance of regular graduation. Non-conformist to regular setting; history of non-engagement in high school; can be good independent workers. Some expelled students.

(JAWS) Junior Academic and Work Support: WCTC Downtown Campus & Kaiser Waukesha; Serves grade 11; can hold jobs; not successful with regular high school courses; need environmental change; non-relater to high school; does well in smaller setting.

HSED/Senior Aged students with work support: Serves grade 12; students cannot receive HSED until their senior class has graduated or they are eighteen and a half. Students begin to take the tests prior to their eighteenth birthday and finish sometime during the year.

\*\*\*EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY WILL HAVE IT'S OWN SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS—PLEASE CONTACT EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTLY FOR CURRENT INFORMATION AND STATUS.

### Education for Children with Disabilities:

#### **Autism**

**Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin  
9733 W. St. Martins Rd.  
Franklin, WI 53132  
(414) 427-9345**

The Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin is a volunteer-run agency that has information and referral services, support groups, educational programming, networking opportunities, and an extensive lending library.

**Services are available to people with an autism spectrum disorder, their families and the professionals who work with the disorder, as well as other interested people.**

**Birth to Three Programs:**

**Listing by County:**

**Web: [www.dhfs.state](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/bdds/b3.htm)**

**wi.us/bdds/b3.htm or call:**

**Wisconsin First Step**

**(800) 642-STEP**

**Waukesha County Birth to Three**

**(262) 896-3446**

**Office: M-F 8am-4: 30 pm**

**Program: varies by service. Call for intake information. Spanish interpretation available.**

**There are people in the community who help children from birth to age three get the start they deserve. They are therapists, social workers, nurses, and teachers who give early intervention services. Early intervention simply means help: the extra help a child needs now that might make a difference later.**

Wisconsin First Step is a toll-free information and referral service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Callers will learn about early intervention services and other related services get the names and phone numbers of agencies with people who can answer their questions.

**Home Schooling Resources:**

**Legal Assistance—**

**Home School Legal Defense Association**

**PO Box 3000**

**Purcellville, VA 20134**

**540) 338-2733**

**Web: <http://www.hslda.org/>**

**The Home School Legal Defense Association is a nonprofit organization established to defend and advance the constitutional right of parents to direct the education of their children and to protect family freedoms. Through annual memberships, HSLDA has tens of thousands of families united in service together, providing a strong voice when and where needed. HSLDA assists on the legal front by fully representing member families at every stage of proceedings. Each, year, thousands of member families receive legal consultation by letter and phone, hundreds more are represented through negotiations with local officials, and dozens are represented in court proceedings. HSLDA also takes the offensive, filing actions to protect members against government intrusion and to establish legal precedent. On occasion, HSLDA also will handle precedent-setting cases for non-members.**

Research, Seminars:  
**National Home Education Research Institute**  
PO Box 13939  
Salem, OR 93709  
(503) 363-1490  
Web: <http://www.nheri.org/>

The mission of NHERI is three-fold: To produce high-quality research on home education; to serve as a clearinghouse of research for home educators, researchers, policy makers, and the media; and to educate the public about the findings of all such research. Services offered on a regular basis include: speaking to home schooling and other types of conferences about home schooling research; giving seminars and lectures on how to teach children at home; doing state- and national-level research about the home schooling community; and speaking to the media (television, radio, newspapers, etc.) about home schooling issues.

Resources:  
**Wisconsin Christian Home**

Support:  
**Educators Association**  
2307 Camel Ave.  
Racine, WI 53405  
(262) 637-5127  
Web: <http://www.execpc.com/~jang/>

Wisconsin CHEA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving all home educators in the State of Wisconsin. Four times per year, CHEA publishes a newsletter, The CHEA Update. There are two conferences per year: a family conference in the fall and an intensive “learning” conference in the spring for parents and teens.

Getting Started:  
**Wisconsin Parents Association**  
PO Box 2502  
Madison, WI 53701-2502  
(608) 283-3131  
Web: [www.homeschooling-wpa.org/](http://www.homeschooling-wpa.org/)

The Wisconsin Parents Association (WPA) is an inclusive statewide grassroots organization that was founded in 1984 to get a reasonable home schooling law. Since then, home schooler's have worked through WPA to provide information about home schooling to interested families, the general public, and the Wisconsin Legislature; to counter numerous challenges to Wisconsin's home schooling law; to maintain home schooling rights and freedoms; and make sure that home schooler's can choose an education that meets their principles and beliefs.

## **Adult Education Programs**

- ❖ **GED instruction**
- ❖ **English as a Second Language**
- ❖ **Adult Basic Education**
- ❖ **Literacy instruction**

### **WCTC Waukesha Campus**

**327 E. Broadway**

**Waukesha, WI 53186**

**(262) 691-5566 Pewaukee**

**(262) 691-5293 TDD-Pewaukee**

**(262) 521-5190 Waukesha campus**

**Office hours: Monday -Thursday 8am to 9pm**

**Friday 8am to 4:30 pm**

A wide variety of continuing education classes and seminars to help individuals upgrade their job skills and seek retraining or benefit from personal enrichment are offered.

Other programs open to the public include:

- 1. High school completion programs**
- 2. English as a second Language**
- 3. Computer Interactive Literacy Program (PALS)**
- 4. Adult basic education courses**
- 5. Consumer counseling**
- 6. Citizenship classes**
- 7. Job Training Partnership (JTPA) programs and athletics**

The programs are offered for families in transition, women, veterans, non-English speaking individuals, and students with special needs.

**La Casa De Esperanza, Inc.**  
410 Arcadian Avenue  
**Waukesha, WI 53186**  
**(262) 547-0887**  
**Office: Monday -Friday 7:30 am to 5:30 pm**

Services offered:

- **Employment programs: Teach basic job seeking skills to adults who have traditionally been unemployed. Job placement matches the educational background and employment goals of adults seeking employment with needs existing in the private sector. Also provide employment services for individuals on W2.**
- **English as a Second language: Work experience program designed to assist adults with improving their job-related language and literacy skills.**
- **Minority Higher Education Learning Project (MHELP): Retention counseling directed toward students pursuing higher education at Waukesha County Technical College.**

Children with Disabilities:  
**Child Find—School District of Waukesha**

**The School District of Waukesha works on an annual basis to gather school census information as one means of identifying children with special education needs. Census brochure questions ask for the name of parents, street address, telephone number, city and zip code. Additional information requested on each child is in the child's name, birth date, grade, sex, school code, ethnic code, and a disability code (if applicable). The disability code is not worded as to constitute a referral. It allows a parent to identify if a condition is suspected or has been identified. The disability code also allows for a consultation request. The name of children identified is sent to the Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services for follow-up, parent communication, and possible referral.**

**Periodic awareness campaigns (using a variety of media including television, radio, and newspapers) are conducted to alert and inform district residents as to what programs exist for children with special needs. A public awareness campaign precedes the school census each year.**

**Brochures describing children ages three to six who might qualify for special education services are periodically distributed to physicians, dentists, day care centers, YWCA, YMCA, the city recreation department, public health department, etc. These brochures also describe the referral and**

**testing process and given a contact person to consult if more information is desired or if a referral seems to be needed.**

Each fall, advertisements are placed in the local newspapers. These ads give information about the identification of special education children and the process available for children age's three to six with special needs. Radio stations also run informational public service announcements regarding Child Find.

**The Early Childhood program's support chairperson works as a liaison between community agencies and the Waukesha Public Schools. Each year the agencies are contacted and consultative services are offered. Regular meetings are held with those agencies that service children with special needs from birth to three years of age who will eventually attend the Waukesha Public Schools in an effort to ease the transition and educational planning for these students.**

**Children with Special Health Care Needs:  
Children with Special Health Care  
Needs Resource Centers  
Southeastern Region:  
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee, WI  
(414) 266-6333**

**Blind or Visually Impaired Children:  
Center for Blind and Visually Impaired Children  
5600 W. Brown Deer Rd. #4  
Milwaukee, WI 53223  
(414) 355-3060**

**Educational intervention (early childhood exceptional education, education for blind and visually impaired, orientation and mobility) and therapies (occupational, physical, speech/language) are provided for blind and visually impaired infants and young children (one week through five years), including children with multiple handicaps. Service is primarily given at the Center, with home visits available. Parents or other relative caregivers are involved in their child's program. Also offers parent/caregiver education and support groups.**

Attention Deficit Disorder:  
**CHADD of Southeast Wisconsin**  
**P.O. Box 1477**  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-1477  
**(414) 299-9442**

**CHADD of Southeast Wisconsin is a local chapter of CHADD National, a nonprofit, parent based organization formed to make better the lives of individuals with Attention Deficit Disorders (ADD) and those who care for them. Through education, support and advocacy, CHADD works to make sure that those with ADD develop their abilities. CHADD of SE WI also holds a number of support groups throughout southeastern Wisconsin for parents and adults with ADD. All support groups are free and open to the public.**

Recreation for Children With Disabilities:  
**Special Olympics**  
**10224 N. Port Washington Rd.**  
**Mequon, WI 53092**  
**(262) 241-7786**

**Offers year round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults who have cognitive disabilities through forty local training programs based in communities, schools, residential and treatment facilities. Sports include basketball, softball, volleyball, soccer, track and field, aquatics, bowling, gymnastics, Nordic skiing, cross-country skiing, speed skating, bocce, tennis, golf, snowshoeing, and power lifting. Transportation is provided to state level competitions. Some local groups have informal parent groups.**





# **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**G**RANDPARENTS/RELATIVES

**R**AISING

**A**ND

**N**URTURING

**D**EPENDENT CHILDREN

**Waukesha County Resource Guide**





# Financial Assistance



**For Information on:**

**See Question Number:**

Public Support and Assistance Programs .....	Section I
Kinship Care	
Wisconsin Kinship Care Program.....	1, 2
Foster Care .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Medicaid/Medical Assistance .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BadgerCare .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Food Stamps.....	1, 2, 3, 4
Child Care .....	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Wisconsin Shares .....	2
CHIPS/JIPS.....	3
Supplemental Security Income (SSI).....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Wisconsin Works (W-2) .....	1, 2
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) .....	1
Low Income Home Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP).....	1, 2, 3
Other Types of Assistance .....	Section II
Job Centers.....	1
Emergency Funds.....	2
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) .....	3
Resource List .....	Following the Q&A



# Financial Assistance



The resource section at the end of this chapter gives you the locations, phone numbers, and/or Web sites of agencies where you can find help. For access to computers and assistance in reaching the information available on Web sites, contact your local public libraries, senior centers, community centers, or family resource centers.



## I. Public Support and Assistance Programs

Children and relative caregivers may be able to get help from several public support and assistance programs. A grandparent or other relative who is caring for a dependent child can apply for most of these programs or get information on how to apply for these programs at their county or tribal human or social services agency. Only the most common public support programs are listed below. Relatives should call their local human or social services agency to learn about any other support programs from which they or the children they care for might be able to get help.

To fill out an application for financial help, you will probably need to bring the Social Security number of each person who will benefit from the services, and household income and asset information. Each program's requirements may be different.

Read through the information about the following assistance programs to help you decide what help may be available for you in caring for your grandchild.

### **Kinship Care (and Long-Term Kinship Care)**

#### **1. What is the Wisconsin Kinship Care Program?**

Kinship Care is a state-funded and county/tribal-administered program that gives financial support to adult relatives caring for minor children.

##### **(a) Which relatives are eligible to get Kinship Care?**

The following adult relatives may get Kinship Care benefits for a minor child: grandparent or great-grandparent or great-great-grandparent, a stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, first cousin, nephew, niece, aunt, or uncle. The relative may be related to the child by blood, adoption, or marriage to any person listed above, even if that marriage ended in death or divorce.

**(b) What ages of children does Kinship Care cover?**

Children up to age 18 are covered by Kinship Care. Kinship Care also is available to eighteen-year-olds who are still in school, have good grades, and most likely will graduate.

**(c) What is the amount of help I can expect to get from Kinship Care?**

The Kinship Care benefit is \$215 per child per month.

**(d) What are the requirements for getting Kinship Care?**

The child's and relative's eligibility are determined by the county or tribal Kinship Care agency and must be reassessed each year. *All* of the following must be met to receive Kinship Care:

- The Kinship Care agency must find that the child's needs are better met if he or she lives with the relative than if the child lives with his or her parent(s).
- The child must be in need of protection or services, or the child must be at risk of needing protection or services, as defined by state statute.
- All adults living or employed in the relative's household must agree to a criminal background check. Kinship Care will not be given if any adult is found to have a criminal record that could place the child in a bad situation or affect the relative's ability to care for the child.
- The relative caretaker must also cooperate with the Kinship Care agency in referring the child's parents to child support unless there is a good reason for the relative's not helping with a referral for the parents, and the Kinship Care agency agrees.
- Children who are already getting Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cannot get help from Kinship Care.

**2. Where can grandparents or other relative caregivers apply for Kinship Care? Adult caretakers should apply with their county or tribal human or social services department.**

**(a) What is the Long-Term Kinship Care Program?**

Long-Term Kinship Care is a lot like Kinship Care. It gives \$215 a month for the care of each minor child by an adult relative. Long-Term Kinship Care is available only to relatives who have legal guardianship for a child under s. 48.977 Wisc. Stats. Courts can only order guardianship under section 48.977 if a child has been placed in out-of-home care under the child protective services system. Grandparents or other relatives who have been given guardianships under other Wisconsin statutes cannot apply for Long-Term Kinship Care. Since this guardianship is required for Long-Term Kinship Care, there are fewer requirements that need to be met.

**(b) Are there time limits for Kinship Care?**

No, there are no time limits for receiving Kinship Care or Long-Term Kinship Care.

**(c) Are there work requirements for Kinship Care?**

No, there are no work requirements for Kinship Care or Long-Term Kinship Care.

## **Foster Care**

### **1. What is Foster Care?**

Foster Care benefits are a monthly payment for the care of children living in the home of foster parents. The payment is meant to cover the cost of providing food, shelter, and other daily needs for the child in foster care.

### **2. How do I know if my grandchildren can get foster care?**

Foster care can be paid only for children who have been taken from their own homes by an order of the Children's Court and placed with a licensed foster family. The Children's Court will order a child removed from his or her home only if the child has been found in need of protection or services, or is a delinquent. Generally, the child must have been abused or neglected or is unsafe in the home. A teenager may be placed in foster care if he or she is found to be out of control and in need of services. Additional payments may be provided if the child has special needs.

### **3. Who may be paid foster care?**

Adults must be licensed as foster parents in order to be paid foster care benefits. Also, the child must have been placed with the foster parent by the county's or tribe's juvenile court.

### **4. Where may a person apply for a foster care license?**

County and some tribal human services departments and private child-placing agencies have the right to license foster parents.

### **5. May grandparents or other relatives be licensed as foster parents to care for children?**

Any adult may be licensed as a foster parent as long as he or she meets the requirements to be licensed. Each county or tribe decides whether to place a child in foster care with a relative. In order for the county or tribe to pay foster care, the relative must be licensed and the county must place the child by a Children's Court order. Counties do have the choice of placing a child under the Kinship Care program rather than under foster care, or the relative caretaker may apply for a foster home license and receive a foster care payment.

## **Medicaid/medical assistance**

### **1. What is Medicaid?**

Medicaid is a program jointly sponsored by states and the federal government to cover the costs of health care services for eligible people. In Wisconsin, Medicaid is referred to as Medical Assistance.

### **2. What are the requirements for getting Medical Assistance?**

In order to get Medical Assistance, a person's income and assets must not go over the limits set for Medical Assistance, and the person must meet *one* of the following:

- Is under age 19
- Is 65 years and older
- Is disabled or blind
- Is the caretaker relative of a deprived child
- Is pregnant

### **3. Who is a “caretaker of a deprived child” for Medical Assistance purposes?**

A grandparent or other relative is a “caretaker of a deprived child” if one or both of the child's parents is not living in the home, or if both parents are in the home and one parent is incapacitated, unemployed, or an offender working without pay.

### **4. Will my income and assets affect whether or not my grandchild is eligible for Medical Assistance?**

The income and assets of a child's relative are not considered when deciding if a child can get Medical Assistance. Child support from a child's parents who are absent from the home is counted.

### **5. Where can I apply for Medical Assistance?**

In Wisconsin, county and tribal human or social services departments and W-2 agencies take applications. Recipient Services at (800) 362-3002 (TTY and translation services available) can give you more information about where to apply for Wisconsin Medical Assistance.

### **6. What service does Wisconsin Medical Assistance cover?**

- The services that Wisconsin Medical Assistance covers include:
- Doctor's visits, including prenatal care
- Well-child and HealthCheck visits, including immunizations (shots)
- Hospital care
- Vision care, including eye glasses
- Prescription drugs

- Family planning services and supplies
- Occupational, physical and speech language therapy
- Mental health and substance abuse therapy services
- Medical equipment
- Hearing services, including hearing aids; lab and X-ray services
- Dental services
- Transportation to Medical Assistance services
- Home care services.

## **BadgerCare**

It is required by federal law that before you can receive BadgerCare, the state must first determine if you qualify for Medical Assistance. In many situations, your grandchild or other minor relative you're caring for will be eligible for Medical Assistance, not BadgerCare. Since both programs cover the same health care benefits, which program the child is legally eligible for really makes no difference. It only matters to the state because of where the monies come from to pay for the care.

### **1. What is BadgerCare?**

BadgerCare is a state program to provide health insurance for uninsured working families.

### **2. Who is eligible for BadgerCare or Medical Assistance?**

The adults and children of any Wisconsin family that has a child 18 years of age or under is eligible for BadgerCare or Medical Assistance as long as:

- The family income is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level at the time of application. (Note: Family income may rise to 201%, at which point the family becomes ineligible.)
- The family has no other means to get health insurance.

### **3. My 16-year-old daughter has had a child. I will be responsible for both my daughter and the child at least until my daughter is 18. May I apply for BadgerCare to cover the needs of my grandchild?**

Either you or your daughter may apply for BadgerCare/Medical Assistance for your granddaughter.

### **4. I am a grandparent who is raising my daughter's children, ages 2 and 5. I have no other children under age 19 in the home. Will BadgerCare cover my grandchildren?**

Children living with relatives may be eligible for BadgerCare or Medical Assistance as long as they:

- Are under age 19
- Have a limited income
- Are not covered by major medical health insurance

There is no limit on the amount of assets children can hold in order to be eligible for BadgerCare.

**5. Can relatives who are raising their relative’s children informally (no legal custody or guardianship) apply for and receive the benefits of BadgerCare to cover the health care needs of the children?**

Relatives raising children may apply for Medical Assistance/BadgerCare for the children. Legal custody is not a requirement. They will be asked to cooperate with the local Child Support office in obtaining financial and medical support from the parents of the children they are raising.

**6. If BadgerCare is not available to relatives who are raising their relative’s children, can they apply for and receive Medical Assistance?**

BadgerCare was created by the state legislature to cover only minor children and their parents living with them. If the only children the relatives are taking care of are not their own, the relatives (e.g., grandparents) do not qualify for BadgerCare. If the relatives have their own minor son or daughter living with them along with these other children, then they could qualify for BadgerCare.

However, grandparents or other relative caregivers who are not eligible for BadgerCare could be eligible for Medical Assistance if they have assets (not including the home) of less than \$1,000 and a monthly income of around \$300 or less. In cases where the relatives have been determined to be disabled or are 65 or older, they may qualify for Medical Assistance if their assets are under \$2,000.

**7. How does BadgerCare differ from the new Children’s Health Insurance Program? Is the CHIP program available in Wisconsin?**

BadgerCare is Wisconsin’s CHIP program. Unlike most other states, Wisconsin’s CHIP covers parents in eligible families.

**Food Stamps**

**1. What is the Food Stamp Program?**

Food stamps are vouchers for food. Food stamps may be used to purchase food or seeds and plants for home food gardens. Food stamps may not be used to buy soap, paper products, pet food, or any other non-food items. They are no longer issued as coupons, but are issued on a debit card called the “Quest” card. This is similar to a credit card and almost all major grocers in Wisconsin accept them.

## **2. How do I know if I'm eligible for food stamps?**

The financial requirements for the Food Stamp Program vary depending on who eats with you, your rent and utility costs, your income, and your assets. The only real way to find out if you're eligible is to apply at your county or tribal human or social services agency.

## **3. Where can I apply for food stamps?**

You can apply at your county or tribal human or social services agency. However, if you are taking part in or applying for W-2, you may apply for food stamps at the W-2 agency.

## **4. My son's three children have come to live with me, and I am receiving food stamps for them. Are there other programs that would help me with the cost of feeding them?**

If the children qualify for food stamps, they can also get free meals that may be offered at their school. If you are not sent an application from the school for this benefit when the children start a new school year or are enrolled in a new school, you can pick up one from the school office. Fill it out and return it to the school. Most schools take part in the National School Lunch Program, which would give the children a free lunch. Many schools also offer the School Breakfast Program, After-School Snacks, and milk programs.

Even if you do not qualify for any of the above programs, which would provide the school meals at no charge, there are other benefits available in the School Nutrition Programs. If you fill out and return the household income application for the school meals programs, you may still qualify for free or reduced prices for school nutrition programs. It is important to fill out this application as soon as possible to get benefits from this program.

For children up to age 5, the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) can help with nutrition needs. To find the WIC office nearest you, call 1-800-222-2189. The American Dietetic Association (ADA) can help you find a dietician in your area with the expertise you need. To request a referral, call ADA at 312-366-1655.

## **Child Care**

### **1. What is Wisconsin's Subsidized Child Care Program?**

Wisconsin's child care program, Wisconsin Shares, provides child care subsidies for low-income working families. Payments are made to the child care provider the parent chooses. For information, call the Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network at 1-888-713-KIDS (5437) or go to the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program's Web site:

<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/des/childcare/wishares/wishares.htm>



## **2. How can I know if I'm eligible for subsidized child care (Wisconsin Shares)?**

If your children are under the age of 13 and you meet the financial qualifications (see question #3), chances are you are eligible for subsidized child care through Wisconsin Shares. For further information, you can call CCR&R at 1-888-713-KIDS (5437), your local Wisconsin Job Center, W-2 agency, or tribal agency. Or you can check out the Wisconsin Shares Web site for an on-line brochure, "Child Care Help," at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/des/childcare/wishares.htm>

## **3. Are there income requirements for receiving subsidized child care?**

There is an income eligibility requirement for child care. The requirements are different, depending on whether a child has been placed with a relative by a court order, or whether the child was placed voluntarily by the family.

If the child is placed with a grandparent or other relative under Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) or a Juvenile in Need of Protection or Services (JIPS) court order, the income eligibility standards apply to the parents' income, not the relative's income. If the child is not currently under a CHIPS or a JIPS order, the relative's income must be taken into account. Call CCR&R at 1-888-713-KIDS (5437) if you have questions about your eligibility.

## **4. Are there work requirements for subsidized child care?**

Yes, the grandparent or other relative care giver must be working in order to get child care subsidies.

## **5. How long will I be able to get subsidized child care?**

A grandparent or other relative caregiver may get subsidized child care as long as he or she meets the eligibility requirements.

## **6. At what age will my grandchild no longer qualify for subsidized child care?**

Subsidized child care is available for children under 13 years of age.

## **7. What types of child care can be subsidized?**

Wisconsin provides subsidies for licensed day care centers and licensed family day care homes. Other more informal arrangements such as neighbors and relatives also can be subsidized, as long as they meet the basic health and safety standards.

## **8. Will the relative caretaker need to pay for any part of the child care?**

Caretakers generally are required to make a co-payment. The amount of the co-payment is set on a sliding scale according to the caregiver's income. However, if the child is placed with a relative by a child welfare agency under a court order, the agency may make the co-payment.

## **9. Where can I apply for subsidized child care?**

You can contact your county or tribal human or social services agency.

## **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**

### **1. What is SSI?**

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a monthly cash benefit paid by the federal Social Security Administration (SSA) and the state Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) to people in financial need who are 65 or older or to people of any age who are blind or disabled and residents of Wisconsin. You can receive the state SSI payment only if you qualify for a federal SSI payment.

### **2. What are the income requirements for receiving SSI?**

You may be eligible for SSI payments if you have little or no income and if your assets are \$2,000 or less for a single person or \$3,000 or less for a married couple. Certain assets do not count, such as your home or car.

### **3. What is the definition of disabled according to SSI?**

Disabled means having a physical or mental condition that keeps someone from working. The condition is one that is expected to last at least a year or that will result in death. Children as well as adults can get benefits because of a disability. When deciding if a child is disabled, Social Security looks at how the disability affects the child's everyday life. For more information about benefits for children, contact any Social Security office to ask for the booklet "Benefits for Children With Disabilities" (Publication No. 05-10026).

If receiving SSI is based on a disability, persons applying for SSI cannot be working at the time they apply unless they are earning less than the substantial gainful activity (SGA) level. Once a person with a disability receives SSI, he or she is eligible until having recovered from the mental or physical condition or no longer meeting a disability-related requirement.

#### **4. What is the definition of blind according to SSI?**

Blind means you are either totally blind or have very poor eyesight. Children as well as adults may receive benefits because of blindness. Sometimes a person whose sight is not poor enough to qualify for benefits as a blind person may be able to receive benefits as a person with a disability if the condition keeps them from working.

