

**Grandparents Guide to Kentucky Programs and Services
for Raising Grandchildren with Disabilities or Who Are
At Risk of Developing Disabilities**

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EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TO MAKE THIS DOCUMENT CURRENT THROUGH EARLY 2010. LAWS, PROGRAMS AND POLICIES CHANGE, YOU SHOULD ALWAYS VERIFY THAT THE INFORMATION IS CURRENT BEFORE PROCEEDING. THE MORE TIME THAT PASSES, THE GREATER THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE INFORMATION IS OUT OF DATE.

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**GRANDPARENTS GUIDE to KENTUCKY PROGRAMS and
SERVICES for RAISING GRANDCHILDREN with DISABILITIES
or WHO ARE AT RISK of DEVELOPING DISABILITIES.**

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Grandparents Guide to Kentucky Programs and Services for Raising Grandchildren with Disabilities or Who Are At Risk of Developing Disabilities

The agencies and organizations listed within this handbook provide information and/or services to grandparents raising grandchildren with disabilities in Kentucky.

Chapter One: Legal Protections

What laws protect the rights of children with disabilities?

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA)

The IDEA mandates that all public schools provide all eligible children with disabilities ages three (3) to twenty-one (21) a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment suitable for their individual needs.

Under IDEA, schools are required to develop an Individual Education Program (IEP) for each disabled child outlining their specific special education and related services needs and exactly how those needs will be addressed by the school. The IEP must, at least, be reviewed annually.

Children who attend private schools are also entitled to certain support services if they have an identified disability.

What does a free appropriate public education mean?

A FAPE means special education and related services that meet IDEA standards and are provided at no cost to the disabled child or their family. Any and all expenses are covered by the public and services are performed under the supervision and direction of the local education agency (LEA). The LEA is the local school district or board of education.

What does the least restrictive environment mean?

The least restrictive environment in the educational context refers to the educational environment that, to the greatest extent possible, satisfactorily educates children with disabilities. A child with a disability may only be removed from the regular classroom when the nature or severity of the disability is such that the education in regular classrooms cannot be achieved satisfactorily even with the use of supplementary aids and services. A child may be removed for certain classes or periods during a day and placed in a special class depending on that child's educational needs.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)

This Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs sponsored by the Federal Government or receiving Federal financial assistance. The Act ensures people with disabilities have access to schools, health care facilities, child care facilities, mental health centers and human service agencies that receive Federal funding.

How does Section 504 apply to my grandchild with disabilities?

Section 504 ensures that students with disabilities have access to public education programs. Students who qualify for special education programs under IDEA or who have other disabilities substantially limiting a major life function such: as walking; seeing; hearing; speaking; breathing; learning; working; self-care; performing manual tasks; or have diabetes requiring medical intervention and monitoring while at school are eligible for a Section 504 Plan.

What is a Section 504 Plan?

It is a written plan of the accommodations and modifications that will be made to the regular education programs or facilities in order to meet the needs of the student. The programs and facilities must be adapted to ensure equal access to the child in question.

Who develops the Section 504 Plan?

The Section 504 Plan is developed by a team of the child's teachers, parents and others who are familiar with the student and the educational programs and facilities at the school.

What types of disabilities are covered under a Section 504 Plan?

A physical or mental impairment as any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory; including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genitor-urinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; endocrine; or any mental or psychological disorder; such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness and specific learning disabilities are covered under a Section 504 Plan. 34 C.F.R. 104.3 (j)(2)(i).

This list is not exhaustive. There are other conditions that may still qualify for a Section 504 Plan.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
State Coordinator for the Americans with Disabilities Act**

Kentucky ADA Coordinator
500 Mero Street
Capital Plaza Tower, 2nd Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-3850
<http://ada.ky.gov>

The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment and mandates that state and local governments make certain people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in their programs, services and activities such as public education, employment, transportation, recreation, health care, social services, court, voting and town meetings. Reasonable modifications to policies, practices and procedures are to be made whenever necessary to avoid discrimination unless such modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program or activity.

Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993

FMLA allows an employee to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave due to a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform his or her job or to care for a sick family member or to care for a new son or daughter including by birth, adoption, or foster care. When the employee returns to work, they are entitled to return to the same position that they held prior to taking leave.

What if the position is already filled or is no longer needed by my employer?

If the position is unavailable, the employee is entitled to a position that is substantially equal in pay, benefits and responsibility. The employer is prohibited from retaliation against an employee for exercising rights under FMLA.

Do special education laws give grandparents the right and access to advocate on behalf of their grandchildren?

Yes. Under the special education laws, the definition of a parent includes a person acting in the place of a biological or adoptive parent such as a grandparent, stepparent, or other relative with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare.

How Do I Get Help for My Grandchild with Disabilities?

What is a developmental disability?

A developmental disability is a long-term disability which:

- Is attributable to a developmental or physical impairment or combination of developmental and physical impairments, including pervasive developmental disorders;
- Is likely to continue indefinitely;
- Results in substantial functional limitations in at least three (3) of the following areas of life activity: self care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living and economic self-sufficiency;
- Requires special, generic, or interdisciplinary care and active treatment and services of extended duration; and
- Is manifested before the person attains the age of twenty-two (22).

How do I get my grandchild evaluated?

If you think your grandchild has failed to attain a developmental milestone, seek the advice of his or her physician or pediatrician. Ask if he or she can identify any physical, mental, emotional or behavioral deficit or delay in your grandchild that is of concern to them.

Your LEA also has policies and procedures in effect to locate, identify, and evaluate each disabled child who is age three (3) to twenty-one (21). This is the “child find system.” Therefore, you can also contact your LEA and request an evaluation of your grandchild.

Are early intervention services truly important?

If a problem exists, early intervention services provide evaluation, treatment and support for very young children and their families. Early intervention is essential to a child’s success in overcoming and managing a disability.

What services are available through early intervention?

Early intervention can include the following services: family services such as counseling, psychological and social work services; health services for diagnostic and evaluation purposes only; nutrition services; occupational therapy; physical therapy; speech therapy; sensory development services; assistive technologies; respite care as well as transportation and related costs for accessing such services.

What help is available to address any developmental delay or disability my grandchild may have?

National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC)

This program oversees state intervention and preschool programs funded in part by the federal government. Below is the contact information for the Kentucky programs for children ages birth-3 years and 3-5 years of age.

Kentucky participates in Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Infant/Toddler (Part C of IDEA) Coordinator for Kentucky

Early Childhood Development Branch

Department for Public Health

275 East Main Street, HS2WC

Frankfort, KY 40621

(502) 564-3756 ext. 3800

(502) 564-8389 Fax

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/firststeps.htm>

If after an evaluation a child is determined to be eligible for early intervention services, an Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP) is developed. The IFSP provides family support services, nutrition services and case management as well as services to address the child's developmental needs.

When will my family get an IFSP?

The IFSP must be developed within forty-five (45) days of the child being referred for evaluation. If the completion of the initial evaluation and assessment is delayed beyond the forty-five days, at no fault of the multidisciplinary team, the reason for the delay shall be documented and an interim IFSP shall be developed and implemented.

What happens if I disagree with any part of the IFSP?

The informed, written consent of the parent/guardian/custodian is required prior to the implementation of the plan. The parent/guardian/custodian may reject some services contained in the IFSP without being denied other services within the IFSP.

What are my responsibilities under the IFSP?

The parent/guardian/custodian shall sign an agreement to accept responsibility for being an active participant in the IFSP and for learning skills from providers so that the intensity and frequency of services may decline as the child reaches appropriate developmental levels and the family is able to do more for the child.

Is there anyone to help me with the IFSP?

The IFSP Service Coordinator is an excellent resource for families. They aid families in receiving services and supports needed by the child in question, as stated in the IFSP until the child turns 3 or no longer requires early intervention. They provide families with knowledge of applicable state and federal laws, community resources and can help connect families together who are in similar situations. Coordination services are free of charge.

Can an IFSP ever be changed?

