

# Help is available!

The Illinois Department on Aging, in partnership with 13 Area Agencies on Aging, can provide information and assistance to help you locate these and other services:

- ♥ Caregiver Resource Centers
- ♥ Support groups
- ♥ Financial assistance
- ♥ Medical coverage for grandchildren
- ♥ Child care (under certain circumstances)
- ♥ Guardianship
- ♥ Legal services
- ♥ Information and assistance
- ♥ Advocacy with school enrollment and other areas



## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Illinois

...helping grandparents and other relatives care for children

### Illinois Department on Aging

421 East Capitol Ave., #100  
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1789

### Senior HelpLine:

1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY)

Download this brochure at [www.state.il.us/aging](http://www.state.il.us/aging) in the "News and Publications" section.

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).

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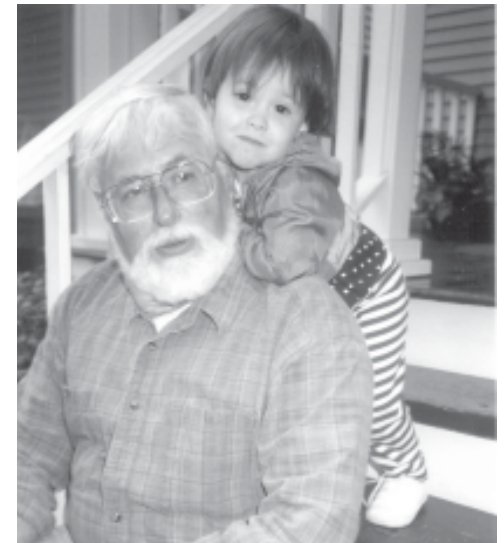


State of Illinois  
Pat Quinn, Governor

Illinois Department on Aging  
Charles D. Johnson, Director

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Illinois

Help is available for grandparents and other relatives who are caring for children.



Illinois Department  
on Aging



## Who is giving care?

In Illinois, more than 200,000 children are being raised in grandparent-headed homes.

They are from all walks of life and all cultural and economic groups.

Grandparent caregivers range in age from 30 to 90.

Most have cared for the children 5 years or longer and are raising 1-2 children.

The grandparents' average income is between \$15,000 and \$25,000.

The majority of grandparents are single women.

## You are **not** alone...

Many relatives are overwhelmed with the situations they face.



*Grace's dreams of retirement were shattered when she took her three young grandchildren into her home. Now, at age 60, she is raising a second family — with the limited financial resources of a retired person.*

*Dorothy and Jim are faced with raising an active five-year-old. Dorothy is worried because her nephew is showing signs of having problems in school, and she and Jim are experiencing health problems.*

## Why is it happening?

Reasons children come to live with relatives are often heart-breaking and tragic.

They include:

Drug or alcohol abuse by the parent(s)

Neglect, abuse or abandonment

Death of a parent

HIV/AIDS

Divorce

Unemployment/poverty

Parental incarceration

Teen pregnancy

Welfare reform

Homelessness

It's important to **Ask** for help