#### **5. Must I be a U.S. citizen to get SSI?**

Yes, you must be a U.S. citizen or meet the requirements for non-citizens in order to receive SSI benefits.

#### **6. What is the benefit amount I would receive?**

The combined federal and state benefit ranges from about \$400 to \$900 a month, depending on whether you are living on your own or in someone else's household, and whether you are single or part of a couple.

#### **7. Where can I apply for SSI?**

You can apply for SSI at your nearest Social Security office. You can get more information about federal SSI and how to apply by calling Social Security's toll-free number **(800) 772-1213**. A service representative is available between the hours of 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. on business days. If you have a touch-tone phone, recorded information is available after 7 P.M., seven days a week. Social Security also has an Internet address: <http://www.ssa.gov/> People with a hearing impairment may call the toll-free TTY number **(800) 325-0778** between 7 A.M. and 7 P.M. on business days.

You do not have to apply separately for the state SSI payment. You will automatically receive the state SSI payment as long as you qualify for the federal SSI payment.

### **Wisconsin Works (W-2)**

Wisconsin Works (W-2) is the welfare replacement program for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) based on work participation. In order to be eligible for W-2 services, adults must have children under age 18. Grandparents or other relative caregivers cannot qualify for W-2 by caring for a relative's child; rather these relatives must have their own dependent children.

A parent's child does not have to be living with him or her in order for the parent to be eligible for W-2 or other employment and training programs. The parent can be receiving job training and placement services while a relative receives Kinship Care benefits for the care of a child.

## **1. What types of services are available to parents?**

Parents may receive job readiness training, take community college classes, receive work-site mentoring, work-related transportation assistance, or emergency housing assistance. The W-2 agency serving the parent decides which services will be made available.

## **2. Where should parents go to request employment and training services?**

Parents should go to the local W-2 agency or County or Tribal Economic Support office.

## **TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families)**

### **1. What is TANF?**

TANF is a federal program that replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children. States can decide how to spend federal TANF funds. Wisconsin uses TANF funding for both the W-2 program and the Kinship Care program.

## **Low Income Home Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

### **1. My bills for home heating are more than I can afford, especially now that I'm taking care of my grandchild. Is there any help?**

The Low Income Home Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps you pay for the cost of heating your home. County departments of social/human services operate the program agencies under the direction of the State Department of Administration, Division of Energy.

The Housing chapter of this resource guide has additional information about housing options, requirements, and assistance for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

### **2. How do I know if I am eligible for help?**

Many households with low to moderate incomes are eligible. More information on where to apply and the income guidelines can be located at the following Web site:  
*[www.heat.state.wi.us](http://www.heat.state.wi.us)*

### **3. How do I apply for home heating assistance?**

You must fill out an energy Services Program Application form with your local LIHEAP agency. You will need to provide information on your household's income and heating costs. Only one member of any household may apply for assistance, but the benefit is for the entire household. Check the resource list at the end of this chapter for contact information.

## II. Other Types of Assistance

### 1. I need to get a job to support my grandchild. Where can I get help finding employment?

You can get help finding a job at your local job center. The Wisconsin Job Net is an on-line resource you may use to find employment at the following Web site address:  
*dwd.state.wi.us/jobnet/mapWI.htm*

### 2. Are there any funds to help me if I have an emergency?

You can get money for help in an emergency through your local county human services or tribal agency if you are the victim of a natural disaster, are homeless, or may become homeless. You do not have to be eligible for another program to get help in an emergency. You can receive payments of up to \$150 for each person who is eligible to receive emergency help.

### 3. What is Earned Income Tax Credit and where can I learn more about EIC?

University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension has a Web site that will give you information about three kinds of tax credits: the federal earned income credit, the Wisconsin earned income credit, and the Wisconsin Homestead credit. You can access the Web site at: *http://www.uwex.edu/ces/econ*



The information in this chapter has been adapted for use in Wisconsin from the state of Delaware's *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource Guide* by Robin Ryan, former staff member, Child Welfare Services Section, Division of Children and Family Services and Mark S. Mitchell, Manager, Child Welfare Services Section, Division of Children and Family Services. Additional contributions were made by Stephen M. Dow, Supervisor, Bureau of Work Support Programs; Janet Bodnar, Child Nutrition Program Coordinator, Department of Public Instruction; Rosie Fiscus and Steve Tryon, Energy Assistance, Department of Administration; Susan Nitzke, Professor, Nutritional Sciences, UW-Extension Family Living Programs; John LaPhilliph, Medicaid Policy Analyst, Department of Health and Family Services; and Dave Hippler, Policy Analyst, Office of Food Stamps and Medicaid, Department of Workforce Development.

This chapter was reviewed by Ethel Dunn, Executive Director, Grandparents United for Children's Rights, Inc.; Roberta Riportella-Muller, Department of Consumer Science, School of Human Ecology, UW-Madison; and Ken Germanson, Community Advocates, Inc.

This chapter is one of eight chapters included in the *Grandparents/Relatives Raising And Nurturing Dependent Children (GRAND) Resource Guide*. Other topics addressed in the resource guide include Child Care, Counseling, Education, Health, Housing, Legal, and

Parenting Again issues. They can be found on the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Web site at: <http://www.wues.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/grand.pdf>

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin presents the information in the *Grandparents/Relative Raising And Nurturing Grandchildren (GRAND) Resource Guide* as a service to those who are raising grandchildren or other kin or to those who are working with them. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and reliability, member organizations of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin and contributors to this resource guide make no warranty or guarantee concerning the accuracy or reliability of the content in the resource guide.



# Financial Assistance Resources



## BadgerCare

**BadgerCare Information** BadgerCare web site  
<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/badgercare/>

BadgerCare Brochure in Spanish:  
[http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/badgercare/pdfs/brochure\\_spanish.pdf](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/badgercare/pdfs/brochure_spanish.pdf)

BadgerCare Brochure in Hmong:  
[http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/badgercare/pdfs/brochure\\_hmong.pdf](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/badgercare/pdfs/brochure_hmong.pdf)

**BadgerCare Application Sites** BadgerCare Eligibility Outstation Locations  
**1-800-362-3002**

- Statewide

<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid1/contacts/medcontact2b.htm>

**BadgerCare Application Sites** Badger Care Certifying Tribal Agencies  
**1-800-362-3002**

- Tribal

<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid1/contacts/medcontact2a.htm>

**Note:** Not all tribal agencies certify for Medicaid. Please call your county social/human service agency if you belong to a tribe that currently does not certify for Medicaid.

**BadgerCare Application Sites** WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
**Waukesha County** 892 Main Street  
Pewaukee, WI 53072  
Information: (262) 695-7945

## Medicaid

### Medicaid

Wisconsin Medicaid web site  
<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid/index.htm>

### Medicaid Application Sites

#### • Statewide

Wisconsin Medicaid Eligibility Outstation Locations  
**1-800-362-3002**

<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid1/contacts/medcontact2b.htm>

### Medicaid Application Sites

#### • Tribal

Wisconsin Medicaid Certifying Tribal Agencies  
**1-800-362-3002**

<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid1/contacts/medcontact2a.htm>

Note: Not all tribal agencies certify for Medicaid. Please call your county social/human service agency if you belong to a tribe that currently does not certify for Medicaid.

### Medicaid Application Sites

#### • Waukesha County

Elderly / Disabled / Nursing Home  
Information: (262) 548-7708

### Medicaid Payment Assistance

Medicaid - Wisconsin - Medicaid Purchase Plan  
Madison, WI 53702  
(800) 362-3002

The Medicaid Purchase Plan provides health care coverage to Wisconsin residents with disabilities. Under the Medicaid Purchase Plan, adults with disabilities and a net family income below 250% of the federal poverty level can buy Medicaid coverage. (There are other eligibility requirements. Call 1-800-362-3002 to get more information.) The Medicaid Purchase Plan offers people with disabilities who are working or who are interested in working, the opportunity: to earn more income without the risk of losing their health and long-term care coverage; to have more assets; to save more of their earnings in Independence Accounts, which lets them save for retirement, a new home, or other goods and services that add to their personal and financial independence; to receive the same health benefits offered under Wisconsin Medicaid; and to receive Wisconsin home and community-based waiver services (COP, CIP, ETC), if eligible.



## Medicare

**Medicare Information** Medicare+Choice Program  
125 N Executive Dr Suite 102  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
(262) 821-4444

A toll-free telephone number offering unbiased referral/help for callers, and educational classes for seniors, caregivers and professionals about Medicare+Choice program options.

**Medicare Information** Medigap Hotline  
Board On Aging  
214 N Hamilton St  
Madison, WI 53703  
(800) 242-1060

Counselors at the Medigap Hotline help with evaluating Medicare supplemental insurance and understanding many other related issue that are sometimes confusing such as: assignment, PartnerCare, Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), participating providers, open enrollment, and managed care. Counselors also can give current information on supplementary policies that are marketed in Wisconsin, and information on nursing home insurance, long-term care insurance, and home health care insurance. An Ombudsman Program helps with nursing home complaints and also gives information on nursing home insurance.

## Social Security

**Social Security** Social Security Administration  
701 N. Grand Ave.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
1-800-772-1213 – Toll Free For Anywhere  
<http://www.ssa.gov/>

For information and assistance for Retirement, Survivors, Disability or Supplemental Security Income(SSA) benefits

## Food Stamps / Quest Card

**Food Stamp / Quest Card Information Statewide** When the county or tribal human/social services agency is also the W-2 agency, all individuals apply for food stamps at the county or tribal location.

When the county or tribal human/social services agency is not the W-2 agency, county or tribal workers are available at the W-2 agency to help with deciding eligibility.

County or tribal human/social services agencies continue to decide eligibility for the elderly and disabled at the county or tribal location.

For locations throughout the state, visit:  
<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/destrain/medicaid/Counties.htm>

**Food Stamp / Quest Card Application Sites–Waukesha County only**      Workforce Development Center  
(262) 695-7924  
  
Health and Human Services  
(262) 548-7708

## **WIC – Women, Infants and Children**

State Information:

**Wic**      Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services  
• **Information**      1-608-266-1683  
• **Locations of WIC Projects**      1-800-722-2295  
   <http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/wic/index.htm>

Waukesha County WIC Project locations – always call ahead for an appointment.

## **Wisconsin Shares Child Care subsidy**

**Shares Application Site**      Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program  
• **Statewide**      **1-888-713-KIDS (5437)**  
  
<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/des/childcare/wishares/wishares.htm>

## **Kinship Care Application Sites**

**Kinship Care**      Waukesha County Department of Health and  
• **Application sites**      Human Services – Kinship Care  
500 Riverview Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 548-7212  
<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/desw2/kinship.htm>  
  
<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/des%20sheets/kinship.htm>

Wisconsin pays a cash benefit called a Kinship Care payment to caretakers who are relatives (grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) of minor children. This is a child only payment. Caretakers who are relatives are giving a service that lets children who cannot live with their parent(s) stay with other members of their family. The Kinship Care program funds the care of children with relatives while keeping track of the placements with the relative to make sure that the children are safe and well taken care of. Relatives caring for children who are not their legal responsibility are giving a service to the child and the community and there are no work requirements for them to be in the program. The Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) administers the Kinship Care program.

## **Income Tax Information**

<b>Federal Income Tax Information</b>	Internal Revenue Service – Earned Income Tax Credit Information
• <b>Earned Income Tax Credit</b>	800-829-3676 Information on Earned Income Tax Credit 800-829-1040 General Federal Tax Questions 800-829-4059 for hearing impaired 800-829-4477 Teletax Information <a href="http://www.irs.gov">www.irs.gov</a>

## **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**

Federal Income Tax Information	Internal Revenue Service – Earned Income Tax Credit Information
• Earned Income Tax Credit	800-829-3676 Information on Earned Income Tax Credit 800-829-1040 General Federal Tax Questions for Hearing Impaired 800-829-4477 Teletax Information <a href="http://www.irs.gov">www.irs.gov</a>

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a special credit for certain persons who work. The credit reduces the amount of tax you owe (if any) and is meant to help with some of the increases in living expenses and social security taxes. If you meet certain conditions, you may be eligible for this special tax credit when filing your federal income taxes.





**HEALTH**

**G**RANDPARENTS/RELATIVES

**R**AISING

**A**ND

**N**URTURING

**D**EPENDENT CHILDREN

**Waukesha County Resource Guide**



# Health



**For Information on:**

**See Question Number:**

Financial Concerns.....	Section I
Health Care Assistance Programs.....	1
Medical Assistance .....	1, 4, 5, 7, 9
BadgerCare .....	1, 4, 5, 7, 9
Healthy Start and Healthy Start/ OBRA Kids.....	1, 5, 7, 9
Benefits .....	2
Requirements .....	3
Health Insurance .....	5, 6, 7
Community Health Centers.....	7
Local Health Departments .....	7
Health Care Services at Schools .....	8
Dental Services .....	9
Emergency Medical Assistance .....	10
Health Care Needs .....	Section II
HealthCheck.....	1
Transportation Help .....	2
Developmental Assessment .....	3
Birth-to-3 Program.....	3
Wisconsin First Step.....	3
Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) .....	3, 7
Immunizations.....	4

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) .....	5
Hospitalization .....	6, 7
Home Health Care Services .....	8, 9, 10
Psychiatric Services .....	11
HIV/AIDS .....	12
Pregnant Teens .....	13, 14, 15
Sex Education Information .....	16
Resource List .....	Following the Q&A



# Health



The resource section at the end of this chapter gives you the locations, phone numbers, and/or Web sites of agencies where you can find help. For access to computers and assistance in reaching the information available on Web sites, contact your local public libraries, senior centers, community centers, or family resource centers.



Health care is a very important part of your grandchild's life. While you are likely to take your grandchild to see a doctor when he or she is ill, it is also extremely important for your grandchild to have regular medical check-ups. Very young children from birth to five years of age must see a health care professional to be sure they are on target with their growth and development and to get needed immunizations. Older children should have a checkup at least once a year for the same reasons. Problems that are found early can be treated more easily and more quickly. You, as your grandchild's caregiver, need to be concerned about yourself and your checkups too!

You may be worried about how to pay for health care services for your grandchild. In this chapter you will find two sections: financial concerns and health care needs. The first section gives information on common financial concerns you may have and lists state and federal programs that are available to help you pay for any health care costs for your grandchild. The second section answers questions you may have about your grandchild's health care needs, growth and development.

Many of the services discussed in this chapter can be applied for at any county/tribal, social or human services department in Wisconsin. The resource section at the end of this chapter gives you the locations, phone numbers, and/or Web sites of agencies where you can find help to keep your grandchild healthy.

## I. Financial Concerns

### 1. What are the programs that may offer health care assistance for my grandchildren?

There are several federal-state funded programs that might help you pay for your grandchildren's health care. These include Medical Assistance, Healthy Start, and BadgerCare. These programs cover children in many financial situations. Eligibility is tied to some combination of family income, assets, age and pregnancy status. The income criterion matches a family income to what is considered the federal poverty line. This federal poverty line (FPL) varies by size of household and changes every year. If the child is living with a relative, the income and assets of that relative are not counted. Child support from a child's parents is counted.



These programs also vary by the costs that will be borne by the recipient. For example, Medical Assistance is free, though it includes a small co-payment for some who are eligible. BadgerCare charges a small monthly premium to those with incomes above 150% of the FPL. For the specifics on eligibility and costs for each type of program see Table 1: Wisconsin's Medical Assistance Programs for Children and Families, at the end of this chapter.

These are the specific programs:

### **Medical Assistance (Medicaid<sup>h</sup>)**

*Program defined:* The Medical Assistance program covers children up to age 18 in families with the lowest incomes, approximately 70% of the federal poverty line (FPL). Your grandchild can qualify under the following situations: having one parent present, who is unable to care for the child, is unemployed, or is an offender working without pay.

*How to apply:* You can also apply at any county human or social services department in your area, and the following Web site lists phone numbers and locations of county human or social services departments in Wisconsin:

*<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid1/contacts/medcontact2.htm>*

*Ongoing assistance:* If you are approved to get help from Medical Assistance, you can call Medicaid Recipient Services at 1-800-362-3002 to find out what types of care your grandchild is eligible for under these services. More information on Medical Assistance services in Wisconsin can be found on the following Web site:

*<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Medicaid/index.htm>*

### **BadgerCare**

*Program defined:* BadgerCare is Wisconsin's new state program to provide health insurance for even more uninsured families. There is no limit on assets the family may own but the family may not be covered by other health insurance. BadgerCare covers children ages 6 to 14 and their parents in families with incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty line at the time of enrollment and children 14 to 19 whose family's income is less than 100% of the federal poverty line. However, families will remain eligible even if their income rises to 200% of the FPL. Unfortunately, even if grandparents have legal guardianship of grandchildren, they themselves are not eligible for benefits.

*How to apply:* You can apply at your county/tribal social or human services department or your local W-2 agency, and the locations of these agencies are listed in the resource section at the end of this chapter. You can also apply at any county human or social services department in your area, and the following Web site lists phone numbers and locations of county human or social services departments in Wisconsin: *<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid1/contacts/medcontact2.htm>*

*Ongoing assistance:* If you are approved to get help from BadgerCare, you can call 1-800-362-3002 to find out what types of care your grandchild is eligible for under these services. More information on Medical Assistance services in Wisconsin can be found on the following Web site:

### **Healthy Start and Healthy Start/OBRA Kids**

*Program defined:* Healthy Start extends benefits to pregnant women and children under 6 in families with incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty line. Healthy Start/OBRA (Omnibus Reconciliation Act) Kids covers children 6-14 in families, but with incomes only up to 100% of the FPL. Because health care through the first year of life is so important, a baby who is born to a Healthy Start enrolled mom remains eligible him/herself through the first year of life. This is true even if the family's income increases above the eligibility limit. Two unique benefits paid for by this program are:

- Delivery of the baby
- Health care (including medical, dental, vision, counseling) for pregnant women up to 60 days following delivery

*How to apply:* For more information on Healthy Start and where you can apply, contact the Maternal and Child Health hotline at 1-800-722-2295. You can also apply at any county human or social services department in your area, and the following Web site lists phone numbers and locations of county human or social services departments in Wisconsin:

<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid1/contacts/medcontact2.htm>

*Ongoing assistance:* If you are approved to get help from one of the Healthy Start programs, you can call 1-800-362-3002 to find out what types of care your grandchild is eligible for under these services. (More information on Medical Assistance services in Wisconsin can be found on the following Web site:

<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid1/recpubs/healthystart.htm>

## **2. What kinds of benefits do these three programs offer?**

In all cases, the benefit package (health care services) paid for is the same. Medical Assistance, Healthy Start/Healthy Start-OBRA Kids, and BadgerCare benefits include:

- Doctor visits, including prenatal care
- Well-child and HealthCheck visits, including immunizations (shots)
- Hospital care
- Vision care, including eye glasses
- Prescription drugs
- Family planning services and supplies
- Occupational, physical and speech language therapy

- Mental health and substance abuse therapy services
- Medical equipment
- Hearing services, including hearing aids
- Lab and X-ray services
- Dental services
- Transportation to Medicaid services
- Home care services

**3. Are there any special requirements for whom to see for care if you are on one of the three programs?**

Yes. And it is important to know what they are; otherwise you might be responsible for paying for the health care your grandchild receives. If you are certified by the state of Wisconsin to enroll in Medical Assistance, Healthy Start or BadgerCare, in most cases you must choose a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) and follow its rules. It is very important that you follow your HMO's rules when you get medical care so you are not sent a bill for the services. In general, you must receive your care from your HMO's providers, hospitals, and pharmacies. It is that provider who has permission to refer you to another provider.

The major exception to this rule is if there is a serious emergency. The HMO will provide you with definitions of what it considers an emergency situation. Some examples of emergency care are choking, having trouble breathing, serious broken bones, unconsciousness, severe burns, severe pain, severe or unusual bleeding, suspected poisoning, suspected heart attack, suspected stroke, convulsions, and prolonged or repeated seizures. Whenever possible in these cases, it is best to call your insurer.

You cannot be asked to pay a co-payment or a premium for any emergencies that are covered in the Medicaid/BadgerCare programs.

**4. When I signed my granddaughter up for BadgerCare, I was told I had to choose a health plan for her and a primary care provider with that health plan. Why is this and how does it work?**

For several years now, both Medicaid and BadgerCare have required that beneficiaries join a managed care plan. This requirement allows the state to have more control over health care costs without reducing the quality of care, and works the same way that managed care does for anyone who is insured. If you live in all but a few zip code areas in the state, you will have to choose one of several health plans for your granddaughter and stick to that plan for a year. One of the ways in which managed care plans control costs is to limit which health care providers you go to see. You will only be allowed to take your granddaughter to providers in that plan. You also will be required to select a primary care provider in that plan, who will be the first doctor you take your granddaughter to see. The primary care provider will decide if your granddaughter needs the extra attention of a health care specialist.

You probably will be given a lot of advice on how to choose a plan and how to use the managed care system. Don't hesitate to call the free hotline number for help: 1-800-362-3002 (TTY and translations services are available). You also can use that number for any complaints you might have about your granddaughter's care.

**5. I have legal custody of my granddaughter. Her parents are not employed, so she does not have any health insurance coverage, and I am covered by Medical Assistance. Are there any programs that will help pay for her health care costs, such as check-ups, shots, or hospitalization?**

Your eligibility for Medical Assistance is not tied to your grandchild's potential eligibility for one of the state's programs. She must be considered for eligibility separately. This is the first thing you should do to determine who can help pay for her health care costs. See the eligibility criteria for Medical Assistance, Healthy Start and BadgerCare in Question 1 of this section and contact a local agency to help you find out if you are eligible for Medical Assistance.

**6. A car accident left my daughter permanently disabled and unable to care for her two sons. Their father has remarried and moved out of the area. He pays child support, but the boys were covered by my daughter's health insurance. I now am caring for my grandsons so that they can stay near their mother. Because of the accident, I know how important good insurance coverage is, but I am retired on a limited income. What choices do I have to make sure that my grandsons' health care needs will be taken care of?**

Check to see if your daughter's insurance coverage will continue for her sons, or, if your grandsons' father is employed and has health insurance through his workplace. The children may be eligible for coverage under his health insurance plan. He may be required to put the children on his policy. If the parents do not have health insurance coverage, you need to find out if you can put the children on your health insurance program. If you have health insurance through an HMO, call your HMO office to see if you can add your grandsons to your policy. There are several programs in Wisconsin that your grandsons may qualify for if they do not have any other coverage. Question #1 and the resource list at the end of this chapter have information about these programs.

**7. Are there other ways that I can stretch my medical dollar?**

Yes. There are Community Health Centers in each county that serve low-income, uninsured and underinsured persons. If your grandchild does not have health insurance, a Community Health Center can help you get the care she needs. Some of these centers will provide health care services for your grandchild even if she is on Medical Assistance, Healthy Start or BadgerCare. Some of them may require a fee but this is usually on a sliding fee scale, making it more likely to be affordable. The Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association has a listing of the Community Health Centers in your county. See the

resource section at the end of this guide for information on a Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association in your area.

Also, Local Health Departments (LHDs) provide immunizations and some of them provide free or sliding scale fees for care, such as well-child exams. You can get a listing of the phone numbers and locations of the Local Health Departments in your area from the state Department of Public Health or on the following Web site:

[http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/dph\\_ops/lhdl.htm](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/dph_ops/lhdl.htm)

### **8. My grandchild is in high school. Is there any way the school can provide health care?**

Check with your local school district to see if it provides any health care services. If the grandchild is eligible for one of the state-supported programs, some school districts will actually provide the HealthCheck checkup for school children. A list of all Wisconsin public school districts can be found in the resource section at the end of the Education chapter. You may also find the number for your grandchild's school in the Yellow Pages, or on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Web site at:

<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/>

### **9. How can I get dental services for my grandchild?**

Your grandchild can get dental services at any private dentist, providing you can pay for it. You might have a dental policy that will cover the cost of your grandchild. Check this out before scheduling an appointment. If your grandchild is covered by Medical Assistance, Healthy Start or BadgerCare, then dental care is covered either directly through the HMO or outside of it. If you are enrolled in the Medical Assistance/BadgerCare program, you must contact your HMO's member services department to find out if they cover dental services. If the HMO does cover dental services, you will have to get your care from one of the HMO's providers or get a referral to another dentist. If the HMO does not cover dental services, you can still get dental care for your grandchild, but not through the HMO's provider network. You would get care by setting up an appointment with any Medical Assistance-certified dental provider.

In Wisconsin access to dental care for those eligible for the state supported health programs is not easy. There are not enough dentists in the state who take new dental patients from Medical Assistance, Healthy Start or BadgerCare. The state health department and other concerned organizations are working to improve access to dentists.

**10. My grandchild and I are refugees in this country. We are not U.S. citizens, so we do not qualify for medical assistance programs. Is there any other program that can help us with our medical expenses?**

Although you and your grandchild are not U.S. citizens, you can still get help with your medical bills through the Emergency Medical Assistance program. You can apply for Emergency Medical Assistance at any county human or social services agency. The resource list at the end of this chapter lists the county human or social services agency nearest you, or see the following Web site for more information on how to contact a department in your area:

*<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid1/contacts/medcontact2.htm>*

## **II. Health Care Needs**

### **1. How can I ensure that my grandchild stays healthy?**

A medical check-up is an important part of health care for all children. Some private insurance plans will cover this. One of the more important benefits of the state-supported programs is the well-child visit called **HealthCheck**. Your grandchild's health care provider is required to conduct this check-up with all children up to age 21 who are on Medical Assistance, Healthy Start or BadgerCare. For children under age 6 this checkup is done every year, and for older children usually every two years. The HealthCheck visit with your health care provider teaches you and your grandchild how to keep from becoming sick. It is important to detect health problems early, before they become too serious. HealthCheck meets the physical exam requirements for programs such as Head Start, Child Care or WIC.

If a health problem is detected during a HealthCheck screen, Medical Assistance is required to provide health care to treat those identified problems. This is true even if those services wouldn't normally be a covered benefit. HealthCheck also can help you find a doctor or a dentist.

### **2. Is there transportation help?**

Yes. Your local county Department of Human or Social Services or Tribal Agency must help you get to all HealthCheck appointments. Call them if you need to arrange for a ride. For more information on HealthCheck in your area, call the Maternal and Child Health Hotline at 1-800-722-2295. A handbook on the services covered by HealthCheck can be downloaded in full or by chapter on the following Web site:

*[http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Medicaid2/handbooks/partd\\_d1/chapters.htm](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Medicaid2/handbooks/partd_d1/chapters.htm)*

### **3. How can I find out if my grandchild is growing like other children his or her age?**

Developmental assessment is usually part of a well-child exam, but if you have concerns about a developmental delay, contact the Birth-to-3 Program. This program will do a developmental exam. Each county has a primary agency.

For more information on where you can contact a Birth-to-3 program, or other places you can go for help for your grandchild, call Wisconsin First Step at 1-800-642-STEP (7837). This is a free call, and someone will be available to help you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Wisconsin First Step is an information and referral service, and will give you the name and phone number of agencies with people who can answer your questions. You can also find a Birth-to-3 program in your area on the following Web site:

*<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/bdds/b3.htm>*

The program for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) provides consultation and some financial assistance to any family with a child from birth to 21 years of age who has, or is suspected of having, special health care needs. For information on how to contact Children with Special Health Care Needs, see Question 7 of this section of the chapter.

For more information, you can also look at fact sheets at the end of the Parenting chapter for some general ideas of the physical and mental growth you should see in your grandchild at a certain stages of development. Each child grows and develops at his or her own rate. Do not be worried if your grandchild is not doing exactly what the fact sheet says. If you do not understand some of the terms or are concerned about your grandchild's development, talk with your health care professional.

### **4. Where can I get immunizations for my grandson? What immunizations must he have and when should they be given?**

Immunizations are very important in keeping children healthy. Children from birth to five should have regular check-ups where they can get these immunizations. If your grandson has a doctor he goes to regularly, the doctor's office will have his records and know what shots he needs and when to give them. If you don't have a regular doctor, you can get immunizations for your grandchild at a Community Health Center or the Local Health Department, or check with the WIC program (see the next question).

It is always a good idea to keep your own records of your grandchild's immunizations. You will need to report these upon enrollment in school, and in daycare or camp.

For more information on immunizations, you can contact the American Academy of Pediatrics on its Web site: *<http://www.aap.org/family/parents/immunize.htm>*

**5. I took my grandchild for a check-up with a nurse practitioner. She was concerned about my grandchild's nutrition and said that my grandchild might be able to get benefits from the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition program. What kind of benefits would my grandchild get from this program?**

WIC is a program to help provide good nutrition for you and your family. You may get help from WIC if you are caring for a grandchild under the age of five, or you and your grandchildren have a health or nutrition need.

The WIC program in your area will set up an appointment for you to meet with a WIC nutritionist, who will review your grandchild's health history. You will also talk about what you and your grandchild eat. If you are eligible for the WIC program, you will get nutrition information and counseling and learn about other WIC services (such as help getting immunizations). WIC will give you checks to buy foods to help keep your grandchild healthy and strong, such as milk, peanut butter, fruit juice, tuna fish, cheese, carrots, infant formula, cereal, eggs, and dried beans and peas.

To see if your household is eligible for the WIC program, see the Financial Chapter in this resource guide or call 1-800-722-2295 to find a WIC program nearest you. You can also find information on WIC on the following Web site:

*<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/WIC/index.htm>*

**6. What do I do if my grandchild needs to go to a hospital?**

If there is an emergency and your grandchild needs to get to the hospital right away, try to call 911 first for assistance but otherwise drive her directly to a hospital emergency room.

If it is not an emergency, you will need to make arrangements with the child's primary doctor. If you don't know if something is an emergency, call 1-800-57 NURSE (1-800-576-8773). This is a free call. They will help you get the health care you need. If you use the emergency room and it is not an emergency, you may have to pay for the services you received.

- If your grandchild is enrolled in the traditional (fee for service) Medical Assistance, you can use any Medicaid-certified hospital (almost all Wisconsin hospitals).
- If your grandchild is enrolled in an HMO with Medical Assistance, Healthy Start or the BadgerCare program, you must follow the rules set by her HMO. If you are not sure which hospital you must go to, call your HMO's Member Services department or its Medicaid/BadgerCare Advocate for names and locations of hospitals near you.

It is useful to know this information BEFORE you need it so be sure check this out as soon as your grandchild is enrolled.



Medicaid/BadgerCare HMOs are required to provide their enrollees with an Enrollee Handbook. The Enrollee Handbook explains how to get emergency care, urgent care, and medical care when you are away from home or out of the HMO's service area. If you need a member handbook, call your HMO's Member Services department or its Medicaid/BadgerCare Advocate.

## **7. What do I do if I am out of state and my grandchild needs to go to the hospital?**

If your grandchild is covered by a private health insurance policy, you need to check the terms of that policy. If your grandchild is covered by any of the Wisconsin Medical Assistance programs, it will cover all emergency services at out-of-state hospitals.

In fact, some regular hospital care can be covered in hospitals in bordering states. This is possible if the hospital is a certified Wisconsin Medicaid provider. To be Medicaid-certified means that the hospital can provide services to Wisconsin Medicaid enrollees and the costs of care will be covered by the program. These hospitals have the same privileges and responsibilities as Wisconsin hospitals. Most of the facilities are located in Duluth, Minneapolis, and St. Paul in Minnesota; Dubuque, Iowa; and Rockford, Illinois.

Out-of-state hospitals that are not Wisconsin Medicaid certified can treat your grandchild for any needed emergency services. If your grandchild is out of state and needs non-emergency care, you must first get authorization from the Wisconsin Medicaid Program.

## **8. My grandchild's mother used drugs while she was pregnant, and he was born with many medical problems. I worry about my taking care of him on my own. Where can I get help so that he can keep on getting the care that he needs at home?**

Home health care services are covered by some private health insurance plans but these are often for a limited amount of time. You should check your benefit package to see what your coverage might be. Some home health services are covered by Wisconsin's Medicaid/BadgerCare HMO program. However, you must receive care from an approved provider unless you have a referral to receive care from someone outside your HMO's provider network.

There is a new service available for children with a chronic illness or disabling condition: The Program for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN). This program will provide you with consultation services for getting the medical, educational or social services your child needs. You could be able to receive assistance through this program if your child is 20 years old or younger and has a chronic illness or disabling condition. Some examples of chronic illnesses or disabling conditions include cystic fibrosis, heart conditions, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, sickle cell anemia, cleft lip and cleft palate, leukemia, muscular dystrophy, severe asthma, and juvenile onset diabetes.

There are no eligibility limits on family income for receiving consultation services from CSHCN. However, there are income eligibility criteria for receiving financial assistance through the program. For more information on CSHCN you can call 1-800-441-4576, or see the following Web site: <http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/children/factsforfamilies/spehealth.htm>

## **9. What in-home services can I get from the Division of Public Health?**

The Division of Public Health offers in-home maternal, child, and family health education, as well as family support. Some examples of education and support include:

- Looking at the needs of a pregnant woman and her family
- Giving prenatal education to meet these needs
- Assessing the physical, social, and mental health of infants and children
- Screening the growth and development of infants and children
- Educating parents about the importance of routine medical care
- Coordinating services with public and private agencies

For more information on programs that are available in your area, contact the Family Health Program 608-266-3890.

## **10. One of my grandchildren needs in-home care. What kinds of in-home nursing services would a home health agency give to my grandchild?**

Depending on the medical plan you're under, some of the following home health nursing services for children birth through age 18 may be included:

- Observing and evaluating your grandchild's physical and emotional condition
- Providing direct care to your grandchild in giving him treatments, medicines, and rehabilitation exercises
- Helping your family develop good coping skills for dealing with your grandchild's needs
- Teaching you and your family to give your grandchild his treatments and medicines
- Teaching you and your family how to carry out doctor's orders
- Reporting to the doctor any changes in your grandchild's state of health and making sure that any new treatments are made
- Helping you and your family find the resources you need to help you learn to take care of your grandchild in the best possible way

## **11. The doctor and I agree that my grandchild needs to live in a different place for a while to get the emotional help she needs. Where is a safe place she can stay and get psychiatric help?**

It may be better if your grandchild can stay with her family, or at least in her community, while getting help for her problems. To try to keep the child at home, many counties offer services to the family such as respite care, in-home therapy, mentoring, and other services. Contact your county department of human services. The Counseling chapter of

this resource guide also may give you some ideas about finding the help your granddaughter needs.

However, if your grandchild might be a danger to herself or others, contact your county department of social services or human services to learn about out-of-home placement options. There are foster homes, treatment foster homes, group homes and residential treatment facilities throughout the state of Wisconsin. Be sure to find out what financial responsibility you or her parents may have for out-of-home care.

If your grandchild is at serious and immediate risk of injury to herself or others, call the police or county social services department. Another source is a national toll-free suicide hotline: 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433). There is also a Web site found at <http://suicidehotlines.com/national.html> that can give you information about what to look for if you are worried about your grandchild. The Youth Suicide Prevention Information Web site gives you things to look and listen for in teens, as well as prevention suggestions. Its Web site is [www.spyc.sanpedro.com/suicide.htm](http://www.spyc.sanpedro.com/suicide.htm)

If your doctor thinks it's best to place your granddaughter for a short, voluntary inpatient stay at a local hospital, you will need to check on your grandchild's insurance or Medicaid policy to see if the stay is covered. Also, be sure the hospital has the right treatment and facilities for children and teens. There are two state hospitals in Wisconsin— Winnebago Mental Health Institute and Mendota Mental Health Institute— that have psychiatric treatment for children with severe emotional disorders. All voluntary admissions to these hospitals have to be pre-approved by your county's department of human services or the department of community programs and your grandchild's insurance provider. Sometimes, in an emergency, a child can be admitted to a hospital for psychiatric reasons and, through a court order, made to stay for treatment for up to six months. Again, the financial responsibility may belong to the family, so check with your insurance about what is covered by your policy.

**12. My wife and I are the caregivers for our grandchild who was born with HIV/AIDS. Where can we find out more about programs that will give us the help we need to take care of him?**

The Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee has a special treatment program for children who have HIV/AIDS, as does the University of Wisconsin Children's Hospital in Madison. To find out more about how to help your grandchild, contact the HIV/AIDS Section in the Bureau of Communicable Disease, Division of Public Health, which has statewide information about special services for children with HIV/AIDS. You also can call a toll-free number for statewide HIV/AIDS information: 1-877-607-5280. A list of national AIDS hotlines and resources is available at: <http://www.thebody.com/hotlines/national.html>

The Division of Health and Family Services in Wisconsin has several programs for victims of AIDS/HIV and their families. To find out more about these programs, you can visit the following Web site at: <http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/aids-hiv/index.htm>

**13. What services are available to my granddaughter who is pregnant?**

If your insurance doesn't cover all of the medical bills or if you don't have health coverage for prenatal care services or the birth of the baby, you may be eligible for Healthy Start. Healthy Start is a state-funded program to help pay health care costs for pregnant women and babies. See question #3 in the Financial Concerns section of this chapter to learn if Healthy Start may be right for your granddaughter's needs.

The Bureau of Family and Community Health, Department of Public Health, has a Reproductive Health program that offers contraceptive, STD (sexually transmitted disease) testing and treatment, and pregnancy testing services in each county through Planned Parenthood or other private or public health agencies. To reach Planned Parenthood, call 1-800-230-PLAN (7526) or visit their Web site at:  
*<http://www.PlannedParenthoodWI.org/index0.htm>*

All counties also have a Prenatal Care Coordination agency that provides case management services to women with high-risk pregnancies. Contact your local health department for information in your county.

**14. Are there any special programs for pregnant teens to continue their education while carrying their child?**

Several school districts make special arrangements or have programs for pregnant teens. Contact your local school district or local health department for more information. The Education and Child Care chapters in this resource guide also have information that may be helpful.

**15. Is there any place my fifteen-year-old granddaughter can live while she is pregnant? Her mother will not let her live at home and I want to help my granddaughter, but I live in a retirement apartment that does not allow children.**

You can contact your county social services agency to see what options, such as a woman's shelter, there are in your community for your granddaughter.

**16. I want my grandchildren to make good choices about sexual activity. Things seem to have changed a lot from when I was young. Where can I be sure that they get the information they need to act responsibly toward themselves and others?**

You can check with your local school district, your family doctor, or other community resources to see what kinds of educational classes are offered to give your grandchildren the correct information about sex. Planned Parenthood has programs that are designed for dealing with teens and sex, and provides education on birth control and other health care

services. To find a Planned Parenthood near you, call 1-800-230-PLAN. They also have a Web site you can visit at: <http://www.PlannedParenthoodWI.org/index0.htm>

The Department of Health and Family Services has a Web site on issues dealing with teen pregnancy and prevention. The site also gives links to other Web sources of information and agencies in Wisconsin that can help. The site can be found at: <http://dhfs.state.wi.us/Children/teen-pregnancy-prevention/index.htm>

You could also contact your local health department or county social services agencies to find out what programs they may have for your grandchildren.



The information in this chapter has been adapted for use in Wisconsin from the state of Delaware's *Grandparent Raising Grandchildren Resource Guide* by Roberta Riportella-Muller, Department of Consumer Science, School of Human Ecology, UW–Madison; Melissa Schieble, Project Assistant, UW-Extension, Family Living Programs; Nancy Marz, Clinical Consultant, Department of Health and Family Services; Colleen Cantlon, Bureau of Family and Community Health; and Mary Brintnall-Peterson, Program Specialist in Aging, UW-Extension, Family Living Programs. Additional contributions were made by Harvey Aures, Department of Health and Family Services; and Mary Gothard, Maternal and Child Health.

This chapter is one of eight chapters included in the *Grandparents/Relatives Raising And Nurturing Dependent Children (GRAND) Resource Guide*. Other topics addressed in the resource guide include Child Care, Counseling, Education, Financial Assistance, Housing, Legal, and Parenting Again issues. They can be found on the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Web site at: <http://www.wuex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/grand.pdf>

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin presents the information in the *Grandparents/Relative Raising And Nurturing Grandchildren (GRAND) Resource Guide* as a service to those who are raising grandchildren or other kin or to those who are working with them. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and reliability, member organizations of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin and contributors to this resource guide make no warranty or guarantee concerning the accuracy or reliability of the content in the resource guide.



**Table 1: Wisconsin’s Medical Assistance Programs for Children and Families<sup>ii</sup>**

Name of Health Insurance Program	General Eligibility Criteria	Who is Eligible	Cost to Recipient
AFDC*-related Medical Assistance (MA)	Parents and children who would have met AFDC eligibility criteria as of 7/16/96	Children age 0-18 and their parents	Free, but includes nominal copay for services for those 18 and over only and those not in HMO
Healthy Start-poverty related, newborn	Children born to MA recipient (in income/asset test)	Children age 0-12 months	Free
Healthy Start	Pregnant women, infants and children in families with income up to 185% FPL, no asset test	Pregnant women Children under age 6	Free, but includes nominal copay for services for those 18 and over and not in HMO
Healthy Start-OBRA Kids	Children in families up to 100% FPL, no asset test	Children age 6-14	Free
Healthy Start-Presumptive	Pregnant women up to 185% FPL, no asset test	Pregnant women	Free
BadgerCare	Families up to 185% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) at time of enrollment, once enrolled, will remain eligible to 200% FPL, no asset test	Children 0-18 and their parents	Free to those below 150% of FPL.  Above 150%, families must pay monthly premium of 3-3.5% of income  Includes nominal copay for services for those 18 & over only not in HMO

\*Aid to Families with Dependent Children

# Health Resources



Consult the Financial Assistance chapter for information on Badger Care and Medicaid (Medical Assistance).

## **Healthy Start HealthCheck**

Healthy Start or HealthCheck  
**Wisconsin Department of Health & Family  
Services**  
**Division of Health Care Financing**  
**1 West Wilson Street**  
**P.O. Box 309**  
**Madison, WI 53701-0309**  
**(608) 266-1683**  
(800) 722-2295  
[http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid1/recpubs/  
healthystart.htm](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid1/recpubs/healthystart.htm)  
**Workforce Development Center**  
**892 Main St**  
**Pewaukee, WI 53072**  
**(262) 695-7944**

Healthy Start is a part of the Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid). It pays for medical care for pregnant women, babies, and children. It covers most babies until they are one year of age, even if the family's income goes up. Families with health insurance may apply. Women who are under-insured and/or don't have health coverage for prenatal care services or the birth of the baby may be eligible for Healthy Start. Healthy Start pays for; all doctor visits and hospital care, prescription drugs, delivery, health care (including medical, dental, vision, counseling) for pregnant women up to 60 days following delivery and health care (including medical, dental, vision, counseling) for children up to age 19.

## **HealthCheck**

HealthCheck  
800-722-2295  
[http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Medicaid1/recipient/  
coverage\\_3.htm](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Medicaid1/recipient/coverage_3.htm)

Waukesha County Public Health Division Call for information: (262) 896-8430.

Health Check offers preventive health checkups and immunizations (shots) for anyone under the age of 21. The exams are specially designed to help find possible

health problems early when they can be best treated. HealthCheck also teaches you and your child how to prevent illness. Services are free for Medicaid recipients under 18 years of age. Recipients 18-20 years of age who are not in a Medicaid HMO pay a co-payment of \$1.00. If you are not enrolled in Medicaid HMO and need information about other HealthCheck providers, call the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) Maternal and Child Health Hotline at (800) 722-2295 (TTY and translation services available). HealthCheck services are free for eligible recipients enrolled in a Medicaid HMO. Your HMO will provide the exam.

<b>Community Health Centers</b>	Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association
<b>Free Services</b>	5721 Odana Rd, Ste 105
<b>Uninsured</b>	Madison, WI 53719
<b>Underinsured</b>	(608) 277-7477
	<a href="http://www.execpc.com/~wphca/">http://www.execpc.com/~wphca/</a>

The Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association, founded in 1982, is a private non-profit association of Community and Migrant Health Centers, Health Care for the Homeless Programs, rural health clinics, and other organizations and individuals concerned about access to health care for underserved rural and urban populations. The Association accomplishes its mission through a wide range of activities and member services including:

- **Information and public education** — A monthly newsletter, issue briefs and other publications provide current information about issues vital to strengthening the health care "safety net."
- **Government relations and legislative advocacy** — Policy-maker education and influence promotes our shared vision of health care access for all.
- **Technical assistance** — Individual guidance helps leaders establish and operate primary health care practices in medically underserved Wisconsin communities.
- **Education and training** — Programs covering a variety of topics enhance ongoing operational effectiveness.
- **Research** — Expertise in assessing and improving community health status addresses the unique needs of each community's population.
- **Clinician education and support** — A variety of programs assist with clinician retention. They include access to state and regional networking, orientation and mentoring opportunities, bimonthly clinician newsletters and continuing education.
- **Shared services** — Group purchase arrangements provide cost-effective options for members.



## Local Health Departments:

Washington County Health Department  
333 E. Washington St. Suite 1100  
West Bend, WI 53095  
(414) 335-4462

Jefferson County Health Department  
N3995 Annex Rd.  
Jefferson, WI 53549  
(920) 674-7275

Walworth County Health Department  
W2818 Hwy NN  
Elkhorn, WI 53121  
(262) 741-3140

Waukesha County Public Health Division  
615 W. Moreland Blvd.  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 896-8430

## Health Clinics:

**Lake Area Free Clinic**  
432 S Lapham St.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
**(262) 569-4990**

**Community Nursing Clinic – WCTC**  
Service Occupations Building,  
800 Main St  
Pewaukee, WI  
**(262) 695-1888**

**SERVICES:** General medical exams by nurse practitioners at a reasonable cost.

**Community Outreach Health Clinic**  
W180 N8085 Town Hall Rd.  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53052  
**(262) 532-3393**

**SERVICES:** Medical services for low-income people.  
Cost: \$5.00 donation

**Waukesha County PHD Health Clinics**  
615 W. Moreland Blvd.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
**(262) 896-8430**

**SERVICES:** Self-Care and Wellness Counseling Referrals regarding nutrition, exercise, breast self-exam, testicular self-exam, pregnancy, chronic illnesses, medication, parenting and child care, and family relationships.

Health Assessment for Older Adults, Adults, Children and Infants, Health Check screening.

Screenings for vision, hearing, anemia, blood pressure, diabetes, height and weight, infant/child development, and lead (ages 12 months through six (6) years

**St. Josephs Medical Clinic**

826 N East Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
**(262) 544-6777**

**SERVICES:** Non-emergency treatment of minor and acute illnesses, and minor labrotory tests for ambulatory individuals of all ages. Pregnancy tests. Partial payment of perscription drugs for current clients 60 years of age and over (limited assistance for current clients under 60 years of age.) Referral to health care services/facilities in Waukesha County, including referral of income eligible clients to Waukesha Memorial Hospital for free mammogram services. Also offer breast and testicular self-exam program to area high schools;health education for older adults at meal sites; and preschool tours

**Pediatric Clinic**

826 N East Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
**(262) 544-6777**

**SERVICES:** Well child check ups, physicals for school, non- emergency treatment of minor and acute illnesses, and minor laboratory tests for ambulatory individuals. Limited assistance with payment of perscription drugs for current clients. Referral to health care services/facilities in Waukesha County.

**Waukesha Planned Parenthood Clinic**

426 W Main St  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
**(262) 544-0708**

**SERVICES:** Reproductive Health Services: Includes routine health screening, pap smears, breast exam, diagnostic bloodwork as required, screening and treatment for vaginal infections and sexually transmitted infections, prescription of contraceptives (including the emergency contraceptive pill), and pregnancy testing/counseling. Confidential and anonymous HIV/AIDS testing/counseling. **EDUCATION:** Regarding sexuality, natural family planning, huiman growth and development, parents as sex educators, sexuality for special needs populations (cognitively disabled) and teen pregnancy. Information and advocacy for family planning and reproductive health-related issues

**Menomonee Falls Planned Parenthood Clinic**

N89 W16785 Appleton Ave.  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051  
**(262) 253-6661**

**SERVICES:** Reproductive health services includes routine health screening, pap smears, teaching breast self-exam, basic labwork, diagnostic bloodwork as required, screening and treatment for vaginal infections and sexually transmitted diseases, prescription of contraceptives and the “morning after” pil, and pregnancy testing/confirmation. Confidential HIV/AIDS testing (on an appointment basis) and counseling.

*Counseling, Information, and Referral:* Regarding pregnancy, infertility, male and female sterilization, and non-reproductive health issues.

*EDUCATION:* Regarding sexuality, natural family planning, human growth and development, parents as sex educators, sexuality for special needs populations (cognitively disabled), and teen pregnancy. Information and advocacy for family planning and reproductive health-related issues.

**Dental Care:**

<b>Dental Care</b>	Wisconsin Donated Dental Services
<b>Disabled</b>	PO Box 658
<b>Older Adults</b>	Milwaukee 53201
	276-0370
	1-800-364-7646

A program of the Wisconsin Dental Association, Inc., Wisconsin Donated Dental Services offers free NON-EMERGENCY dental care provided by volunteer dentists, to people who are either PERMANENTLY DISABLED, CHRONICALLY ILL OR ARE OF ADVANCED AGE WITH A FINANCIAL NEED. Applications and access information will be sent upon request or by leaving information on voice mail.

**St. Josephs Medical and Dental Clinic**  
826 N East Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 544-6777

**SERVICES:** Dental Exams, x-rays, cleaning and teaching care of teeth. Patients are referred out for treatment of acute dental problems.(Does not offer root canals or crowns)

**ELIGIBILITY:** Residents of Waukesha County; low income (federal guidelines); without insurance

**Intake Procedure:** Call to determine eligibility; appointment required for clinic

Fees: \$ 3 donation  
Languages (other than English): Spanish (limited)  
Wheelchair accessible: No

**General Dentistry** Marquette University Dental Clinic  
604 N 16<sup>th</sup> St  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
New Patients Call: (414) 288-1510 (for English)  
(414) 288-1520 (for Spanish)  
Appointments of Emergency Treatment:  
(414)288-6790  
<http://www.dental.mu.edu/ps/index.html>

All phases of dentistry are provided. They are as follows: routine examinations, extractions, root canals, orthodontics, periodontal surgery, crowns, bridges, partials, dentures, bleaching, porcelain fillings, and various other general dentistry procedures. Patients are treated at either the main campus or at the Isaac Coggs Clinic. Emergency treatment is done during regular clinic hours and emergency treatment for patients of record during vacation times that the clinic is closed. Special population groups treated include those that are physically or mentally challenged. There are numerous types of education services offered; talks to schools, other clinics, health fairs, brochures, etc.

**Dental Hygiene and Screening** MATC Dental Hygiene Clinic  
Health & Science Building  
700 W Highland Ave H-115  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
(414) 297-6573

Hygiene and screening services are available at the MATC Dental Hygiene Clinic. The entire treatment will take 2 to 3 appointments and every appointment will be about 2 hours in length. On the first appointment, the condition of the mouth will be noted and desirable oral hygiene services will be recommended. A student will be assigned to the client and the appointment schedule will be determined. Any questions the client might have regarding the services can be answered at this time. The procedures performed in the clinic will not constitute a dental examination. It is recommended seeing a dentist for regular diagnostic services. Fees: Adults \$5.00, 14Years & Under & Seniors \$3.00, Bite Wings \$3., Full Mouth \$10, Panoramic\$7 or Fees Waived if Unable to Pay.

**Dental Services for Children** Children's Dental Center – Children's Hospital  
9000 W Wisconsin Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53226  
**Accepts Medicaid / Healthy Start** (414) 266-2044

**Special Health Care Needs**

Children's Dental Center – Sinai Samaritan Hospital  
1020 N 12<sup>th</sup> St  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
(414) 277-8960

A program of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Comprehensive Pediatric dental care is available for children and adolescents from birth to age 18. Services are also targeted to children and adolescents with special health care needs.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Birth to 18 Years.

**Fees:** HMO, Commercial Insurance, GA-MP, T19-Medicaid/Healthy Start, Self-Pay

**Special Health Care Needs:**

**Birth to Three Programs** Birth to Three Programs in the State of Wisconsin  
Listing by County:  
<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/bdds/b3.htm>  
or call,  
Wisconsin First Step  
(800) 642-STEP

For Waukesha County:  
Waukesha County Department of Health & Human  
Services  
500 Riverview  
Waukesha, WI  
(262) 548-7212

There are people in the community who help children from birth to age three get the start they deserve. They are therapists, social workers, nurses, and teachers who give early intervention services. Early intervention simply means help: the extra help a child needs now that might make a difference later. The child must exhibit delays to be eligible for B-3 services.

Wisconsin First Step is a toll-free information- and-referral service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Callers will learn about early intervention services and other related services get the names and phone numbers of agencies with people who can answer their questions.

**Special Health Care Needs**

Children with Special Health Care Needs  
Regional Program  
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin  
9000 West Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53226  
(414) 266- 2869

The Program for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN), in the Wisconsin Division of Health, is funded through federal dollars from the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block grant. The program provides consultation and some financial assistance to any family with a child from birth to 21 years of age who has, or is suspected of having, special health care needs. You could be able to receive assistance through this program if your child is 20 years old or younger and has a chronic illness or disabling condition. Some examples of chronic illnesses or disabling conditions include cystic fibrosis, heart conditions, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, sickle cell anemia, cleft lip and cleft palate, leukemia, muscular dystrophy, severe asthma, and juvenile onset diabetes. There are no eligibility limits on family income for receiving consultation services from CSHCN. However, there are income eligibility criteria for receiving financial assistance through the program.

### **Immunizations:**

<b>Immunization Information for Waukesha County Residents</b>	Waukesha County Public Health Division 615 West Moreland Blvd. Waukesha, WI 53188 (262) 896-8430
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Call for the schedule. No appointment is necessary. Please bring your immunization records and health coverage information with you to the clinic. Individuals with health insurance that pays for immunizations are encouraged to contact their health care provider for immunizations. Individuals will not be refused service.

<b>Immunization Information</b>	American Academy of Pediatrics 141 Northwest Point Blvd Elk Grove, IL 60007-1098 (847) 434-4000 <a href="http://www.aap.org">http://www.aap.org</a> (Home Page) <a href="http://www.aap.org/family/parents/immunize">http://www.aap.org/family/parents/immunize</a> (Immunization information)
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The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and its member pediatricians dedicate their efforts and resources to the health, safety and well being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. Regular checkups at your pediatrician's office or local health clinic are an important way to keep children healthy. By making sure that your child gets immunized on time, you can provide the best available defense against many dangerous childhood diseases. Immunizations protect children against: hepatitis B, polio, measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), pertussis (whooping cough), diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw), *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, pneumococcal infections, and chickenpox. All of these immunizations need to be given before children are 2 years old in order for them to be protected during their most vulnerable period.

**Immunization Information**

Centers for Disease Control –  
National Immunization Hotline  
(800) 232-2522 (English)  
(800) 2320233 (Spanish)  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/default.htm>

To get immunization information, either call or visit the web site. The web site provides recent and accurate immunization information from the National Immunization Program, the Federal Government's principal agency for immunization policy and recommendations. You will find a wide range of immunization information including information about vaccine preventable diseases, the benefits of immunization, and the risks of immunization vs. the risk of disease. In addition, you will find a wide range of educational materials and resources

**Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Screening:**

The Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program recommends that all children have three lead tests between one and three years of age. Lead poisoning screening is available at all Waukesha County immunization clinics, and at Family Clinics, by appointment. Children on the WIC program can be screened at their Waukesha County WIC clinics. Call (262) 896-8430 for clinic dates and times

**WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (WIC)**

A nutrition program for pregnant, breastfeeding, postpartum women, and children under 5 years of age who have a health or nutrition need and meet federal income guidelines.

Services Include:

- Supplemental foods such as milk, cheese, eggs, peanut butter, juice cereal, dried beans, and formula
- Nutrition and health education
- Referrals to other health and social services

**WIC – Women, Infants and Children:**

State Information:

**WIC**

- Information
- Locations of WIC Projects

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services  
1-800-722-2295  
<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/wic/index.htm>

**Waukesha County WIC Project Location** *Call for appointment (262) 896-8440*

**Main Site:**

Public Health Center  
615 W. Moreland Blvd.  
Waukesha, WI 53188

**Food Stamp/ Quest  
Card Application  
Sites**

Workforce Development Center  
892 Main Street  
Pewaukee, WI 53072  
(262) 968-7958

**Food Stamps / Quest Card**

**Food Stamp / Quest  
Card Information  
Statewide**

When the county or tribal human/social services agency is also the W-2 agency, all individuals apply for food stamps at the county or tribal location

When the county or tribal human/social services agency is not the W-2 agency, county or tribal workers are available at the W-2 agency to help with deciding eligibility.

County or tribal human/social services agencies continue to decide eligibility for the elderly and disabled at the county or tribal location. For locations throughout the state visit:

<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/destrain/medicaid/Counties>

**In-home Assistance:**

**In-Home Assistance  
Children with  
Disabilities**

Wisconsin Dept of Health & Family Services -  
Family Support Program  
Statewide Information, call (800) 642-7837; TTY  
(800) 282-1663

In Milwaukee County Call (414) 289-6799  
<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/bdds/fsp.htm>

**What is the Family Support Program?**

**In-home support for families who have children with severe disabilities.** The Family Support Program provides individual services and supports to families that include a child with severe disabilities. The Program recognizes that meeting the needs of children who have severe disabilities may place hardships on a family's emotional, physical and financial resources.



The Program offers:

- Information and help in finding services and maximizing community resources;
- Limited funding to buy needed services and goods that can't be bought through other sources;
- Help in linking families with other families to strengthen natural supports.

## **Children with HIV /AIDS:**

<b>AIDS and HIV Prevention/ Education Support Services Testing Treatment</b>	AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) 820 N Plankinton Ave Milwaukee 53203 273-1991 <a href="http://www.arcw.org">www.arcw.org</a>
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Waukesha County Public Health Division  
615 W. Moreland Blvd.  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 896-8430

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin provides services that address and meet the challenges of AIDS throughout Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha counties many of which are supported by an active, professionally trained volunteer staff. Programming is provided with special sensitivity to cultural and lifestyle differences. Case management and comprehensive support services, such as; legal assistance, housing assistance, financial assistance, benefits planning, food pantry (see below), medication management, dental care, cooperative therapies (pain and stress management), mental health counseling, and AODA counseling and treatment to men, women and children with AIDS and HIV infection. Prevention and education programs directed to the general public, including a statewide information and referral hotline, as well as to people who may be engaging in behaviors that put them at risk for HIV infection, and advocacy to fight AIDS discrimination, secure AIDS funding and assure responsive health care policies. Also coordinates and provides access to experimental drug trials for people who are HIV positive.

For direct services such as housing, financial, legal, nutritional, mental health, disabilities, the individual must have HIV. For some services, assistance is available to assist families affected by HIV. Call for details on services that may be available to families.

<b>AIDS and HIV Hotline</b>	Wisconsin AIDSline (800) 334-2437
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The Wisconsin AIDS line is a toll-free service for Wisconsin residents to get quick answers to questions relating to HIV/AIDS, including counseling and testing sites, questions about HIV risk reduction, care and treatment and referrals to resources statewide. Callers may remain anonymous. Adult volunteers staff the line.

## **Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Testing and Treatment and Pregnancy Testing:**

**Pregnancy Testing**                      Planned Parenthood of Waukesha  
**STD**    (262) 544-0108  
**Testing**                                        Planned Parenthood of Menomonee Falls  
**Treatment**                                 (262) 253-6661

**STD**    Waukesha County Public Health Division  
**Testing**                                        (262) 896-8430  
**Treatment**

Waukesha County PHD Clinic is by appointments ONLY. For diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmissible diseases. Located at Waukesha Memorial Hospital – outpatient department Mondays 4:30-7:00 PM and Thursdays 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

**STD Hotline**                                CDC National STD Hotline  
**General Information**                      1600 Clifton Rd  
Atlanta, GA 30333  
(800) 227-8922  
<http://www.ashastd.org/nah/index.html>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, located in Atlanta, Georgia, is an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. The CDC mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability. Call for personal inquiries and information regarding STD's.

**AIDS and HIV**                                CDC National AIDS Hotline (NAH)  
**Hotline**                                        1600 Clifton Rd  
**Information**                                 Atlanta, GA 30333  
(800) 342-2437  
<http://www.ashastd.org/nah/index.html>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, located in Atlanta, Georgia, is an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. The National AIDS Hotline offers anonymous, confidential HIV/AIDS information to the American public. Trained information specialists are available to answer question about HIV infections and AIDS.

They also provide referrals to appropriate services, including clinics, hospitals, local hotlines, counseling and testing sites, legal services, health departments, support groups, education organization, and service agencies throughout the United States. Callers can also order various publications, posters, and other informational materials from the CDC National Prevention Network throughout the hotline.

**Aids and HIV Hotline information (continued)**

Richard's Place, INC.  
P.O. Box 294  
Waukesha, WI 53187  
(262) 547-0640

Richards Place is dedicated to providing individualized residential care, with service ranging from mental health therapies to hospice care, for people living with AIDS/HIV.

Richards Place offers a nurturing home environment, designed to be an emotionally, mentally and physically supportive home for people living with this disease.

Richard's Place provides assistance with housing, resources and case management.

**Other Health Programs**

**Tuberculosis Testing**      Waukesha County Public Health  
Division  
615 W Moreland Blvd.  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 896-8430

- The Waukesha County Public Health Division ensures that all persons affected by tuberculosis receive the services they need and that the health of the public is protected in accordance with the current standards of practice and as specified in Wisconsin statutes and rules.
- Tuberculin skin tests are available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 8:00AM – 4:00 PM at the Public Health Center. There is a nominal fee that may be waived. For further information call (262) 896-8430





# HOUSING

**G**RANDPARENTS/RELATIVES

**R**AISING

**A**ND

**N**URTURING

**D**EPENDENT CHILDREN

**Waukesha County Resource Guide**



# Housing



**For Information on:**

**See Question Number:**

Housing Assistance .....	1, 2, 3, 4
Landlord Notification.....	5, 6
Federal Fair Housing Laws.....	5, 7
Wisconsin HUD .....	5, 6
Senior Citizen Housing.....	6
Housing Limits .....	8
Loans.....	9, 10, 11, 14
Safety Concerns .....	12
Foster Care.....	13
Resource List .....	Following the Q&A

# Housing

The resource section at the end of this chapter gives you the locations, phone numbers, and/or Web sites of agencies where you can find help. For access to computers and assistance in reaching the information available on Web sites, contact your local public libraries, senior centers, community centers, or family resource centers.

When grandparents raising grandchildren take on the responsibility for their grandchildren, there may be problems with their current housing situation. Can they stay in their home? Does their current home meet the requirements for having their grandchildren live with them? Is there enough room for everyone? Where can they go to find help to make any changes that are needed so that their grandchildren can live with them? These questions and other concerns are answered in this section on housing issues that may affect grandparents raising grandchildren.

## **1. Now that my grandchildren are living with me, I need help with housing expenses. What kinds of housing assistance are available?**

There are several kinds of housing assistance available. In many communities there are publicly owned housing units for families and older adults. In some cases, the rents are set at about 30% of a household's income. There is other housing that is privately owned, but whose owners have agreed to keep rents at lower levels and to rent to low-income households in return for federal government loans or tax breaks.

There are also housing choice vouchers, which a household can use to pay part of its monthly rent. With a voucher, the household pays 30% of its income for rent, and the government pays the rest. This program, also known as Section 8, can be used for any kind of housing if the owner agrees to accept the voucher and the rent is kept below a certain limit. You do not have to have legal custody of your grandchildren to apply for vouchers. You simply apply as a family and receive a voucher to meet the size of your family's needs.

## **2. What are the income limits for these assistance programs?**

A local housing authority should be able to help you find out if you qualify for these assistance programs. Most assistance is for people with what the U.S. Department of Housing and Economic Development (HUD) calls "low income" or "very low income," based on the "area median income." Low income is defined as 80% or less of the area median income. Very low income is defined as 50% or less of the area median income. You can find the housing authority serving your area by looking in the government listing in the phone book for your city or county.

Look under housing authority, housing operations, or community development authority. (See the answer to the next question for more information.)

### **3. How do I find out if there is any housing assistance in my community?**

A good place to start is with the local public housing authority. Many Wisconsin communities have housing authorities, as do some counties. The housing authority may be listed separately in the government section of the phone book or it may be under the community development authority. A list of all housing authorities in Wisconsin can be found on the Internet at [www.wheda.com](http://www.wheda.com). Click on “Federally Assisted Housing Inventory.” The inventory is set up by county and lists how many and what kinds of units the housing authority manages. Be aware that there can long waiting lists in some areas.

Housing authorities aren’t the only place to go that offer assisted housing. Many housing developments are owned and run privately. The owners agree to keep the rent low because they have received government help to pay for the cost of building the housing. The community action agency that serves your area may have a listing of assisted housing. The on-line directory noted above lists these other sources of assisted housing, as well.

### **4. Do I qualify for any government housing assistance?**

The only way to know for sure whether you qualify is to talk with housing authority staff. They may be able to give you a quick answer, but they probably will ask you to fill out an application. Along with income limits, you may need to meet other conditions to qualify for housing assistance.

### **5. Can a landlord refuse to rent to me because my grandchildren live with me?**

According to federal fair housing laws, a landlord cannot refuse to rent to a household just because it includes children. However, your grandchildren must be under 18 years old.

This law usually does not cover housing meant just for seniors. Normally, owners of private senior-only housing do not allow children as residents. However, some federally financed housing for seniors does let minor grandchildren live there. To find out more about the current fair housing rights, call the Wisconsin office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 414-297-3214, Extension 8300, or visit its Web site <http://www.hud.gov/local/mil/milstaff.html> and scroll to the “Fair Housing and Equal Opportunities Division.”

**6. I currently live in senior citizen housing. Will I have to move if my grandchildren live with me?**

Owners/managers of housing reserved for persons aged 55 or aged 62 or older generally do not have to permit children to live in that housing. As a result, they may require you to move if your minor grandchildren move in with you. However, in the case of public housing and in some other low-income senior housing programs, residents may be able to take in their minor grandchildren if the number of people living in each unit is not more than allowed. If you have questions whether a particular low-income government housing program can accept minor children, you can contact the Wisconsin HUD office (see Question #5).

**7. Do I need to tell my landlord that my grandchildren are moving in?**

Yes, having people living in your apartment who are not listed on your lease is usually a lease violation and can be grounds for eviction.

**8. Is there a certain size my apartment needs to be if my grandchildren are living with me?**

In most cases, landlords can set a limit on the number of people in an apartment to just two sharing a bedroom. In some cases, they may limit how many people can live in an apartment based on the amount of livable space in the apartment. This usually lets more people live in the apartment. If a landlord sets a rule—such as one person per bedroom—the landlord may be trying to avoid renting to families. If this is the case, you may want to check with your local housing authority, the Wisconsin HUD Office as described in Question #5, or the Wisconsin Equal Rights Division (ERD). The telephone number for ERD is 608-266-6860.

**9. I need a loan to fix up my home so my grandchildren can live with me. Are there any government programs to help me?**

If you are talking about basic repairs, many communities have low interest loan programs to help homeowners keep up their homes. Check with your local community development office or with the city or village clerk's office to see if your community has a program to help you. If you are in a rural area, the Rural Housing Service of the US Department of Agriculture has a program that can help you with the cost of repairs. Look in the phone book under the US government listings for the phone number of the office in your area.

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) also offers home improvement loans. For information contact WHEDA at 1-800-362-2761 or visit its Web site at [www.wheda.com](http://www.wheda.com)

Another place to check is with the Community Action Agency in your area.



Many run home repair programs and special programs that help with making energy improvements for low-income housing.

**10. I have heard I can borrow against the value of my home to help with the extra expenses of raising my grandchildren. Is this a good idea?**

There are several kinds of loans that allow you to do this. The most common and easiest is known as a “home equity loan.” Another kind of loan that is available in some areas is a “reverse equity mortgage,” which is available just to senior citizens. If you have owned your home for many years and it has grown in value, it may be worth thinking about a loan. The problem with either of these loans is that you are using your home to guarantee that you will pay off the loan. Many financial advisors say that it is a good idea to take out such loans only for emergency expenses, such as major home repair or medical bills. They do not advise these loans as a way to add to your monthly income.

**11. I keep getting offers for home equity loans in the mail and sure could use some extra cash. Are these loans a good idea?**

Since you are a homeowner, many businesses will be happy to give you a loan. In return, they will take a mortgage on your home. This means it is easy to get the loan, the interest they charge at first may be low, and it may not cost a lot to get the loan. However, if you can't make the payments, you could lose your home. Some businesses that advertise low rates and payments may have fine print that says rates will go up after the first year or that payments may not cover all the interest that is being charged. This could mean that payments could go up or that the amount you owe on the loan keeps getting higher. Either of these situations could cause problems for you in the future. It's better to read the fine print of the loan application carefully or to borrow from a bank or credit union where you already do business.

**12. Are there any special safety concerns that I should know about now that I have my grandchildren living with me?**

- Hot water temperature: If your grandchildren are preschoolers, check the temperature setting on the hot water heater. Make sure the temperature is set low enough so that the water won't burn them. The recommended level to prevent burns and save energy is about 120 degrees. You can check the temperature by running the hot water into a glass with a food thermometer in it. Keep it there until the temperature stops rising.
- Smoke detectors: Check your smoke detectors often and change the batteries every year. Smoke detectors can wear out; if yours are more ten years old, consider replacing them.
- Carbon monoxide detectors: Carbon monoxide detectors sound the alarm if your furnace or other combustion appliance is not working properly, so that it is giving off carbon monoxide. If you don't have a carbon monoxide detector, consider buying one.

- Mold/humidity: If you see mold or smell musty odors, there may be humidity problems that you should try to fix. Childhood asthma is on the rise, and mold and other microbes that grow in high humidity can trigger childhood asthma.
- Lead paint: If your home was built before 1978, you may have lead paint on some surfaces. Lead-based paint is especially dangerous to preschool children. Check with your local public health or University of Wisconsin–Extension office for information about the dangers of lead paint and how to deal with them.
- Tobacco smoke: Research shows that smoking cigarettes around young children may cause them to have health problems. If your guests must smoke, ask them to smoke outside.

**13. If I become the foster care provider for my grandchildren, will my home have to meet special standards?**

There is a special foster care program for those who agree to care for children of relatives. The program is called Kinship Care. If you are accepted in Kinship Care, there are no licensing and no special standards to meet for your home. To find out if you qualify for Kinship Care, contact your local human service agency. Look in the city or county listings of the phone book under human services or social services.

If you do not qualify for Kinship Care, then you must be licensed as a foster care provider and get your home approved if you wish to receive financial support. To find out the standards needed for foster care homes, contact your local human services department. The rules are likely to include having separate beds for each child, separate bedrooms for girls and boys, and set minimum amounts of living space for each child.

**14. My grandchildren have come to live with me, but I cannot afford to buy new furniture for them. Where can I borrow or buy low-cost used furniture?**

There are a number of places you can go to find second-hand furniture, many of them nonprofit organizations such as St. Vincent de Paul, the Salvation Army, and Good Will. The Yellow Pages will list stores that sell used furniture (look under Furniture-Used). You can also check with local churches, synagogues, or mosques for help or information on how to find free used furniture. The list at the end of this chapter gives contact numbers for places in your area that may be able to help you. There often are waiting lists for the limited supplies of free and used furniture.



The information in this chapter has been developed by John Merrill, Professor/Extension Housing Specialist, School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin–Madison.

This chapter has been reviewed by Wendy Fearnside, Program and Planning Analyst, Bureau of Aging and Long Term Care Resources, Division of Supportive Living, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services; and Tony Perez, Director, City of Milwaukee Housing Authority.

This chapter is one of eight chapters included in the *Grandparents/Relatives Raising And Nurturing Dependent Children (GRAND) Resource Guide*. Other topics addressed in the resource guide include Child Care, Counseling, Education, Financial Assistance, Health, Legal, and Parenting issues. They can be found on the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Web site at: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/grand.pdf>

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin presents the information in the *Grandparents/Relative Raising And Nurturing Grandchildren (GRAND) Resource Guide* as a service to those who are raising grandchildren or other kin or to those who are working with them. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and reliability, member organizations of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin and contributors to this resource guide make no warranty or guarantee concerning the accuracy or reliability of the content in the resource guide.



## Housing Resources



This resource section lists various types of housing resources; it begins with a description of the types of resources you will find on the list.

**Home Purchase Loans [*Purchase*]** – Programs that provide loans for people who want to buy their own homes.

**Home Rehabilitation / Repair [*Repair*]** – Programs that provide assistance in the form of labor and supplies for people who need to make necessary repairs to their homes to get rid of health or safety hazards. Qualifications for this service are based on income, age or disability.

**Homeless Families or Individuals [*Homeless*]** – Families made up of two parents and their children, but also including single-parent families, extended families (parents, their children, and other relatives) and nontraditional family groups, or individuals who may be living in their cars, on the street, or in some other temporary living location.

**Housing Search Assistance [*Search*]** – Programs that assign a staff member to help people who need housing to look at the available homes and to help them make and get the best home for their needs.

**Rent Assistance [*Rent*]** – Programs that pay the rent for people who do not have the money to make the payments themselves, who may be evicted if they don't get help with their rent, and who qualify for this service on the basis of income or need. This help is usually in the form of Section 8 Rental Certificates, a federally assisted housing program administered by local housing authorities. The program provides rental certificates and vouchers that make it possible for families who qualify to find and rent approved privately owned housing where the landlord has agreed to a contract with the housing authority. In this program, households pay approximately 30% of their income for rent, and the housing authority helps pay the balance.

**Security Deposit Assistance [*Deposit*]** – Programs that provide cash grants or loans for people who are in the process of finding rental housing and who can make the monthly rental payments, but who can't pay the first and last month's rent and the security deposits that have to be made before they can move in.

**Tenant Rights Counseling [*Tenant*]** – Programs that give advice and help to tenants who need to know their rights and responsibilities about leases and rental agreements, deposits, legal eviction procedures, ways to protect themselves from unlawful or retaliatory evictions, rent withholding rights, rent control requirements,

privacy rights and other issues that may be of special interest to tenants. Tenant rights counseling may also include help in completing forms, advice about a particular disagreement, and communication with landlords to notify them that they are not meeting landlord/tenant laws.

#### **Rent**

- **Low income families** HUD – The Department of Housing and Urban Development.

#### **Purchase**

- **Low income families** Henry Ruess Federal Plaza  
310 W Wisconsin Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53203-2289  
(414) 297-3214

#### **Repair**

- **Home improvement loans** <http://www.hud.gov/index.html>

#### **Tenant**

- **Fair housing rights**

HUD is the federal agency that works to help the nation's communities meet their housing needs, spur economic growth in distressed neighborhoods, provide housing assistance for the poor, help rehabilitate and develop moderate and low-cost housing, and enforce the nation's fair housing laws.

### **Field Policy and Management**

Every HUD office has a staff of Community Builders who can answer your questions and work with you in any aspect of HUD's mission. Community Builders can help communities solve problems and they can help individuals understand how to get an FHA mortgage or become a neighborhood organizer.

### **Community Planning and Development**

The Department's community development programs support a broad range of local projects in the state through a variety of partnerships involving government agencies at all levels, non-profit organizations, private investors, and community groups. These programs aid low and moderate income persons by revitalizing neighborhoods, rehabilitating and developing housing, improving public facilities, providing necessary public services, and creating jobs.

## **Housing**

HUD housing programs are used to encourage the development and rehabilitation of housing in addition to providing Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage insurance for homebuyers throughout Wisconsin.

**Single Family Housing** - The popular FHA mortgage insurance program has helped homebuyers since 1934. By insuring lenders against loss, the FHA program encourages them to make mortgage loans to people who cannot afford the larger down payment required in the conventional loan market.

To further help not only HUD-insured homeowners, but all mortgagors (those who mortgage property), HUD is working with Housing Counseling Agencies throughout the state to give help in rental, first-time home buying, budgeting, and default counseling.

**Multifamily Housing** - HUD also provide FHA mortgage insurance and programs that develop multifamily housing designed for the elderly, persons with disabilities and families under various programs.

## **Home Improvements**

HUD provides Section 203(k) insurance, which enables homebuyers and homeowners to finance either the purchase (or refinancing) of a house and the cost of its rehabilitation through a single mortgage—or to finance the rehabilitation of their existing home. The Title I program insures loans to finance the light or moderate rehabilitation of properties, as well as the construction of nonresidential buildings on the property. This program may be used to insure such loans for up to 20 years on either single- or multifamily properties. The maximum loan amount is \$25,000 for improving a single-family home or for improving or building a nonresidential structure.

## **Public Housing**

The Office of Public Housing monitors the management of Low Rent Public Housing (LRPH) program units, which is administered by Public Housing Agencies (PHAs). It also monitors the administration of Section 8 Existing Certificates, Vouchers and Moderate Rehabilitation units.

## **Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity**

The Program Operations and Compliance Center helps individuals who feel that they have been discriminated against in housing because of their race, color, religion, national origin, gender, familial status (family with children under 18 years), or disability.

The Center investigates housing and program discrimination complaints and monitors selected HUD-funded programs to make sure that equal opportunity requirements are met.

For low-income families, senior citizens and the mobility impaired, including sight and hearing impaired. Metropolitan Associates manages apartment communities in the Greater Milwaukee area as well as southeastern Wisconsin.

## **For assistance in finding home & community-based services:**

### **Information & Referral Older Adults**

Elder Link – Aging Resource Center  
**Milwaukee County**  
Department on Aging  
(414) 289-6874

**Waukesha County**  
Department of Senior Services  
(262) 548-7848

The information and assistance division of the Aging Resource Center. Provides a single point of access to information, services, and programs that can help people 60 years of age and older remain active and independent. Services include van transportation, the senior meal program, home visits to complete benefit applications, plus information on a wide variety of home and community-based services. Provides choice counseling for those who are in need of long-term care. Investigates allegations of Elder Abuse/Self Neglect. Milwaukee County Department on Aging staff are available Monday-Friday from 7a.m.-7p.m. Waukesha County Department of Senior Services staff are available Monday – Friday 8a.m.-4p.m. After hours, weekends, and holidays staff are available on an on call basis, or call sheriff's department.



## **Home Purchase Loans**

Habitat for Humanity of Waukesha County  
P.O. Box 1143  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53052  
262-502-4289

Provide low and moderate-income families with the opportunity to become homeowners through self-help home building opportunities.

Self-Help Rehabilitation Housing Program/La Casa De Esperanza  
410 Arcadian Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-547-0887

Time and work of home purchaser are given a monetary value that has been approved by the participating financial institution.

HBC Services, Inc.  
217 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 207  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-522-1230

Educates people, individually and through seminars, about the purchase process. Provides information on the C-Cap grant program, which can help eligible households pay for closing costs, prepaid items and a portion of the down payment.

Independence First  
600 W Virginia St. #300  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
414-291-7520

<http://www.independencefirst.org>

Independence First offers a wide range of services designed to help persons with disabilities live independently in the community. In collaboration with lenders, Independence First offers a housing program for persons with disabilities or households that include an adult or child with a disability. The goal is to serve persons with a disability become homeowners by making use of down payment assistance from various grant and forgivable loan sources. Credit management counseling, first-time home buying classes, and homeowner education are a few examples of resources available to Independence First customers. Housing services also assist consumers in finding affordable, accessible housing and providing technical assistance to builders and landlords.

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)  
101 W Pleasant St. Suite 100  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
414-227-4039  
800-334-6873 (toll free/statewide)  
Email: [info@wheda.com](mailto:info@wheda.com)  
Web: [www.wheda.com](http://www.wheda.com)

The HOME program offers a mortgage loan with a low, fixed interest rate to help low and moderate-income individuals and families buy a home. Serves first-time home buyers or persons who have not owned a home for over three years or who live within a targeted area within the City of Milwaukee.

The Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP) offers affordable home improvement



loans of up to \$15,000 that are available to low and moderate-income Wisconsin homeowners. This loan may be used for non-luxury repairs including, but not limited to, repair of roof or foundation, replacing windows, updating plumbing or wiring, replacing a furnace, and removal of lead paint.

An inventory of federally assisted housing project has been prepared by WHEDA as part of the Authority's continuing commitment to provide information to aid in the development of low-income housing. Its purpose is to catalog the location, management agency, number of units, and type of subsidized households in the State of Wisconsin.

## **Home Rehabilitation/Repair**

Community Housing Initiative, Inc./Home Rehabilitation Loans  
259 W Broadway  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
650-3634  
800-590-7619

Loans designed to make basic and necessary improvements (roof, chimney, gutters, siding, heating systems, wells and septic systems, door and window repair/replacement, insulation, etc.).

Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Program  
201 Delafield St. Room 200  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-542-3747

Loan funds available to City of Waukesha residents in amount up to \$20,000 at interest rates between zero and five percent; to finance basic and necessary improvements to owner occupied dwellings. Eligible improvements include: roof, chimney, gutters, siding, heating systems, wells and septic systems, door and window locks, insulation, caulking, etc.

Weatherization Services/La Casa De Esperanza  
410 Arcadian Av.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-547-0887

Weatherize homes of low-income households and make repairs on the homes of very low-income households in order to bring the home up to appropriate housing quality standards.

Handicap Accessibility Housing Improvement Grants/Community Housing Initiative  
259 W Broadway  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-650-3634  
800-590-7619

Designed to remove material and architectural barriers, which restrict mobility/accessibility of low and moderate-income persons who are physically disabled. Eligible improvements might include entrance ramps, handrails, widening of doorways, bathroom modifications, etc.

AHP Grants/Community Housing Initiative  
259 W Broadway  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-650-3634  
800-590-7619

Designed to make basic and necessary improvements, to address deferred maintenance, and to make homes energy efficient.

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)  
101 W Pleasant St. Suite 100  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
414-227-4039  
800-334-6873  
Email: [info@wheda.com](mailto:info@wheda.com)  
Web: [www.wheda.com](http://www.wheda.com)

The HOME program offers a mortgage loan with a low, fixed interest rate to help low and moderate-income individuals and families buy a home. Serves first-time home buyers or persons who have not owned a home for over three years or who live within a targeted area within the City of Milwaukee. The Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP) offers affordable home improvement loans of up to \$15,000 that are available to low and moderate-income Wisconsin homeowners. This loan may be used for non-luxury repairs including, but not limited to, repair of roof or foundation, replacing windows, updating plumbing or wiring, replacing a furnace, and removal of lead paint.

An inventory of federally assisted housing project has been prepared by WHEDA as part of the Authority's continuing commitment to provide information to aid in the development of low-income housing. Its purpose is to catalog the location, management agency, number of units, and type of subsidized households in the State of Wisconsin.

## **Homeless Families or Individuals**

Hebron House Shelter  
812 N East Ave.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-549-8722

Shelter for homeless families and adult single women. Residents are provided with food, clothing and support services. Families can stay up to 3 weeks; single women can stay up to 10 days.

Jeremy House  
1301 E Moreland Blvd.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-549-8735

Transitional housing services for individuals with a serious and persistent mental illness who are not currently receiving treatment services. Full range of services available: physical health, mental health, group therapy, support groups, etc.

Emergency Lodge/Salvation Army  
445 Madison St.  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-547-7367

Emergency shelter for 30 single adult men on a short-term basis (up to 6 weeks). Assist residents in securing employment and permanent housing. Residents are required to be out of the shelter weekdays 9am – 5pm pursuing employment and permanent housing; and Sundays 9am – Noon during church services.

Sister House/The Women's Center  
Confidential location  
262-542-3828 Crisis line

Emergency shelter for battered women and their children. Temporary housing, food, clothing and safe environment as well as advocacy, support individual and group counseling, parenting assistance, and information and referral.

Richard's Place  
Confidential Location  
262-547-0640

Residential care, in the City of Waukesha, for people living with HIV/AIDS, especially those who may also be substance abusers. Wide variety of services available to residents including case management, medical and mental health services, transportation, home hospice, etc.

## **Housing Search Assistance**

Housing Placement Service/Hebron House  
134 W North St.  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-549-8720

Senior Placement Network  
PO Box 511401  
New Berlin, WI 53151  
(262) 782-4202

Senior Referrals  
4811 South 76<sup>th</sup> St.  
Greenfield, WI 53220  
(414) 325-3400

Assist guests from Waukesha County shelters, those on shelter waiting lists, and other low-income residents of the county who are in housing crises, to find and obtain affordable permanent housing.

Independence First  
600 W Virginia St. #300  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
414-297-7520  
Web: <http://www.independencefirst.org>

Independence First offers a wide range of services designed to help persons with disabilities live independently in the community. In collaboration with lenders, Independence First offers a housing program for persons with disabilities or households that include an adult or child with a disability. The goal is to serve persons with a disability become homeowners by making use of down payment assistance from various grant and forgivable loan sources. Credit management counseling, first-time home buying classes, and homeowner education are a few examples of resources available to Independence First customers. Housing services also assist consumers in finding affordable, accessible housing and providing technical assistance to builders and landlords.

## **Rent Assistance**

La Casa Village Apartments  
1431 Big Bend Rd.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-547-2856

35 one-bedroom apartments, 15 efficiency units for low-income older adults and individuals with disabilities. Rent subsidies available to tenants through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Waukesha Housing Authority  
120 Corrina Blvd.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-542-2262

Application hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. Please allow a half hour to complete the application.

Waiting list is generally 3 to 5 years.

Administers federally funded housing programs for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities. Rent is based on 30% of the renter's gross monthly income.

Section 8: Rent assistance provided throughout Waukesha County. Qualified applicants choose their own housing, which must meet federal quality standards.

Public Housing: Owns several rental properties in the City of Waukesha, which are available to low income older adults and individuals with disabilities, and low-income families with children less than 18 years.

**Waukesha Housing Authority DOES NOT provide emergency housing assistance.**

Independence First  
600 W Virginia St. Suite 301  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
414-291-7520

Assistance in locating; affordable, accessible housing, as well as providing home accessibility/modification information.

Living Options Program  
600 W Virginia St. Suite 300  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
414-291-7500

A service of Interfaith Older Adult Programs, Inc., the living Options Program provides information about retirement communities, retirement apartments, assisted living facilities, subsidized apartments, nursing homes, results of annual inspections, respite care and adult day care for Milwaukee, Kenosha, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington and Walworth counties.

## **Security Deposits**

Ecumenical Social Ministry Services/Cooperation  
Congregations of Waukesha County  
401 W Main St.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-549-8726

Financial assistance to pay for rent, medicine, or utility bills. No interest loans to qualified individuals. Requests are examined on a case-by-case basis.

Security Deposit/Rent Assistance Loan Program/Hebron House  
134 W North St.  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-549-8720

No interest loans to shelter guests and low income residents of the county to help them maintain their current housing through temporary financial crisis and/or to have a security deposit to obtain permanent housing. Money is from a revolving loan fund and a co-signer is required.

## **Tenants Rights Counseling**

Consumer Protection Bureau  
10930 W Potter Rd. Suite C  
Milwaukee, WI 53226  
414-266-1231  
608-722-7428 TDD

Assistance with complaints regarding consumer fraud and unfair or illegal business practices, including: automobile repair, contests, false advertising, games of chance, home improvement, landlord/tenant issues, mail solicitations, prize offers, product safety, raffles, sales promotions, sweepstakes, mobile home parks, and weights, and measures.

Legal Services Program/Cooperating Congregations of Waukesha County  
401 W Main St.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-549-8726

Assistance in the areas of housing, consumer, family law, unemployment compensation and other benefits.  
Equal Opportunities Commission  
201 Delafield St. Room 200  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-524-3645

Receive, investigate and evaluate all complaints regarding alleged infringement of human rights (discrimination based on age, sex, race-ethnic origin, nationality, religion, disability, sexual orientation or marital status) in the areas of employment, housing, landlord/tenant and consumer issues.

Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.  
230 W Wells St. Suite 800  
Milwaukee, WI 53203  
414 -278-7722 General Information  
414 -278-7430 Family Law Intake

Free civil legal services to low-income clients primarily in the areas of:  
Housing: evictions  
Income maintenance: Social Security, SSI, AFDC, General Assistance/BASIC, Title 19, food stamps and W2 on a limited basis  
Family law: divorce, family violence, and family preservation  
Education: K-12 school problems

Milwaukee Metropolitan Fair Housing Council  
600 E Mason St. Suite 401  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
414 -278-1240

Investigation of housing discrimination complaints based on race, color, gender, sexual harassment, national origin/ancestry, religion, disability, family status, marital status, lawful source of income, age, or sexual orientation.

Benefit Specialist/Waukesha County Department of Senior Services  
1320 Pewaukee Rd. Room 130  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-548-7848

Assists with problems of or application to government/private benefits, entitlements, (Social Security SSI, disability, Medicare, Medicaid, spousal impoverishment protection, food stamps, subsidized housing, etc.), landlord tenant disputes, eviction, insurance, general financial issues (including collection agency exploitation).

### **Low Income Heating Assistance Program**

Energy Services for Waukesha County  
217 Wisconsin Av. Suite 201  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-549-9666

Energy Assistance Program (EPA): Federally funded program-providing money for one time energy and emergency grants. Applications accepted yearly between September 1<sup>st</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Grant determination based on fuel costs, household size, income, dwelling type, etc.

Emergency/Furnace Assistance: Funds available to households who meet regular EAP eligibility, and additional hardship requirements. Staff assists in negotiating settlements with fuel/utility companies, arrange emergency fuel deliveries, arrange for furnace repairs or replacements when warranted, and provide space heaters/warm blankets to offset potential life threatening emergencies.

Pro-Active Program: Assists in meeting the cost of home heating energy.







**LEGAL**

**G**RANDPARENTS/RELATIVES

**R**AISING

**A**ND

**N**URTURING

**D**EPENDENT CHILDREN

**Waukesha County Resource Guide**



## Legal



### For Information on:

### See Question Number:

General Information.....	Introduction
Child Custody and Visitation.....	Section I
Custody .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 8
Visitation.....	2, 5, 6
Physical Placement .....	3
Informal Placement.....	7
Guardianship in Wisconsin.....	Section II
Guardian.....	1, 2, 3, 4
Temporary Guardianship .....	5
Standby Guardianship.....	6
Adoption in Wisconsin .....	Section III
Using an Attorney .....	1, 5
Protective Custody .....	2
Procedure for Adoptive Placement .....	3a, 3b, 3c
Costs of Adoption .....	4
Adopting Special Needs Children.....	6
Family Counseling in Wisconsin.....	Section IV
Family Counseling.....	1
Family Court Counseling.....	2, 3

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) .....Section V  
Qualifications .....1, 2, 3  
Tribal Jurisdiction .....4  
Foster Care Placement .....5  
Emergency Placement.....6  
Wisconsin Tribes .....7

Grandparents’ Rights and Responsibilities..... Section VI

Resource List ..... Following the Q&A



# Legal



The resource section at the end of this chapter gives you the locations, phone numbers, and/or Web sites of agencies where you can find help. For access to computers and assistance in reaching the information available on Web sites, contact your local public libraries, senior centers, community centers, or family resource centers.



Grandparents and other adults who take on the responsibility for raising the children of relatives may find themselves involved with the legal system for many reasons. For example, separation, divorce, death, child abuse, neglect, or similar problems may bring adult relatives into child custody, visitation, or other family court proceedings.

The courts generally do not want to take full custody of a child from his or her parents unless there is proof that the parent cannot or will not take responsibility for the child. However, a child who might be a victim of abuse or neglect can be placed under the jurisdiction of the Children's Court. Child placement, custody, visitation, guardianship, termination of parental rights, and adoption are some issues that might come up. (See the Glossary at the end of this resource guide for definitions of these terms.)

A child might live with a relative, such as a grandparent, by private arrangement or informal agreement with the child's parent. But without the legal right to make some decisions that only parents have the right to make for their child, the grandparent may not be able to do such things as enroll the child in school or get medical care for the child (see Question I.7).

If a grandparent or adult relative feels that a child's safety may be at risk while living with his or her parents, they should first talk with the parents about the problem. If that doesn't work, the relative may contact the Department of Social Services or Department of Human Services in the county where the child lives. (See the resource list at the end of this chapter for contact numbers.) The relative may make the call anonymously, or, if names are used, the report will be kept confidential. A social worker will ask for information about the child and parents, such as name, address, and date of birth. The social worker will also ask why there is a concern about the child's safety. The Human Service Agency will not tell the parent or child who contacted them. The Human Service agency will review the information that was given and decide if child protective services should look into the child's safety. If the agency does investigate, a social worker will contact the parents and the child to get more information. If the social worker finds that the child's safety is at risk, the social services agency may refer the parents to community service providers for such things as parenting or anger management classes. The social service agency also may take the child from the parent's home and place him or her with a relative or a foster parent.

The following are answers to questions that are often asked about Wisconsin laws covering visitation, custody, guardianship, adoption, and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

## **I. Child Custody and Visitation**

### **1. When may I petition for custody or visitation with my grandchild?**

There are three chapters in the Wisconsin statutes that have provisions about the custody of children. **Chapter 48** is Wisconsin's Children's Code, which deals with issues of child protection, termination of parental rights, and adoption; **Chapter 767** addresses actions affecting the family, including divorce, paternity, and visitation; and **Chapter 880** is the guardianship statute.

Federal laws such as the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act can affect the custody and placement of children.

### **2. What does it mean to have legal custody of a child?**

Legal custody gives the grandparent or other relative caregiver the right and responsibility to make major decisions concerning the child, except for specific decisions stated by the court or the parties in the final court order. Major decisions may include giving the child permission to marry, to enter military service, or to get a driver's license. Grandparents or other relative caregivers also can authorize non-emergency health care and make choices about school and religion.

### **3. What is the difference between legal custody and physical placement?**

*Legal custody* is the court-ordered right and responsibility to make major decisions about the child, except for those stated in the court order. *Physical placement* allows a child to be placed with a grandparent or other caregiver, who then has the right during the placement to make routine daily decisions for the child. Someone else, however, would have the legal right to make major decisions for the child (e.g., medical, counseling, or educational decisions).

### **4. Why is legal custody important?**

Sometimes it is necessary for a grandparent or other relative (i.e., a third party) to care for the child when the parent is either unwilling or unable to take on his or her responsibility. Reasons for giving custody to a grandparent or other relative may be because the parent abandoned or neglected the child, needs to be gone for a long period of time, or similar situations that would greatly affect the welfare of the child. The grandparent or other relative, if given court-ordered custody, would have the legal right to make decisions and act in the child's best interest.

## **5. When would courts grant visitation to grandparents or other adult relatives?**

If it can be proven that a child has formed a close bond with an adult other than the child's parents—especially a grandparent or other adult relative the child has come to trust—and if it is in the child's best interest, the courts may give these relatives visitation rights.

## **6. Can a court order visitation to grandparents and other third parties?**

Current state law lets grandparents and certain relatives petition for visitation with their grandchildren if:

- (a) The request for court-ordered visitation meets the following two-part test: (1) The family is affected by divorce, separation, paternity action, annulment, etc., and (2) the child is not a member of an “intact family,” that is, the child isn't living in a household where no divorce, separation or annulment has taken place. (Sec. 767.245, Wis. Stats.)
- (b) A grandparent is allowed to petition for visitation if the child's parent has died and it is in the best interest of the child to visit with that parent's parents. (Sec. 880.155(2), Wis. Stats.)
- (c) A grandparent is allowed to petition for visitation with a child if the parent's rights were terminated and the child was adopted by a relative or stepparent. It must also be proven that the grandparent and the child had a parent-child relationship within the two years before the petition was filed. (Sec. 48.925, Wis. Stats.)

Additionally, through case law, the court has taken steps toward protecting the rights of children to continue their relationships with people who may not legally be their parents, but who have developed a parent-like relationship with the child. A person trying to establish equitable visitation must prove to the court that he or she has developed a parent-like relationship, that something has interfered with the parent-like relationship, and that continuing the relationship is in the child's best interest.

## **7. What is informal placement?**

*Informal placement* often takes place between a caregiver and the child's parents. Caregivers have no rights in this situation. They have physical placement, which gives them the responsibility for the child's day-to-day care, but the parents keep legal custody, which means they can take the child from a caregiver's home at any time.

## **8. Can an order for legal custody be changed?**

Yes, the court can change the custody order but each statute has different requirements. You should consult with an attorney to determine what the standard is for your particular situation.

## **II. Guardianship in Wisconsin**

### **1. What is a guardian?**

A guardian is a person appointed by a court to look after the care, custody, and control of a minor or the estate of a minor. A minor is someone 18 years old or under.

### **2. Who may have a guardian?**

Any minor under the age of 18 may, in certain circumstances, need a guardian who is appointed by the court. The court will decide exactly what responsibilities the guardian will have.

### **3. Who may be appointed a guardian?**

Any person may petition to be appointed guardian of a minor. If a guardian is needed, the court must appoint a guardian, but no more than one guardian is to be appointed for one child. A husband and wife may act as one guardian.

### **4. Can a guardianship be terminated?**

A parent is entitled to custody of his or her child unless the parent is unfit or unable to adequately care for the child. There must be serious reasons for giving custody to a third party, such as the parent's abandoning or neglecting the child. If a parent has lost custody of a child to a third party, he or she must petition the court to have the child returned.

### **5. What is temporary guardianship?**

The court may appoint a temporary guardian if it finds that the minor must have a guardian appointed immediately. In Wisconsin, the temporary guardianship may not be longer than 60 days, and it may be extended only once for another 60 days. Arrangements must then be made for the child to be returned to the parents, for permanent guardianship, to be placed in a foster home, or to be placed for adoption.

## **6. What is standby guardianship?**

In a standby guardianship, a person is named who will be responsible for a child if that child's parent or guardian is unable to do so or if the parent or guardian dies. A standby guardian may be appointed for a minor at any time, but isn't responsible for the child as long as the minor has one living parent who is willing and able to be the legal guardian.

## **III. Adoption in Wisconsin**

Adoption gives an individual or a couple full legal and financial responsibility for parenting a child. The relationship is permanent. In Wisconsin, parental rights must be terminated before an adoption can take place.

### **1. Do I need an attorney to adopt my grandchild?**

It is necessary in Wisconsin to use an attorney when adopting a child. The adoption process is long and complicated, including such things as the termination of parental rights, court hearings, and home studies. If the child qualifies for adoption assistance, your attorney may be able to help you to find funding. You also may get information by calling the State Department of Health and Family Services regional office for information about adoption assistance.

### **2. If a child protective agency has legal custody of the child, how does that affect the adoption process?**

A child usually is removed from his or her family because the child is at risk of abuse or has been abused and/or neglected. The child is placed in protective custody for a period of time during which the parents may be given a chance to have the child returned to them. If the child is not returned to the parents, then parental rights may be terminated so that the child may be placed for adoption with a safe, stable family. The Department of Health and Family Services should start proceedings for termination of parental rights if it is in the child's best interest. There will be a court hearing to terminate the parental rights, which frees the child for adoption.

### **3. What is the procedure for Adoptive Placement?**

#### **(a) Placement through an agency**

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), a county department, or a licensed child welfare agency may place a child for adoption in a licensed foster home or with a licensed treatment foster home. A licensed treatment foster home is one that is trained to work with children who have special needs such as attention deficit disorder or cerebral palsy. This type of placement can be done without a court order if the department, county department, or child welfare agency is



the guardian of the child or makes the placement at the request of another agency that is the guardian of the child.

If a child has been in the custody of a county or state child welfare department prior to adoptive placement, the department must first look into placing the child for adoption with a relative who is identified in the child's permanency plan or whom the department or agency already knows.

When a child is placed in a licensed foster home or licensed treatment foster home for adoption, the agency or department making the placement must have a written agreement with the adoptive parent, which must include the date the child is placed in the home.

#### **(b) Placement with a relative**

A parent who has custody of a child may place the child for adoption in the home of a relative of the child without a court order.

If a child's parent has not filed a petition to terminate parental rights, the relative the child lives with must file a termination petition at the same time they file the adoption petition.

When an adoption petition is filed, the court must order an investigation into whether the child is a good candidate for adoption and whether the relative's home is suitable for the child. The department, county department, or licensed child welfare agency must conduct the investigation if no agency has guardianship and a relative has filed the petition.

After the investigation is complete and the report is filed with the court, the court may hold the hearing on the adoption petition immediately after entering the order to terminate parental rights.

#### **(c) Stepparent adoption**

A stepparent may file a petition to terminate the parental rights of the non-custodial parent and petition to adopt a stepchild. An attempt must be made to get the non-custodial parent to agree to the adoption. The court may hold the adoption petition hearing right after entering the order to terminate parental rights.

### **4. What are the costs of adopting a child?**

There are certainly some financial arrangements associated with adoption, including counseling before and after the adoption takes place, agency expenses, and attorney's fees. Your attorney will be able to tell you how much the adoption will cost.

### **5. How can I find a lawyer to represent me?**

If you would like an attorney to represent you but don't know which one to call, you can call the Wisconsin Bar Association at 608-257-4666 (lawyer referrals). Ask for the name of an attorney in your area who specializes in adoption cases. There is a fee for this service. The resource section at the end of this chapter lists several Web sites

where you can go for information. Also check the Adoption heading in the Yellow Pages of your telephone book.

**6. My husband and I are raising our grandchildren who have special needs and would like to adopt them. We just learned that the North American Council on Adoptable Children might be able to help us with the costs of caring for our grandchildren. Where can we find out more information about North American Council on Adoptable Children and if they can help us?**

The North American Council on Adoptable Children is a resource for families interested in adopting children with special needs that can help you decide if you are eligible for adoption subsidies that are available for children with special needs. Federal subsidies are made available to encourage the adoption of special needs children and to ease the financial concerns for the families that adopt children with special needs. Children may receive a federally funded subsidy under Title IV-E or a state-funded subsidy, depending on state guidelines.

More information about the North American Council on Adoptable Children can be found on their Web site at: <http://www.nacac.org/stateprofiles/wisconsin.html>. This Web site also can give you information about what special needs are, what benefits are available, and how to apply for benefits in your state. If you have other questions, you can call the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) at 651-644-3036 or its subsidy help line at 800-470-6665. You can also reach NACAC by E-mail at [info@nacac.org](mailto:info@nacac.org).

## **IV. Family Counseling in Wisconsin**

### **1. Do we have family counseling in Wisconsin?**

Some counties in Wisconsin do have family counseling as part of the circuit court system; others don't. Check with your Family Court Commissioner at the County Courthouse to find out if your county offers family counseling. You might also want to check with your insurance company to determine if you are eligible for counseling covered by your policy.

### **2. What is the role of Family Court Counseling?**

Whenever legal custody or physical placement is disputed, the parties involved in the dispute may be referred to mediation, either through Family Court Counseling or a private mediator. If mediation doesn't work, the court may order a study to look into the conditions of the child's home, how each party handles parental duties and responsibilities for the child, and any other matters in the best interest of the child.

Often, grandparents or other third parties who are petitioning for custody or visitation will be included in the mediation.

### **3. Where can I call in my county to find out about Family Court Counseling?**

Call your county's Clerk of Courts for possible resources in your area or look in the Yellow Pages under *Mediation* for private family mediation providers. The resource list at the end of this section may include specific suggestions for your county.

## **V. What Is the Indian Children Welfare Act?**

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is a federal law that governs child welfare proceedings for Indian children. ICWA must be considered in addition to state and federal statutes governing child welfare proceedings.

### **1. Who is considered an Indian Child?**

An Indian child is a boy or a girl under the age of 18 who is either a member of an Indian tribe, or who is eligible to become a member of an Indian tribe and is the biological child of a tribal member.

### **2. Who is a parent under this Act?**

Under ICWA, parent is defined as a biological parent of an Indian child, as well as any Indian person who has adopted an Indian child. This includes adoptions under tribal law or custom.

### **3. Who is an "Indian custodian" under the ICWA?**

An Indian custodian is an Indian who either has legal custody of an Indian child under tribal law or custom, or state law, or who has been given temporary custody of an Indian child by the child's parent. Any relatives of the child, including the grandparents or aunts and uncles, would be custodians if they meet this definition. The same rights and protections that apply to biological parents also apply to a custodian, unless the custodian is trying to remove a child from a biological parent's custody.

### **4. When does a tribe have exclusive jurisdiction over an Indian child?**

When the child lives on the reservation.

**5. What must the state prove in order to place an Indian child in foster care?**

In order to place an Indian child in foster care, the state must prove by “clear and convincing evidence” that custody of the Indian child by the parent or Indian custodian is likely to cause serious emotional or physical damage to the child.

**6. Can the state remove an Indian child in an emergency?**

There is a provision in the Indian Child Welfare Act that allows the state to remove an Indian child when there is a risk of immediate physical damage or harm to the child. This provision applies even if the child lives on a reservation, but is temporarily off the reservation. The state must make sure that the emergency removal is ended as soon as it is no longer needed.

**7. What are the Indian tribes in the state of Wisconsin?**

The tribes in Wisconsin and contact information are:

**Menominee Indian Nation**

P.O. Box 910  
Keshena, WI 54135-0910  
Phone: (715) 799-5100  
Fax: (715) 799-3373

**Bad River Band of Lake Superior  
Chippewa**

P.O. Box 39  
Odanah, WI 54861  
Phone: (715) 682-7111  
Fax: (715) 682-7118

**Oneida Nation**

P.O. Box 365  
Oneida, WI 54155  
Phone: (414) 869-2214  
Fax: (414) 869-2194

**Forest County Potawatomi  
Community**

P.O. Box 340  
Crandon, WI 54520  
Phone: (715) 478-2903  
Fax: (715) 478-5280

**Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior  
Chippewa**

P.O. Box 529  
Bayfield, WI 54814  
Phone: (715) 779-3700  
Fax: (715) 779-3704

**Ho-Chunk Nation**

P.O. Box 667  
Black River Falls, WI 54615  
Phone: (715) 284-9343  
Fax: (715) 284-9805

**St. Croix Chippewa Community**

P.O. Box 287  
Hertel, WI 54845  
Phone: (715) 349-2195  
Fax: (715) 349-5768

**Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake  
Superior Chippewa**

Route 2, Box 2700  
Hayward, WI 54843  
Phone: (715) 634-8934  
Fax: (715) 634-4797

**Sokaogan (Mole Lake) Chippewa  
Community**

Route 1, Box 625  
Crandon, WI 54520  
Phone: (715) 478-2604  
Fax: (715) 478-5275

**Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake  
Superior Chippewa**

P.O. Box 67  
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538  
Phone: (715) 588-3303  
Fax: (715) 588-7930

**Stockbridge-Munsee Community of  
Wisconsin**

N. 8476 MoHeCoNuck Road  
Bowler, WI 54416  
Phone: (715) 793-4111  
Fax: (715) 793-1307

VI. Where can I get more information to read about grandparents' rights and responsibilities?

A good place to start would be your local Cooperative Extension office. Ask for Bulletin B3702, "Grandparents' Rights and Responsibilities." Other helpful publications include: "Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Grassroots Concerns and Solutions From Across the United States" (January 2000), published by Generations United; "Relatives Raising Children: An Overview of Kinship Care" (1997), edited by Joseph Crumbley and Robert L. Little, published by The Child Welfare League of America; and "Grandparents: Raising Our Children's Children" (2000), by Doris K. Williams, University of Idaho.

You can also check with your local libraries, your county , tribal, or aging offices, and your local AARP chapter.

The information in this chapter has been adapted for use in Wisconsin from the state of Delaware's *Grandparents Raising and Nurturing Dependent Children* by Ethel Dunn, Executive Director, Grandparents United for Children's Rights, Inc.; Robin Ryan, Department of Health and Family Services; and Barbara Robinson, Bureau of Aging and Long Term Care Resource, Division of Supportive Living, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

The chapter was reviewed by Marygold Melli, Voss-Bascom Professor of Law Emerita, University of Wisconsin School of Law; and Attorney Theresa Roetter, Stafford Rosenbaum LLP.

This chapter is one of eight chapters included in the *Grandparents/Relatives Raising And Nurturing Dependent Children Resource Guide* (GRAND). Other topics addressed in the resource guide include Child Care, Counseling, Education, Financial Assistance, Health, Housing, and Parenting issues. They can be found on the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Web site at:  
<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/grand.pdf>

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin presents the information in the *Grandparents/Relative Raising And Nurturing Grandchildren* (GRAND) *Resource Guide* as a service to those who are raising grandchildren or other kin or to those who are working with them. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and reliability, member organizations of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin and contributors to this resource guide make no warranty or guarantee concerning the accuracy or reliability of the content in the resource guide.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR FILING CIVIL CASES IN JUVENILE COURT

**Q.** My new husband (or wife) would like to adopt my child (ren) from my previous marriage. What do I need to do to start this process?

**A.** You can pick up forms at the Juvenile Court office to file for ***Termination of Parental Rights and Step-Parent Adoption***. Our Address is **521 Riverview Avenue, Waukesha, and Room JC103**. The office is open **8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday**. There is no charge for the forms. You should ask the receptionist for a *Termination of Parental Rights and Step-Parent Adoption* packet. The parties who are seeking to file a Termination of Parental Rights and Step-Parent Adoption must be residents of Waukesha County in order to file the action in Waukesha County. If the natural parent whose rights you would be seeking to terminate is deceased, you will not need to do the Termination of Parental Rights. Just ask for the Step-Parent Adoption packet. You will also need to have a home study completed by a licensed adoption agency. There is a list of agencies to get the necessary information about the procedure and the fee for the home study. Tell the agency you need a home study done for a step-parent adoption. A social worker from the agency will arrange a time to meet with you to conduct an interview. The agency will then prepare a written report of their interview for you to submit to the court along with the other completed forms required at the time of filing. The court would encourage you to seek legal assistance for the necessary help to complete the termination of parental rights and adoption process if you have questions. Court staff cannot provide you with legal assistance. The court will appoint an attorney who will be acting on behalf of the child's best interests. This attorney is called a "Guardian ad Litem" and cannot act on your behalf to represent you in this matter. The Guardian ad Litem will also contact you to schedule a time to meet with and interview you. The Guardian ad Litem will then make a recommendation to the court regarding the termination and adoption based on their findings. You will be required to post a fee for the services performed by the Guardian ad Litem at the time of filing paperwork with the court. This fee is a retainer and usually covers most of the cost for the services performed by the Guardian ad Litem. If it does not cover all costs you will receive a bill for the balance. Likewise, any unused portion of the retainer fee will be reimbursed to you after the Guardian ad Litem submits their final bill to the court.

**Q.** How soon will I get a court date after I file for a Termination of Parental Rights and Step-Parent Adoption?

**A.** The matter will be placed on the court's calendar within 30 days of filing, provided all of the necessary paperwork and fees have been submitted to the court. Both matters will be scheduled to be heard together, first the Termination of Parental Rights and then the Step-Parent Adoption. This is a one-time court appearance. These hearings normally take about 45 minutes. If the matters are not contested the courts will grant the Termination of Parental Rights and Step-Parent Adoption on the day of the hearing. If the Termination of Parental Rights is contested, both of the matters will be adjourned to a date set within 45 days of the first (plea) hearing.

**Q.** Will we get a new birth certificate after the Step-Parent Adoption has been granted?

**A.** Yes. The Court will forward the completed "Report of Adoption" form (along with the fee the petitioner submitted at the time of filing) to the state in which the child was born to obtain the new certified birth certificate. This new certified birth certificate will be mailed directly to the adopting party. If the child being adopted was born in a different state, please contact the court prior to filing to find out the correct fee for that state.

**Q.** Where do I file for guardianship of a minor child and how do I start this process?

**A.** Guardianships of a minor child's PERSON are filed in the Waukesha Juvenile Court office located at 521 Riverview Avenue, Waukesha, Room JC103. If you are filing for guardianship of a minor child's ESTATE, you would file in the Waukesha Probate Court office located at 515 W. Moreland Boulevard, Waukesha, third floor. *To file for guardianship of a minor child's PERSON, the child must be physically residing in Waukesha county.* Guardianship forms can be obtained in the Juvenile Court office. There is no charge for these forms. The forms provide some general information regarding the filing requirements and procedures. However, if the petitioning parties need help with the process, or do not understand the procedure for providing notice of the hearing, they will need to contact an attorney for legal help, as court staff cannot provide legal assistance.

**Q.** I have guardianship over a child who has now turned 18. Do I need to file paperwork with the court to terminate this guardianship?

**A.** No. Guardianships automatically expire when a child reaches the age of 18 without further Court involvement.

**Q.** I have guardianship over a child who has now returned to live with his/her parents. What do I need to do to terminate that guardianship?

**A.** You must write a letter to the court asking to have the guardianship terminated. You will need to provide the court with the information necessary to reopen the matter and set the court date. Your written request should include the child's name and date of birth, the reason for the request, the child's parent's names and



addresses and your current address and daytime phone number. The court will then contact you to schedule a hearing and send a letter to all the parties as to when and where to appear. The parties must be present for the court hearing. If the Judge feels that the request to terminate the guardianship is appropriate, he will grant the termination. The Court will then prepare and Order and send it out to all the parties.

**Q.** Are adoptions of adults done in Waukesha County Juvenile Court?

**A.** No. ***Adult adoptions, adoptions of anyone 18 years of age or older, are done in the Waukesha County Probate Court.*** Contact their office at (262) 548-7468 to inquire about forms, fees and procedures necessary to do an adult adoption.

**Q.** We adopted a foreign born child several years ago but never applied for a U.S. birth certificate. We need to get a birth certificate for our child but don't know how to go about this. What is the procedure?

**A.** You can contact the Waukesha County Juvenile Court office at (262) 548-7449 and ask for a "Report of Adoption" form to complete. After you have completed and signed the form you will need to bring it back to this office to get the Clerk's signature and the Court seal affixed. You will then need to send the completed form with fee to the Vital Records office in Madison, Wisconsin to obtain the new certified birth certificate. The address of the Vital Records office and the fees schedule is on the form.

If you have any questions about the new certified birth certificate, you can call the Vital Records office at (608) 267-7166



## Legal Resources



**Support and Assistance** – Programs that benefit specific groups or act on behalf of individuals and/or groups to make certain that they get the benefits and services they have a right to and that their rights are protected and enforced. Most advocacy programs do not use attorneys and therefore are not qualified to offer legal opinions or represent their clients in court.

### **Types of Support and Assistance:**

**Individual [*indiv*]** – Programs that educate individuals and significant others about their rights and act on behalf of an individual who may have a grievance against a service provider or who believe their rights have been violated.

**Group [*group*]** – Programs that educate groups of individuals and significant others about their rights and act on behalf of a group that may have a grievance against a service provider or that believe that their rights have been violated.

**Crime Prevention [*crime*]** – Programs that help individuals and the general public protect themselves against crime or prevent it from happening.

**Legal Assistance [*legal*]** – Programs that protect the rights of individuals or groups who are involved in civil, criminal or administrative actions. This assistance can take several forms, including furnishing legal advice, advising the party of his or her rights and possible solutions, negotiating a settlement, preparing legal documents, appearing in court on behalf of an individual, preparing the individual to represent himself or herself in court, and/or attending trials to monitor court proceedings.

### **Types of legal assistance include:**

**Family Law [*family*]** – Programs that offer assistance for people who are involved in disputes or legal actions that affect their family relationships.

**Legal Counseling [*counsel*]** – Programs that are staffed by attorneys who offer advice and guidance about legal matters, proposed lines of conduct, claims or contentions, including opinions on the party's rights, responsibilities and liabilities. They also offer suggestions for an appropriate course of action, but do not represent clients in court.

**Legal Representation [*represent*]** – Programs that are staffed by attorneys who appear on behalf of their clients in criminal, civil and/or administrative actions and proceedings. They also offer legal advice and guidance.

**Mediation [*mediate*]** – Programs that arranges for a neutral third person who all parties in a dispute agree to, who helps with the discussion between the parties and then helps them in making their own settlement decisions.

**Power of Attorney [*power*]** – Programs that give help to people who want to officially give another individual the right to make important health care decisions on their behalf if they ever are unable to make those decisions for themselves, or to handle important matters such as bill paying or handling contracts, investments, taxes, estate planning, or a business if the person becomes incapacitated.

**Protective Payee Program [*payee*]** – Programs that arrange to send benefit checks to a relative or other individual when the recipient is unable to manage his or her own funds.

**Tenants Rights Counseling [*tenant*]** – Programs that provide advice and guidance for tenants who need to know their rights and responsibilities about leases and rental agreements, deposits, legal eviction procedures, measures to protect themselves from unlawful or retaliatory evictions, rent withholding rights, rent control requirements, privacy rights and other issues that may be of particular interest to tenants. Tenant rights counseling may also include help in filling out forms, advice about a particular dispute, and contact with the offending landlord to give notification that she or he is not in compliance with property owner/tenant laws.

<b>Group</b>	Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups (cwag)
<b>Individual</b>	2850 Dairy Dr Ste 100
<b>Elder law</b>	Madison, WI 53718-6751
	(800) 366-2990
	<a href="http://www.cwag.org/">http://www.cwag.org/</a>

The Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups (CWAG) is a federation of local, area and statewide groups and individuals whose mission is to advocate for the special needs of older persons; to ensure that older persons are recognized as people of dignity and worth; and to affirm that older persons are partners in building the Wisconsin of tomorrow for people all ages. cwag members receive newsletters and updates on legislative issues important to older persons; access to free and discounted publications; invitations to meetings and events; discounts of prescription drugs at hundreds of pharmacies in Wisconsin; discounts on assistive devices (such as amplified phones) through Ameritech Special Needs Center; discounts on cwag sponsored conferences and other events. CWAG also advocates in the following areas: health and long-term care; elder law issues; housing and property tax relief; funding of elderly programs; Social Security and income security issues; and advocacy of intergenerational issues.

**Legal  
Lawyer referrals**

Lawyer Referral and Information Service  
(Wisconsin State Bar - Madison)  
PO Box 7158  
Madison, WI 53701-7158  
(800) 362-9082 (State-wide)  
(608) 257-4666 (Dane County only)  
<http://www.wisbar.org>

Lawyer Referral: Maybe you think you need an attorney, but want to talk to someone first. Call *Iris*. When it is appropriate, we can refer you to a lawyer in your geographic area or elsewhere in Wisconsin who has indicated an interest in dealing with your legal situation. The first half-hour consultation will cost no more than \$20.

Community Referrals: If you do not need a lawyer, *Iris* will refer you to another legal service organization, government agency, or community resource that might be able to help with your legal concern.

Lawyer Hotline: Maybe all you need is general legal information or an answer to a simple legal question, such as how to file in small claims court. *Iris* will make an appointment for a lawyer to call you back, free of charge, within a few days, to briefly discuss your question with you.

**Court system**

- **Municipal Court**
- **Clerk of Circuit Court**
- **Small Claims Court information**

Wisconsin Court System

Web site: <http://www.courts.state.wi.us/>

Clerks of Circuit Court by county:

<http://www.courts.state.wi.us/directory/Index.html>

Municipal Court listing:

<http://www.courts.state.wi.us/municipal/pdf/mjdir.pdf>

Guide to Small Claims Court:

[http://www.courts.state.wi.us/circuit/pdf/small\\_claims.pdf](http://www.courts.state.wi.us/circuit/pdf/small_claims.pdf)

**Court System (Cont.)**

Juvenile Court Office  
521 Riverview Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
Room JC103

Probate Court Office  
515 W. Moreland Blvd.  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
Room C-380

**For Information Concerning:**

- Termination of Parental Rights (Guide)
- Step-Parent / Relative Adoption (Guide)
- Adoptive Placement (Guide)
- Agency Adoptive (Guide)
- Foreign Readoptive (Guide)
- Guardianship (Guide)

A Parent's Guide to the Waukesha County Juvenile Court

**Adoption**

Wisconsin Dept of Health and Family Services –  
Southeastern Wisconsin  
141 N.W. Barstow Street  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 548-8692

Department of Health and Family Services Office to contact for information on adoption of special needs children.

**Group**

- **Families**

Wisconsin Family Ties  
16 N Carroll St Suite 640  
Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 267-6888

Wisconsin Family Ties is a statewide not-for-profit organization run by families for families that include children and adolescents who have emotional, behavioral, and mental disorders. WFT has family advocates who can team with families and the professionals working with families. Whether it's schools, social services, mental health services, or the juvenile justice system, WFT can help with understanding options and legal rights. Also provides information and referral services, support groups, and conferences for parents and professionals.

**Legal  
Guardianship issues**

Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center  
2850 Dairy Dr Ste 100  
Madison, WI 53718-6751  
(800) 488-2596

The toll-free telephone line is available to all individuals with questions about guardianship law: how to determine whether an individual needs a guardian; how the court procedures work; the roles, responsibilities and authority of guardians; and alternatives to guardianship.

<b>Legal</b>	Wisconsin Judicare
<b>Landlord / Tenant</b>	300 Third St Ste 210
<b>issues</b>	Wausau, WI 54402
<b>Eviction information</b>	(800) 472-1638

Persons may be eligible for free legal help through Wisconsin Judicare if they: live in one of the 33 northern-most counties in Wisconsin; meet income and asset guidelines; are a US citizen or an alien lawfully residing in the United States under the color of the law. To access services, apply for a "Judicare Card" that is accepted by lawyers throughout northern Wisconsin. Cases involving bankruptcy, social security and SSI, family law, health, housing, income maintenance, wills, and Indian law will be reviewed for approval or denial on an individual basis. Wisconsin Judicare cannot pay for or provide legal services in criminal cases, juvenile matters, fee generating cases, patents, traffic matters, ordinance violations and other restricted types of cases. (This is not a complete list of ineligible cases.) Having a Judicare Card does not guarantee that Judicare will pay an attorney to handle all legal problems.





# **PARENTING AGAIN**

**G**RANDPARENTS/RELATIVES

**R**AISING

**A**ND

**N**URTURING

**D**EPENDENT CHILDREN

**Waukesha County Resource Guide**



# Parenting Again



**For Information on:**

**See Question Number:**

Support for Grandparents/Relatives.....	Section I
Parenting Tips .....	1, 2, 3, 4
Support Groups .....	5
Special Needs Children.....	6
Services for Grandparents/Relatives.....	7
Recreational Activities for Children .....	Section II
Summer Camp Program.....	1
Arts Programs .....	2
Watching TV.....	3
Information About Parenting Again .....	Section III
AARP Grandparent Information Center .....	1
Books .....	2
Web Sites .....	3
Fact Sheets	
Infant Development .....	1
Preschool Development .....	2
Understanding the Middle Years .....	3
Understanding Teens .....	4
Caring for the Caregiver .....	5
Resource List .....	Following the Q&A





# Parenting Again



The resource section at the end of this chapter gives you the locations, phone numbers, and/or Web sites of agencies where you can find help. For access to computers and assistance in reaching the information available on Web sites, contact your local public libraries, senior centers, community centers, or family resource centers.



This chapter looks at common parenting concerns of grandparents and other relatives who are parenting again. It is divided into three question and answer sections: Support for you as you parent your grandchild, which includes recent information in child development and support services for older adults; recreational activities for children; and a list of books, organizations, Web sites, and other information that will help you understand the special relationship that you have with your grandchildren and the adjustments you will need to make as you parent again.

## I Support for Grandparents/Relatives Raising Grandchildren

### 1. **My daughter's two children have come to live with me. It's been a long time since I've had to care for young children full time. I need to know what to expect from these children as they grow and change.**

Taking on the responsibility for raising your grandchildren can seem overwhelming. What society expects from parents is different in some ways from when you were raising your children. Often children who come to live with their grandparents may have been through some difficult times and may behave in ways that make parenting them even harder. The following parenting tips will help you build your grandchildren's self-esteem and encourage healthy, happy behaviors.

- Praise your grandchild frequently.
- Accept and respect your grandchildren's individuality. Allow them to develop at their own pace.
- Encourage your grandchildren.
- Be consistent in setting and enforcing rules.
- Give your grandchildren opportunities to try new things, see new places, and meet new people. A child learns by watching and doing.

Four fact sheets toward the end of this chapter discuss the developmental stages for children in different age ranges (infant, preschool, middle years, and teens). These fact sheets are helpful because they give you a brief overview of the kinds of behaviors you can expect to see as your grandchildren grow and change. At the end of each fact sheet, a Web site is listed that will give you more complete information about each stage of

development. Keep in mind that there will be a period of adjustment when your grandchildren come to live with you.

**2. My grandson seems very afraid to let his friends know that he is living with his grandmother. What can I do to help him feel less worried about the situation?**

Help your grandson understand that many children are a part of families that are made up of different kinds of living arrangements. They are used to their friends having two homes, two sets of parents, same sex parents, and even living with their grandparents or other relatives. Your family is just one of the many forms families have today.

While he may not be ready to talk with his new friends about why he is living with you, that probably will change as he comes to know that he can trust you. Your grandson also may be trying to cope with feeling that his parents have abandoned him or that he is responsible for his parents' not being able to take care of him. He needs to learn that he can trust you as the adult in his life. You can help build that trust by being consistent: stick to your word; if you make promises, keep them; pick him up on time or come back home when you say you will; and set a routine that he can count on.

The fact sheets at the end of this chapter can help you understand his developmental stage and what you can expect from him as he adjusts to his new living arrangement. The chapter also gives information about books, newsletters, Web sites and organizations that can be helpful as you parent your grandson.

**3. My son is in prison and his ex-wife is not able to care for their children. Though I have legal custody of my three grandchildren, I worry that I will not be able to raise them to stay out of trouble. What can I do to make sure that these children turn out well?**

While it's true that there are no guarantees that grandparents will not have problems parenting the second time, there are many things that you can do to learn to become more confident as you parent again.

- Think about what you want accomplish as you parent again. Write it down. Think about it again with each new stage you and your grandchildren go through. The fact sheets included with this chapter will be helpful.
- Learn all that you can about parenting education opportunities in your community. The resource list at the end of this chapter is a good place to start. There may be workshops where you can share your concerns. Some organizations offer newsletters or lend books and videotapes.
- See if there is a support group in your area for grandparents raising grandchildren. The Web site for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin has information that will help you find out if there is a support group in your area: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/gprg/gprg.html> The AARP materials and

several of the organizations listed toward the end of this chapter can help you find a support group or start one if there isn't one in your community.

- Be sure to take good care of yourself. Take the questionnaire “Caring for the Caregiver” at the end of this chapter to check how you're handling the stress and challenges that come with being a grandparent raising grandchildren.
- This chapter also lists many books that are written by or for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. You may find what they have written about helpful to you as you parent again.

**4. I am having mixed feelings about having to bring my grandchild into my home. My daughter has been using drugs and disappeared again, leaving my granddaughter at my door. I feel as though my world is suddenly upside down. I love my granddaughter, but I am not sure that I will be able to take care of her.**

Though you love your granddaughter, your confusion about suddenly having to raise your grandchild is understandable. Taking on the job of raising a child after so many years is a big step. Talking about your feelings and understanding them can help you adjust to the challenges that are ahead. You may feel that your adult child has abandoned both you and her daughter, leaving you to cope as her parent, not her grandparent. It's normal to feel angry about losing the freedom you've had since your children left home, and now the extra responsibility of raising a child may keep you from doing the things you had planned on, such as retiring, traveling, and using your leisure time. Now your time, energy, and financial resources may be given to raising your granddaughter. Perhaps you even feel guilty because your child has abandoned her daughter and wonder what you could have done differently. It's helpful to talk with others who have gone through similar circumstances to help you see that what she did is not your fault. It is not unusual to feel very alone as you adjust to these changes, wondering if your friends will understand what's happened, if your family will be willing or able to help you, or if you can make the changes that are needed.

There are no easy answers to these doubts, but learning all that you can about where to find support for both yourself and your granddaughter and then tapping into that support will help you gain confidence as you parent again. With time, the relationship between you and your granddaughter can get past these feelings of confusion and loss. For her, you are the person she must come to trust, and you will learn to trust yourself to be the responsible adult in her life.

**5. I have heard about support groups for grandparents raising grandchildren. Why should I join a support group? What can I expect to find if I attend a support group meeting? What if there is no support group in my area?**

A support group is usually a small group of people who chose to come together because they share something in common—in this case parenting again. During support group meetings, you can expect people to talk about their experiences, their worries, and their successes as they raise their grandchildren. As members listen, they learn from and

encourage each other. Members hear about what to expect as their grandchildren grow, and they share with others from their own experiences. Sometimes meetings may focus on special topics, such as how to discipline, legal or financial issues, or health concerns. At other times there may be discussions on topics that members in the group bring up and need to talk about such as managing the day-to-day responsibilities of raising their grandchildren, working with schools, or helping spouses and other family members cope with having children in the home again.

If you want to learn more about support groups in your area, check the resource list at the end of this chapter for groups in your area. Call and talk with the group leader, then visit the group that sounds best for you. If there is no group in your area, see what you can do to get one started. Contact social service agencies, schools, churches, and other organizations. Let them know you're interested in starting a group and ask for their help. You may be able to find a professional or another grandparent who is willing to help you plan or lead the meetings. Some of the books and organizations listed in the third section of this chapter and in the resource list at the end of the chapter can help you get started.

Finally, a friend who will listen over a cup of coffee may provide support. Be careful of over-burdening friends with your problems, but a sympathetic ear can help you sort through the difficulties you're having and help you find your own solutions.

**6. I am raising a granddaughter who has special needs. Because she has moved from another state to live with me, I need to know more about what kind of help there is for us in my community.**

Children with special needs are those with physical or mental disabilities, emotional or behavioral problems, or who are at risk for developing disabilities. It's important to know what kinds of help to ask for as well as finding out what kind of help is available in your area. Do you need help caring for her at home? Help with transportation or special equipment? Respite care for yourself? Help from the school system? Depending on the kind of special needs that your granddaughter has, the resource list at the end of this chapter should point you toward finding the help that you need. In some cases, there are national contact numbers and Web sites given that may help you learn more about the special needs of your grandson.

**7. Where can I find information about services for older people in Wisconsin? I have agreed to care for my four grandchildren until my daughter is able to make a home for them again. I have been able to get help in meeting their needs, but the extra work is hard on me. I need some help to meet my needs, too.**

In Wisconsin, there are many state, area, local, and tribal services available for older adults. Listed below are resources that can give information about a number of special needs or circumstances affecting older adults.

### **County/Tribal Offices on Aging**

County and tribal offices on aging are the first places to contact to find out about services for older persons and their families. These offices can give information on public and private benefits, housing, group and home-delivered meals, personal care services, and senior centers that help older adults. County and tribal aging offices may be independent agencies or part of county departments of human or social services. . Contact your local phone book for the county/tribe office nearest you or contact the ElderCare Locator telephone line, 1-800-677-1116.

### **Area Agencies on Aging**

There are six area agencies on aging (AAA) in Wisconsin. Four serve more than one county and are located in Green Bay, Madison, Rhinelander, and Waukesha; the other two are county-specific: Milwaukee and Dane Counties. All administer federal and state aging program grants and assist county and tribal aging program staff. Area agencies on aging also are part of a national network that connects people with local assistance. This network can be reached through the ElderCare Locator telephone line, 1-800-677-1116. For more information on the agency in your area, please contact:

**AgeAdvantage**, Madison: (Serving Buffalo, Chippewa, Columbia, Crawford, Dodge, Dunn, Eau Claire, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, LaCrosse, Lafayette, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Richland, Rock, Sauk, St. Croix, Trempealeau, and Vernon Counties, and Ho Chunk Tribe) (608) 224-6300.

**Bay Area Agency on Aging**, Green Bay: (Serving Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago counties; Menominee, Oneida, and Stockbridge-Munsee Tribes) (920) 469-8858.

**Dane County Area Agency on Aging**: (serving Dane County) 608/224-3660.

**Milwaukee Area Agency on Aging**: (Serving Milwaukee County) 414/289-5950.

**Southeastern Area Agency on Aging, Inc.**: (Serving Kenosha, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha counties) (262) 821-4444

**Northern Area Agency on Aging**: (Serving Adams, Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Clark, Douglas, Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Polk, Portage, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn, and Wood Counties; Bad River, Potawatomi, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff, Sokaogon Chippewa, and St Croix tribes.) (715-365-2525)

### **Bureau of Aging and Long Term Care Resources**

The Bureau of Aging and Long Term Care Resources (BALTCR) is the state agency responsible for analyzing public policy, planning and funding services for elderly persons and people of all ages with physical disabilities, in need of protective services and community-based long term support. The BALTCR programs encourage older adults and

disabled persons to remain independent and active in the community. For more information about BALTCR programs, contact:

Bureau of Aging and Long Term Care Resources  
1 West Wilson St., Room 450  
Madison, WI 53707  
Main Phone: (608) 266-2536  
Main Fax: (608) 267-3203  
Web site: <http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/aging>

## **II. Recreational Activities for Children**

### **1. I would like my grandchild to attend a summer camp program. How can I find one that is right for my grandchild?**

Many child-oriented agencies plan summer programs for school-age children that have recreational and special interest programs. These might be run on a part-day basis or a full-day basis for children who need all-day supervision. Some camps are also set up for children with special needs. The Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network refers families to summer camps in their area. For a referral of camps that serve children with special call Easter Seals at 1-800-422-2324. A Web site can be found at: [www.wisconline.com/attractions/camps/alpha.html](http://www.wisconline.com/attractions/camps/alpha.html)

### **2. How can I get my grandchild enrolled in arts programs?**

Contact your school district to understand how and when your grandchild can enroll in band, chorus, orchestra, or drama programs (usually starting at 4<sup>th</sup> grade). Some programs are during the school day, and some are after school or on Saturdays.

Call your community recreation program to see what after-school or summer arts programs there are for preschool, elementary, middle school and high school students.

For more information on arts programs for preschool, elementary, and high school students, contact:

Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education  
P.O. Box 180033  
Delafield, WI 53018-0033  
262-646-5144 (office)  
262-646-4948 (Fax)

Research shows that stimulation of sounds, movement, and images are very important to the development of a child's brain. Here are some ways you can help your grandchild make important emotional a developmental gains, even before enrolling her in an arts program:

- Sing to your grandchild, from earliest days, and teach her songs
- Read to your grandchild, from when she is very young; when she can read, read together 20 minutes every day
- Make it possible for your grandchild to learn a musical instrument
- Take a young grandchild's natural love of dance and enroll her in a dance class—whether folk, modern, tap, jazz, ballet, or hip-hop—it doesn't matter.

### **3. How much TV should my grandchild watch each day?**

It is important to limit the hours that your grandchild can watch TV. Homework, reading for pleasure, playing and being together with friends should be more important. Watch TV with your grandchild to see what kinds of programs he is choosing to watch and talk with him about what you are seeing.

Your grandchild is surrounded by media—not only TV, but also computer games, video, movies, CDs, and so forth. You can help him learn to view media wisely by sitting with him and:

- Encouraging him to remember that programs and games are usually imaginary; they're not “real life”
- Asking your grandchild what the sponsor or producer wants him to buy
- Asking your grandchild what values are (and are not) being encouraged in the program and game
- Learning to “see” how the media use light, shadow, music, animation, and cut to get the message across
- Questioning how teens, minorities, and women are (and aren't) portrayed

By reading aloud the movie and TV credits, you can help your grandchild learn about the many careers there are in media: cameraperson, sound person, electrician, make-up artist, choreographer, and so forth. Talking with your grandchild about all of the people who work on making a movie or TV show can help him understand the make-believe world created by TV and movies.

## **III. Books, Organizations, Web Sites, and Other Information About Parenting Again**

### **1. What is the AARP Grandparent Information Center?**

The AARP Grandparent Information Center (GIC) has been in operation since 1992. The Center works in partnership with the Brookdale Foundation Group to provide assistance to grandparent-headed families. Besides supplying information and referral, the Center works with state, local and regional organizations to expand and improve services for grandparent-headed families.

AARP Grandparent Information Center acts as a link between grandparents and the resources available to them, through publications and by answering individual questions

from grandparents raising grandchildren. (Callers do not have to be members of AARP, over 50 year old, or even a grandparent to use this service.)

Grandparent Information Center  
 AARP  
 601 E St. NW  
 Washington, DC 20049  
 (202) 434-2296  
 E-mail: [gic@aarp.org](mailto:gic@aarp.org)  
 Web site: [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

The Grandparent Information center also publishes a newsletter and the information packets, a sample of which is listed below. You can call them or write for a complete list. Up to ten copies may be ordered free or they can be downloaded from [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

	<b>Publication Numbers</b>		
	<u>English</u>	<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Online</u>
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.....	D15272.....	D16514.....	Yes, English
Starting A Support Group .....	D16022.....	D16725.....	Yes, English
Raising Healthy Grandchildren.....	D15514.....	D16515.....	Yes, English
GIC Fact Sheet/Order Form.....	D16977.....	No.....	No
Tip Sheet–Public Programs.....	D15633		
Questions & Answers–Visitation Rights ...	D15306		
GIC Book of Children’s Quotes.....	D16260		
The Apple of Your Eye.....	D15950		
Minority Grandparents Component Fact Sheet .....	D16239		
GIC Newsletter .....	D15536		

**2. What books can I read to learn more about being a caregiver to my grandchild or to find support while I parent again?**

Effective Support Groups: How to Plan, Design, Facilitate, and Enjoy Them. Fort Wayne, IN: Willowgreen Publishing. Miller, James E. (1998).

Grandparents as Parents: A Survival Guide for Raising a Second Family. New York, NY: Guilford Press. De Toledo, Sylvie. (1995).

Looks at the needs of the grandparents and grandchildren in their new relationship and gives ideas for how to work on specific problems. Walks the reader through different kinds of assistance programs, explaining what should happen, what will really happen, and how to work through the system.



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: A Guide to Finding Help and Hope. The Brookdale Foundation Group.

Written for grandparents who have taken on the challenge of raising their grandchildren. This book talks about the needs of grandchildren, the problems of the parents, and the legal and social issues the grandparents face. To receive a copy, send \$3.00 for mailing and handling to: the National Foster Parent Association, 9 Dartmoor Drive, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 or call (815) 455-2527.

Grandparents: Raising Our Children's Children. University of Idaho: Moscow, ID. Williams, Doris K. (2000).

This handbook is written for both grandparents and the professionals who advise them. For grandparents acting as parents, the author gives easy-to-use, informative, and realistic help. The book covers concerns such as: finances, legal issues, the ability to parent again, family relationships, and how to find help.

Second Time Around: Help for Grandparents Who Raise Their Children's Kids Callendar, Joan. (2000).

A guide for grandparent caregivers. Callendar is a grandparent caregiver and interweaves many personal experiences with her practical advice. This book speaks directly to caregivers. Available from: Bookpartners, Inc. P.O. Box 922, Wilsonville, OR 97071 or contact Joan Callendar (503) 659-9052, Jcalland@Teleport.Com

Unplanned Parenthood: The Confessions of a Seventy-Something Surrogate Mother. NY: Random House. Carpenter, L. (1994).

A humorous account of a 73-year-old grandmother raising her three teenage grandchildren.

### **3. Are there Web sites on the World Wide Web that have helpful information?**

#### **AARP - Grandparent Information Center**

601 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049

(202) 434-2296 or Fax (202) 434-6466

*<http://www.aarp.org/confacts/programs/gic.html>*

Provides an extensive range of services including a listing of local support groups, newsletters, and useful publications. Contact **AARP's Grandparent Information Center** for a list of support groups in your area:

*<http://www.aarp.org/confacts/health/grandsupport.html>*

**The Brookdale Foundation Group**

126 East 56<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10022

(212) 308-7355 or Fax (212) 750-0132

<http://www.ewol.com/brookdale>

The Brookdale Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP) provides seed grants to support local and state agencies serving grandparents and other kin who have become the primary caretakers of their grandchildren.

**Family Living Programs**

University of Wisconsin–Extension

<http://www1.uwex.edu/ces/pubs/subcat.cfm?catid=17>

Under “Home and Family Publications,” there are a number of newsletters related to specific ages and development of children. Especially recommended are the series “Parenting the First Year” and “Parenting the Second and Third Years.”

**Generations United**

440 First Street, NW - Suite 480

Washington, DC 20001-2085

(202) 662-4283 or Fax (202) 638-7555

<http://www.gu.org>

Offers information and advocacy relating to grandparent caregivers, plus a very good biennial conference.

In addition, Generations United has three fact sheets about grandparents raising grandchildren that were published in 2000. One has general information and statistics; another gives information about how to access educational services for children being raised by grandparents; and the third presents information about subsidized guardianship programs. These fact sheets can be accessed for no charge at: [www.gu.org/projg&ofaqs.htm](http://www.gu.org/projg&ofaqs.htm) or by calling GU at (202) 638-1263 or writing 122 C Street, NW, Suite 820, Washington, DC 20001.

**Grandparents United for Children's Rights**

137 Larkin Street

Madison, WI 53705

(608) 238-8751

<http://www.grandparentsunited.org>

Gives the latest information that affects grandparents raising their grandchildren and how grandparents can protect their visitation rights.

## **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin**

*<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/gprg/gprg.html>*

Offers grandparents raising grandchildren opportunities to share information, find answers to questions, and learn about resources.

## **The Child & Family WebGuide**

*<http://www.cfw.tufts.edu/>*

E-mail: *[dfw@tufts.edu](mailto:dfw@tufts.edu)*

WebGuide is an on-line resource for parents, child-care professionals, students, and others. It identifies, describes, and evaluates Web sites that provide child development information in six broad categories of information: family, education, health, typical development, child care, and activities. The last category, activities, which was added at the request of parents, contains sites with information about specific programs and things to do that are organized by region.



This chapter was developed by Maryanne Haselow-Dulin, ABD, Editing Services; and Mary Brintnall-Peterson, Program Specialist in Aging, UW-Extension, Family Living Programs. Additional contributions were made by Mary Roach, Child Development Specialist, UW-Extension, Family Living Programs; Barbara Robinson, Bureau of Aging and Long Term Care Resources, Department of Health and Family Services; Karen DeBord, State Specialist—Child Development, North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension; and Dena Targ, Associate Professor, Department of Child Development and Family Studies, Purdue University. Portions of the chapter were adapted for use in Wisconsin from the state of Delaware's *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource Guide* and the *Grandparents Guide: Helping to Raise Your Children's Children* from Beatitudes Center D.O.A.R., Phoenix, AZ.

This chapter is one of eight chapters included in the *Grandparents/Relatives Raising And Nurturing Dependent Children (GRAND) Resource Guide*. Other topics addressed in the resource guide include Child Care, Counseling, Education, Financial Assistance, Health, and Legal issues. They can be found on the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Web site at: *<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/grand.pdf>*

This chapter was reviewed by Joyce Mallory, Director, Start Smart; and Ann Keim, Early Child Development Specialist, UW-Extension, Family Living Programs.

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin presents the information in the *Grandparents/Relative Raising And Nurturing Grandchildren (GRAND) Resource*

*Guide* as a service to those who are raising grandchildren or other kin or to those who are working with them. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and reliability, member organizations of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin and contributors to this resource guide make no warranty or guarantee concerning the accuracy or reliability of the content in the resource guide.



# Infant Development



## What Is Normal?

Perhaps it has been a long time since you raised your own children, and you may ask yourself “What is normal?” in looking for the changes that your infant grandchild will go through. It is important to remember that each child is unique and will develop at his or her own rate. Children of the same age may have very different skill levels. However, if you have any concerns about your grandchild’s development, talk with your health care provider. The areas of development to watch for in infants as you parent again are listed below.

## Social Development

- Relationships infants have now will affect how they relate to others in the future
- Use gentle touches and hold them in ways that will make them feel safe
- Respond to infant babbles and coos as if it is a conversation between the two of you

## Physical Development

- Infants grow very quickly and should be put in safe, childproof places
- Appropriate touch, activities, and toys can help babies develop their muscles
- Your grandchild should have regular doctor’s visits for shots and check-ups

## Cognitive Development

- Infants learn by seeing and touching the things around them
- Keep the same schedule so your grandchild can learn what to expect
- Give your grandchild a stuffed animal or blanket for comfort when you can’t be there

## Setting Limits

- Childproof baby spaces so your grandchild can explore safely
- Use single word phrases in a firm voice to warn a curious infant “no no”
- It will take many times before an infant understands what you say or mean

## Sleeping

- Expect a certain amount of fussing at bedtime
- Help your grandchild learn to comfort him- or herself at night
- Routines at bedtime will help prepare infants for sleep
- Sleep patterns can change if children are sick or if they are feeling other stress

## Crying

- Crying is normal and should be expected
- Crying is another way a baby can “talk” to others
- Talk with your health care provider if the crying seems too frequent or urgent



This fact sheet was adapted from materials by Karen DeBord, State Specialist–Child Development, North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension. For more information, visit the Web site <http://www.nncc.org/Child.Dev/grow.infant.html> or other resources listed at the end of this chapter.



# Preschool Development



## What Affects a Child's Development?

Each child is raised in a family that has its own cultural, religious, and social characteristics. No two families are alike, just as no two children are alike. Everything and everyone around growing children, including how children think, their own inner sense of right and wrong, and the media can affect how they develop.

### The Child as a Whole

There are several areas of development: Social, Emotional, Physical, and Intellectual

- Each area of development depends on the others
- The whole child should be encouraged to grow in all these areas

## How Do Preschoolers Develop?

- Infancy: They learn to trust the adults around them to take care of their needs
- Toddlerhood: They learn they are separate from adults and are able to do things themselves
- Early Childhood: They learn they can use their imaginations without worrying that they are doing something “wrong”
- School Age: They learn they can use their growing skills and become more self-confident

### The Body

- Children grow in spurts instead of at a steady rate
- Their level of physical skills can make a difference in how children feel about themselves
- By the ages of six to seven, most of the basic motor skills are developed
- Plenty of exercise and good nutrition helps healthy growth

### The Mind

- Learning ways to think develops in a pattern as children grow
- Children under age two have a hard time understanding what is real
- Children around age two cannot see things from another person’s viewpoint
- Preschoolers begin to learn to group similar things together
- Learning to use language develops in a pattern as children grow
- Children may know up to 300 words by age two
- Children will repeat what they hear over and over
- Reading and talking to children will help them to develop language skills

## Social and Emotional Development

- How children feel about themselves depends on what their “important people” think about them
- Children learn to be independent by trusting what/who is around them
- Toilet training should be started when a child is ready and interested
- Making a child feel bad about toilet training mistakes hurts how they feel about themselves
- Children around the age of seven or eight can better control their actions

## Moral Development

- Moral development follows a pattern as children age
  - First: They behave in a way to keep themselves out of trouble
  - Second: They behave in a way that will be rewarded
  - Third: They behave in a way that they feel is “right,” in spite of any rewards that may come from their actions

## Importance of Play

- Play is a child's way of learning
- Play helps children feel calm and to learn to get along with others
- Children discover new things when they play
- Creative play allows children to work things out through trial and error
- Parents, grandparents, or other relative caregivers can encourage children to work out problems found through play



Information on this fact sheet was adapted from materials developed by Karen DeBord, State Specialist–Child Development, North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension. For more information, visit the Web site <http://www.nncc.org/Child.Dev/grow.preschool.html> or other resources listed at the end of this chapter.





# Understanding the Middle Years



## Overview

Between the ages of six and twelve, your grandchild's world moves outward from the family as he or she forms relationships with friends, teachers, coaches, caregivers, and others. Because they are having more experiences, many things can affect how children think and feel. Some situations can make them feel tense and affect how they feel about themselves. Middle childhood is a time for children to get ready for the teen years. Up to this point, your grandchildren may have looked up to you as the source of their information, but now they may judge you more and look at your actions differently.

## Social and Emotional Development

- There are signs of growing independence as children test their growing knowledge, possibly by talking back and being rebellious
- Common fears include the unknown, failure, death, family problems, and rejection
- Children are beginning to understand the point of view of others
- Children identify themselves by how they look, the things they own, and the things they do
- They can control their anger and handle frustration better
- They tend to be a “tattletale” to get attention
- Between six and eight years old, children may still be afraid of the dark and monsters
- They become attached to adults other than the ones who are taking care of them
- Their feelings are easily hurt and they can have mood swings

## Practical Advice to Promote Healthy Social and Emotional Development

- Encourage noncompetitive games to avoid comparing one child's skills to another
- Give children lots of positive attention and let them help make the rules
- Show confidence in their ability to make good decisions
- Ask, “How could you do that differently next time?” when they make mistakes
- Be aware of what your grandchild may be feeling but not able to talk to you about
- Give your grandchildren positive attention for the things that they do well
- Avoid criticizing or humiliating their skills or decisions

## Physical Development

- Growth is slower than preschool years, but steady, and their eating levels may change
- In the later stages of middle childhood, body changes show the start of puberty
- Activity may bring tiredness; children need about ten hours of sleep each night

- Muscle coordination and control are uneven and incomplete in the early stages, but children become almost as coordinated as adults by the end of middle childhood
- Small muscles develop quickly, making more difficult activities more enjoyable now
- Baby teeth will come out, permanent ones will come in, and overcrowded teeth are common
- Eyes reach full growth in middle childhood, and your grandchild should have an eye exam

## **Practical Advice to Promote Healthy Physical Development**

- Let both boys and girls choose from a variety of activities, not just the ones that are usually thought of as boy or girl activities
- Help children to balance busy time and quiet activity time
- Regular dental and eye check-ups are important at this stage

## **Mental Development**

- Children begin to think about their behavior and what may happen because of their actions
- Children begin to read and write early in middle childhood and do both well by the later stages
- Children learn best through “hands-on” activity
- Children usually can’t sit longer than twenty minutes for any activity, but their attention span gets better with age
- Children start many projects as they try new things, but rarely finish them
- Children can talk through problems and solve them
- Children begin to see themselves as “workers”

## **Practical Advice to Promote Healthy Mental Development**

- Be patient with the more difficult, rebellious behaviors children show as they learn to think for themselves
- Ask “what if” questions to help your grandchildren develop problem-solving skills
- Encourage your grandchildren to read books and to make up their own stories
- Think of ways to use daily activities as “hands-on” learning time
- Make sure to have one-on-one time with your grandchild to listen and talk

## **Moral Development**

- Moral development happens over time through the experiences children have
- Children want to feel useful and to have a sense that they are a help to the family
- TV violence can make children think that it is normal for people to act that way
- Children need to practice ways that show caring for others
- Love, caring, and positive relations play central roles in ethics and moral education

## Practical Advice Promote Healthy Moral Development

- Teach ways to show caring behaviors by treating your grandchildren with care and respect
- When you show you care for your grandchildren by listening to their opinions and showing that how they feel matters and is important to you, they then learn to be that way with others
- Show that caring for, responding to, and working to understand others is an important value in your family
- By your volunteer activities, you can show your grandchildren how to do “good deeds” for others, giving them practice and a feeling of pride in their kind actions
- Notice when your grandchildren act in kind and loving ways and tell them



This fact sheet was adapted from information by Karen DeBord, State Specialist–Child Development, North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension. For more information, visit the Web site [http://www.nccc.org/Child.Dev/child6\\_12.html](http://www.nccc.org/Child.Dev/child6_12.html) or other resources listed at the end of this chapter.



# Understanding Teens



## Overview

Whether children you're caring for are toddlers or teens, getting ready to parent again is tough! The difficulty with teens is that their bodies are larger, they are more outspoken, and they are able to fight battles on a more adult level. They also may take more risks. The stakes in parenting teens are higher than at any other developmental stage to this point. Below are common questions about raising teens that grandparents or other relative caregivers may have.

### 1. Is peer pressure really is at its worst during adolescent and teen years?

Generally, adolescents choose friends with similar values and tastes to theirs; however, caregivers who are responsible for a teenager (e.g., parents, grandparents, or other relatives) still have the most influence over that teen's life. Research shows that relative caregivers, such as grandparents, who keep a close eye on their grandchildren can help prevent a number of risky behaviors, including alcohol use, sexual activity, delinquency, and other misbehaviors. By keeping track of your grandchildren, you're giving them the message that as they earn the right to have more independence, they also must take more responsibility for their actions.

Establish guidelines and limits for your grandchildren in order to keep track of what is going on in their world: where they are, who they're with, what they're planning to do, and how they will get there and back home again. While your grandchildren may complain that you "don't trust them," they feel safer knowing that you care enough to ask. Start supervising your grandchildren when they are young, and they will accept your caring about their activities as a part of life.

### 2. Why do my teens prefer their friends to our family?

As children begin school, they spend less time with family, and their friends become more important. Often teens who do not feel good about themselves or who feel anxious will look for a "quick fix" of approval from a peer group. However, if teens have been taught how to make tough decisions early in life, they will be able to make good choices now.

Take the time to talk and listen to your grandchildren. Know their friends, what's happening in their school, and what their world is like.

### 3. Why won't my teens talk to me? Why won't they open up?

Teenagers like to talk, but they must have a willing listener. Teens will tune out if adults only listen halfway to what they say. They need a balance between routine chatter and deeper talk. Some of the things psychologists have found that teens wanted to talk about

include: family matters (e.g., vacations, curfews, money matters); controversial issues (e.g., sex, drugs); the future (e.g., work, college, making plans for the future); current affairs (e.g., world and community happenings); and personal interests (e.g., sports, hobbies, friends).

#### **4. If I don't get control of my child now, won't I be sorry later?**

While this may be true, *control* may not be the right word. Don't just say "no." Listen carefully to what your grandchild is asking and think about it in terms of how well you believe she can make decisions and handle the situation.

Respect your teen's point of view and be willing to discuss rules. Involve your teen in making the decision by talking it over without getting emotional. By letting your teen have some control, you are letting her know that she is important and that she can work with you in making decisions.

#### **5. Why do teens seem so moody, rebellious, and never serious?**

Instead of believing the worst about your teen, look at the positive things about him. Teens are curious; they have great imaginations and many new ideas about the world. They are undergoing many physical, social, and emotional changes, and, with good practice, can learn to make sound decisions.

Teens are interested in information about relationships and their bodies. If they can't talk with you, they will turn to television, the Internet, or their friends. Since teens are ready to "try on" adult behaviors, it's important that you are a positive model for them. With teens, what you do may be more important than what you say.

#### **6. Am I the only one, or does it seem that teens don't care about other people?**

To help teens grow up as caring people, it's important to show them how to be caring by practicing caring talk and actions yourself. Asking them open-ended questions (What do you think about . . . ? How can we figure this out?) is good practice in understanding and listening to others. Let your teens know the good qualities you see in them and build their trust by showing respect for them. Teens mirror the caring behaviors they see you practice.



This fact sheet was adapted from materials developed by Karen DeBord, State Specialist–Child Development, North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension. For more information, visit the Web site <http://nccc.org/Parent/parent.teens.html> or other resources listed at the end of this chapter.



# Caring for the Caregiver



Caring for grandchildren or arranging for help through communities can be overwhelming for grandparents raising grandchildren. Feelings of frustration, depression, anger or guilt are not uncommon. There are ways, however, to recognize that these stresses are becoming serious and to find places that can help.

The following questionnaire will help you become aware of the pressures and stress you may be under.

I FIND I CAN'T GET ENOUGH REST.	SELDOM TRUE OFTEN TRUE	SOMETIMES TRUE USUALLY TRUE
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME FOR MYSELF.	SELDOM TRUE OFTEN TRUE	SOMETIMES TRUE USUALLY TRUE
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE WITH OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS BESIDES GRANDCHILDREN.	SELDOM TRUE OFTEN TRUE	SOMETIMES TRUE USUALLY TRUE
I FEEL FRUSTRATED OR ANGRY.	SELDOM TRUE OFTEN TRUE	SOMETIMES TRUE USUALLY TRUE
I HAVE MORE PHYSICAL COMPLAINTS.	SELDOM TRUE OFTEN TRUE	SOMETIMES TRUE USUALLY TRUE
I DON'T GET OUT MUCH ANYMORE.	SELDOM TRUE OFTEN TRUE	SOMETIMES TRUE USUALLY TRUE
I HAVE CONFLICTS WITH MY GRANDCHILDREN.	SELDOM TRUE OFTEN TRUE	SOMETIMES TRUE USUALLY TRUE
I HAVE CONFLICT WITH OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS.	SELDOM TRUE OFTEN TRUE	SOMETIMES TRUE USUALLY TRUE

I WORRY ABOUT HAVING ENOUGH MONEY TO MAKE ENDS MEET.	SELDOM TRUE OFTEN TRUE	SOMETIMES TRUE USUALLY TRUE
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE TO CARE FOR MY GRANDCHILDREN AS I WOULD LIKE.	SELDOM TRUE OFTEN TRUE	SOMETIMES TRUE USUALLY TRUE
I FEEL GUILTY ABOUT MY SITUATION.	SELDOM TRUE OFTEN TRUE	SOMETIMES TRUE USUALLY TRUE

Chart adapted from *Grandparents Guide: Helping to Raise Your Children's Children* from Beatitudes Center D.O.A.R., Phoenix, Arizona.

If the response to one or more of these areas is [*usually true*] or *true*, it may be time to begin looking for help in caring for your grandchildren and help in taking care of yourself. (The resource list at the end of this chapter can provide some assistance.)



# Parenting Again Resources



## Programs Specifically Targeting Grandparents

Grandparent Information Center  
AARP  
601 E St NW  
Washington, DC 20049  
(202) 434-2296  
<http://www.aarp.org/grandparents/>

Welcome to For Grandparents – the section of the AARP Web place designed to meet the needs of grandparents. We encourage you to bookmark this page and visit frequently to see what's new. And we're always looking for ideas. Email [gic@aarp.org](mailto:gic@aarp.org) if there's a topic you'd like to see included.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of  
Wisconsin  
<http://uwex.edu/ces/gprg/gprg.html>

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin offers grandparents raising grandchildren opportunities to share information, find answers to questions, and learn about resources.

Grandparents Rights of Wisconsin, inc. (GROW)  
PO Box 341015  
Milwaukee, WI 53234-1015  
535-1218

Is a nonprofit advocacy group dedicated to preserving, protecting, and restoring the bond between grandparent and grandchild. Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month, year around in the Oak Creek area.

Grandparents Parenting Again  
Family Support Project  
The Women's Center, Inc.  
500 N. East Ave.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 547-4600  
[familysupport@twcwaukesha.org](mailto:familysupport@twcwaukesha.org)



The group addresses life changes, parenting challenges and other concerns, while offering support and encouragement. Grandparents Parenting Again is an on going support group which meets Thursdays from 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

## **Legal:**

Legal Action of Milwaukee  
230 Wells St. Ste. 800  
Milwaukee, WI 53203  
(414) 278-7722

Legal Action of Waukesha  
401 W. Main St.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 549-8726

Free legal services to low-income clients

Legal Horizons  
7412 W. State St.  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213  
(414) 476-5700  
[www.legalhorizons.com](http://www.legalhorizons.com)

Legal Horizons has many resources available in their customer service areas. All areas are open to the public, and many are at little or no cost to the client.

Waukesha County Family Court – Self-Help Center  
515 W. Moreland Blvd. Room C-108  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 548-7524  
[selphelp@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:selphelp@waukeshacounty.gov)

## **Adoption Assistance:**

**Adoption Assistance** Wisconsin Department of Health and Family  
Services – Southeastern Wisconsin  
141 N. Barstow Street  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 548-8692

## **Support Group Information:**

### **Support Groups**

Community Education Program  
1533 N. River Center Dr.  
Wauwatosa, WI 53212  
(414) 765-9355

Offers a variety of classes and support groups for families

Family Support and Empowerment Program  
2030 National Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53206  
(414) 645-3300

Offers the Nurturing Program, a 12 week education and support group for parents (or other adult figures) and their teenagers, ages 11-17

Family Support Project  
The Women's Center, Inc.  
500 N. East Ave.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 547-4600  
[familysupport@twcwaukesha.org](mailto:familysupport@twcwaukesha.org)

The Family Support Project is a program of The Women's Center, Inc. designed to provide supportive services to families throughout Waukesha County and the surrounding areas. The Family Support Project offers a variety of support groups and services to families, free of charge.

Parent's Place  
1570 E. Moreland Blvd.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 549-5575

A family resource center providing families with workshops, classes and support groups on parenting/family issues.

## **Family Resource Centers and Agencies That Offer Support:**

Community Education Program  
1533 N. River Center Dr.  
Wauwatosa, WI 53212  
(414) 7659355

Offers a variety of classes and support groups for families

Family Support Project  
The Women's Center, Inc.  
425 N. East Ave.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 549-5575  
[familysupport@mcleodusa.net](mailto:familysupport@mcleodusa.net)

The Family Support Project is a program of The Women's Center, Inc. designed to provide supportive services to families throughout Waukesha County and the surrounding areas. The Family Support Project offers a variety of support groups and services to families, free of charge.

Parent's Place  
1570 E. Moreland Blvd  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 549-5575

A family resources center providing families with workshops, classes and support groups on parenting/family issues

Community Health Program  
Waukesha Memorial Hospital  
725 American Ave.  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262)544-2745

Provides a variety of health education classes, support groups and programs

The Family Resource Center  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
(262)569-5144

Resource Center for families, offering workshops, classes and support groups on parenting/family related issues.

People to People  
119A Silver Lake St.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
(262) 567-0788

Network of educational support groups lead by experienced facilitators.

Family Services  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 547-5567

Provides counselin, classes and support groups to families in Waukesha County.

Parenting Helpline  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414)671-0566

24/7 confidential and anonymous phone counseling for parents and other caregivers.

Serving Teeange Runaway Programs  
223 Wisconsin Ave. Ste. D  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 547-7707 – 24 Hour Hotline  
(262) 544-5333 -- Office

Provides a 24 hour Hotline, Counseling, Support Groups, Community Outreach, and a temporary shelter.

FAMILY RESOURCE  
CENTERS (CONT.)

Child/Adolescent/Juvenile Court & Family Services  
500 Riverview Ave.  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 548-7212 Access/Intake  
(262) 548-7731 Juvenile Center

## **Recreation for Older Adults:**

La Casa Senior Activities  
1431 Big Bend Rd.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 547-2856

Waukesha Parks and Recreation Dept.  
1900 Aviation Dr.  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 524-3737

Health Promotion Services  
YWCA of Waukesha County  
306 N. West Ave.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 547-1872

New Berlin Parks and Recreation Dept.  
Senior Center  
3805 S. Casper Dr.  
New Berlin, WI 53151  
(262) 797-2443

Tri-County Branch YMCA  
N84 W17501 Menomonee Ave  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051  
(262) 567-7251

Muskego Parks and Recreation Dept.  
Senior Center  
W182 S8200 Racine Ave.  
Muskego, WI 53150  
(262) 679-4108

Oconomowoc Senior Center  
1306 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
(262) 567-4288

Oconomowoc Parks and Recreation Dept.  
324 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
(262) 569-2199

Elmbrook Church  
777 S Barker Rd  
Brookfield, WI 53045  
(262) 796-5728

Brookfield Parks and Recreation Dept.  
Senior Center  
2000 Calhoun Rd.  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
(262) 796-6675

## **Recreational Activities For Children and Families:**

Wisconsin Lions Camp  
3834 Cty Rd A  
Rosholt, WI 54473  
(715) 677-4761  
(715) 677-6999 TTY

Boy Scouts of America  
Potawatomi Area  
N12 W244198 Bluemound Rd.  
Pewaukee, WI 53072  
(262) 544-2881

The Family Resource Center  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
(262) 569-5144

Elm Grove Parks and Recreation Dept.  
13600 Juneau Blvd.  
Elm Grove, WI 53122  
(262) 782-6700

Town and Country YMCA  
1101 W. Silver Lake St.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
(262) 567-7251

Waukesha Parks and Recreation Dept.  
1900 Aviation Dr.  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 524-3737

Tri-County Branch YMCA  
N84 W17501 Menomonee Ave.  
Menomonee Falls, WI 5305  
(262) 255-9622

Delafield Parks and Recreation Dept.  
N14 W30782 Golf Rd.  
Delafield, WI 53018  
(262) 691-8842

Waukesha Family YMCA  
320 E. Broadway  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 542-2557

Village of Sussex Parks & Recreation Dept.  
N64 W 23760 Main St.  
Sussex, WI 53089  
(262) 246-5225

Pine Lake United Methodist Camp  
W8301 Cty Hwy M  
Westfield, WI 53964  
(800) 648-9630

Muskego Park and Recreation Dept  
W182 S8200 Racine Ave.  
Muskego, WI 53150  
(262) 679-4108

Oconomowoc Parks and  
Recreation Dept.  
324 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
(262) 569 -2199

### **Summer Camp Programs:**

(Salvation Army)  
445 Madison St.  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 547-7367

New Berlin Parks and Recreation Dept.  
3805 S. Casper Dr.  
New Berlin, WI 53151  
(262) 797-2443

Whispering Pines  
11050 Whispering Pines Rd.  
Frederic, WI 54837  
(715) 327-8148 Camp Office  
(608) 837-3388

Brookfield Parks and Recreation Dept.  
2000 Calhoun Rd.  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
(262) 796-6675

Easter Seals Offers Camps for  
People with Disabilities  
For more information visit  
[www.easterseals.com](http://www.easterseals.com) or contact  
your local Easter Seals affiliate.

Holiday Home Camp  
Williams Bay, WI  
(262) 245-5161  
[www.holidayhomecamp.org](http://www.holidayhomecamp.org)  
[hhomecamp@elknet.net](mailto:hhomecamp@elknet.net)



# **GLOSSARY**

**G**RANDPARENTS/RELATIVES

**R**AISING

**A**ND

**N**URTURING

**D**EPENDENT CHILDREN

**Waukesha County Resource Guide**

# Glossary



**Adoption:** Adoption gives an individual or a couple full legal and financial responsibility for parenting a child. The relationship is permanent.

**Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS):** A disorder caused by the human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV). HIV is not AIDS. Symptoms in children include damaged immune system, constant infections, poor growth, and possibly brain disease resulting in development delays.

**Affidavit:** A written statement of fact about something that is relevant to a request made to the court or to another document filed with the court. The person making the statement of fact must sign the affidavit and have it witnessed and notarized by a notary public of the Family Court's Clerk of the Court.

**Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD):** A group of symptoms believed to be caused by slight abnormalities in the brain. These symptoms include an inappropriate lack of ability to pay attention, such as difficulty with listening to and following directions. Other signs of ADD may be acting on impulse with thought of consequences, being distracted, and often being clumsy. A child or adult with ADD is not necessarily overly active. The symptoms for ADD must always be looked at with an understanding of what is considered average for the child's particular age group.

**BadgerCare:** BadgerCare is Wisconsin's new state program to provide health insurance for uninsured families. There is no limit on assets the family may own but the family may not be covered by other health insurance. BadgerCare covers children up to age 18 and their parents in families with incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty line at the time of enrollment. However, families will remain eligible even if income rises to 200% of the FPL. Unfortunately, even if grandparents have legally guardianship of grandchildren, they themselves are not eligible for benefits.

**Behavior Therapy:** The treatment approach most often used with developmentally disabled individuals without the verbal skills necessary for talking therapies. The basis of this approach is that inappropriate behaviors are learned and can be unlearned. This approach does not deal with possible underlying conflicts, but focuses on the undesirable behavior directly.

**Developmental Delay:** A term applied to a child who is three years old or younger, who is usually more than six months behind other children of the same age and sex in one or more of the following areas: (a) thinking, speaking, writing, and understanding language; (b) fine motor skills such as using fingers to pick up things; (c) gross motor skills such as rolling over, crawling, walking; (d) social and emotional skills such as getting



along with people; and (e) self-help activities such as feeding and dressing. Generally boys develop more slowly than girls.

**Family Court:** The state court that decides matter relating to children and families, such as support, custody, neglect, adoption, paternity, visitation, and delinquency. It also decides matters related to divorce, such a alimony and property division, and issues involved in domestic violence, such as protective orders and misdemeanor offenses between family members. In some cases, the Court has people meet with a court mediator to try to reach an agreement on family matters.

**Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS):** A combination of congenital abnormalities that caused by the mother’s drinking alcohol during pregnancy. Signs of FAS may include poor growth, mental retardation, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and motor delays, and certain facial features related to FAS.

**Food Stamps:** Food stamps are vouchers for food. They are no longer issued as coupons, but are issued on a debit card called the “Quest” card. This card is similar to a credit card and almost all major grocers in Wisconsin accept them.

**Foster Care:** Foster care benefits are a monthly payment for the care of children living in the home of foster parents. The payment is meant to cover the cost of providing food, shelter, and other daily needs for the child in foster care.

**Guardianship:** A guardian is a person appointed by a court to look after the care, custody, and control of a minor or the estate of a minor. A minor is someone 18 years old or under.

**Head Start.** This is a federally supported program for children ages three to five years who are from low-income families. Some Head Start programs offer infant and toddler care. Some sites offer full-day care for those families who work and other sites offer care for only part of the day.

**Healthy Start:** This program extends benefits to pregnant women and children under six years of age in families with incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty line. **Healthy Start/OBRA Kids** covers children 6-14 in families up to 100% of the FPL.

**Hearing Impairment:** Hearing loss resulting from problems in any part of the ear or of the hearing center of the brain that causes a decrease in the range of hearing, loudness, and/or pitch. Hearing loss or deafness may be a birth defect or it may be caused by disease or injury.

**Immunization:** Vaccines or body immune serums that are given to prevent or cure disease. Immunization occurs when the body produces antibodies that defend against the bacteria, virus, or other microorganisms that cause disease. Check with your health care provider to learn the age at which certain immunizations need to be given.

**The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA):** ICWA is a federal law that governs child welfare proceedings for Indian children. ICWA must be considered in addition to state and federal statutes governing child welfare proceedings.

**Inpatient Hospitalization:** Admission to a hospital that provides care for a period of time.

**Kinship Care:** Wisconsin Kinship Care is a state-funded and county/tribal-administered program that gives financial support to adult relatives caring for minor children.

**Legal Assistance:** Programs that protect the right of individuals or groups who are involved in civil, criminal, or administrative actions. Help is provided in a variety of ways, including giving legal advice, providing advice about rights and possible solutions, negotiating a settlement, preparing legal documents, appearing in court on behalf of the individual, helping the individual prepare to represent himself or herself in court, and/or attending trials to monitor the court proceedings. Types of legal assistance include family law, legal counseling, legal representation, and mediation.

**Licensed Clinical Social Worker:** A professional who provides evaluation, diagnosis, referral, individual counseling, and group therapy.

**Licensed Mental Health Counselor:** A professional who provides counseling services to individuals, group, and families.

**Marriage and Family Therapist:** A professional who focuses on premarital, marital, parent-child, and sibling relationships, as well as larger family group relationships (i.e., the extended family).

**Medicaid:** See Medical Assistance.

**Medical Assistance:** The Medical Assistance program covers children up to age 18 in families with the lowest incomes, approximately 70% of the federal poverty line (FPL). A grandchild can qualify under the following situations: having one parent present, who is unable to care for the child, is unemployed, or is an offender working without pay.

**Medication:** Prescription and nonprescription medication recommended by a doctor.

**Mental Health Counselors:** These professionals provide individual, group, and family counseling.

**Mobility Impairment:** Children with developmental or visual impairments cannot move about independently. The goal of mobility therapy is to help the children learn to move about in places that are familiar to them, such as in the home or school, or to teach them how to travel beyond the areas that are familiar to them.

**Occupational Therapy (OT):** OT helps injured, ill, or disabled children develop or improve so that they can help themselves as much as possible and learn how to adjust in different behavior and play situations. The occupational therapist works with young children's abilities to move, use their senses of taste, smell, feel, hearing, and touch, and with posture development to try to prevent or lessen the impact of impairment and developmental delay. They also teach new learning new skills so that the children can become as independent as possible for their age.

**Outpatient:** Professional medical treatment that does not require admission to a health care facility. Intensive outpatient treatment (also called **day treatment**) may vary in the length of the stay and the number of hours per day or per week that treatment is given.

**Physical Therapy:** Treatment given to prevent harmful movement or to ease movement through a program designed for the individual child. The goal may be to develop muscle strength, increase coordination and/or the ability to move more easily. It also may ease pain or help the child learn new motor skills.

**Play Therapy:** A method used to help young children work on emotional or psychological conflicts. The child plays freely with a selected group of toys as the therapist observes the play. Through play the child is able to express thoughts and feeling that he or she may not be able to talk about or have the ability to explain to someone.

**Psychiatric Disorder:** A severe mental disorder that changes a person's understanding of what is real and his or her ability to interact normally with others. The child may show personality changes, loss of emotions, confused ways of thinking, depression, confusion, returning to talking like a baby or using phrases instead of sentence. The child also may fight more than usual, may not be able to remain still, and may hear or see things that aren't real.

**Psychiatrist:** A medical doctor (M.D. or D.O.) who specializes in mental disorders. A psychiatrist can evaluate and diagnose all types of mental disorders, prescribe medication, and provide therapy.

**Psychologist:** A professional who holds a doctoral degree in psychology. A psychologist conducts psycho-therapy, evaluates and diagnoses mental disorders, and conducts psychological testing.

**Self-Help:** See Support Groups.

**Special Need:** Any support program or service beyond what is usually required. These programs and services are provided so that a child with special needs can get an education.

**Speech Therapy:** Treatment to help a child develop and maintain the speech and language skills of other child the same age, as well as to improve other oral skills, such as feeding.

**Support Groups:** (Also called **self-help** groups.) While not a substitute for therapy, these groups are an important addition or alternative to the traditional services provided by a mental health professional. Support groups often offer ongoing support and education by others who have faced similar situations.

**Visual Impairment:** A partial or full loss of vision due to damage to the organs of vision or to the vision centers of the brain.

**Wisconsin Shares:** Wisconsin's child care program, Wisconsin Shares, provides child care subsidies for low-income working families.

**W-2 (Wisconsin Works):** W-2 is the welfare replacement program for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) based on work participation. In order to be eligible for W-2 services, adults must have children under age 18. Grandparents or other relative caregivers cannot qualify for W-2 by caring for a relative's child; instead, these relatives must have their own dependent children.

**WIC (Women, Infants, and Children):** WIC is a program to help provide good nutrition for families. Grandparents may get help from WIC if they are caring for a grandchild under the age of five, or they and their grandchildren have a health or nutrition need.





# **CONTRIBUTORS**

**G**RANDPARENTS/RELATIVES

**R**AISING

**A**ND

**N**URTURING

**D**EPENDENT CHILDREN

**Waukesha County Resource Guide**

# Contributors



Waukesha County would like to acknowledge the following people for their assistance in adapting the Waukesha county GRAND Resource Guide

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<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/chapter.html>

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<sup>i</sup> Medicaid is the federal name for this program, but in the state of Wisconsin it is referred to as Medical Assistance. This resource guide will use the term *Medical Assistance*.

<sup>ii</sup> Information for table from Wisconsin Legislative Bureau Informational Paper #44, MA Program, 1999; ABC for Health, WI MA Programs 1999-2000 info sheet, 9/10/99; Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin, BadgerCare info sheet, March 1999.