The IFSP shall be reviewed by the multidisciplinary team and other appropriate entities at least every six (6) months and more often if deemed appropriate based on the needs of the child and family. The child shall undergo an annual evaluation to determine if there is continuing program eligibility and to ascertain the effectiveness of services provided to the child.

What early intervention programs are available in Kentucky?

First Steps Program

Department for Public Health
Division of Adult and Child Health Improvement
275 East Main Street, HS2W-C
Frankfort, KY 40621
1-877-41STEPS or 877-417-8377
(800) 232-1160
(502) 564-2154

First Steps is a statewide early intervention system that provides services to children with developmental disabilities from birth to age 3. First Steps is administered through the Department for Public Health in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. It is available in all 120 Kentucky counties. Anyone can make a referral to First Steps by calling toll free (800) 442-0087.

When is a child eligible for First Steps?

Your grandchild is eligible when he or she has failed to attain a developmental milestone. Information about specific developmental milestones is available from First Steps. Below are the eligibility criteria for entry into First Steps.

Developmental delay- A child may be eligible for services if an evaluation shows that a child is not developing typically in at least one area such as communication, cognition, physical, social, emotional or self help.

Automatic entry- A child may be eligible if he or she receives a diagnosis of a physical or mental condition with high probability of a resulting developmental delay, such as Down's syndrome.

What if I do not have transportation? Can they come to my home?

Services are provided in the home, child development or other designated center or in a clinical setting, depending on the needs of the child, family and the availability of services in a given area.

Will they teach me how to help my grandchild?

First Steps provides the parent or caregiver with the opportunity to learn techniques and activities that promote the child's development.

PRESCHOOL (AGES 3-5)

For children ages 3-5, the local school district or LEA will evaluate them. Federal law requires state education agencies to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities who need special education and related services starting at age 3. This intervention is called section 619.

Preschool (Section 619) or (Part B of IDEA) Coordinator for Kentucky

Division of Preschool Services
Department of Education
Capital Plaza Tower, 17th Floor
500 Mero Street,
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-7056
Fax (502) 564-6952

<http://www.nectac.org/shortURL.aspxURL=KY-sec619>

Division of Early Childhood Development

Department of Education
Capital Plaza Tower, 1st Floor
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-8341
(866) 294-0135

www.education.ky.gov

HEAD START

Kentucky Head Start Association
649 Charity Court, Suite 1
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 607-0770
Toll free (800) 869-9257
Fax: (502) 607-0771

Head Start is a holistic program which dynamically impacts the lives of low income children and their families. Currently, 16,343 preschool age children are being served by Head Start throughout Kentucky's 32 Head Start Programs. Head start is provided in all 120 counties in Kentucky.

What services are available through Head Start?

Children receive such services as: preventative and primary health care, appropriate immunizations, dental exams and treatment, consultations with mental health professionals for behavior and mental health issues and determination of disabilities.

Is there any help for families through Head Start?

Families receive job training, GED and college classes; emergency crisis intervention for food, shelter and clothing; mental health services; substance abuse treatment; health education and parenting classes.

What rights do I have as the grandparent of a child being helped through early intervention services?

Part C of the IDEA mandates that an infant or toddler with a disability who is being helped by the Kentucky Early Intervention System and the parent, guardian or custodian of that child shall have the right:

- To a timely, multidisciplinary evaluation and assessment;
- To appropriate early intervention services for children and families;
- To refuse evaluation assessment or services;
- To written notice before a change is made in the identification, evaluation, or placement of the child, or in the provision of services to the child or family;
- To written notice before a refusal of services is made in the identification, evaluation, or placement of the child, or in the provision of services to the child or family;
- To confidentiality of personally identifiable information, including the right of the parent or guardian to be provided written notice of, and written consent to, the exchange of information among agencies, consistent with federal and state laws;

- To review all records and, if appropriate, to amend records;
- To bring an advocate or attorney into any and all dealings with the early intervention system; and
- To administrative process and judicial review to resolve complaints.

State Department of Education: Special Education (Elementary and High School)

www.education.ky.gov
Division of Exceptional Children's Services
Kentucky Department of Education
Capitol Plaza Tower, 8th Floor
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-4970
www.education.ky.gov

What exactly is special education?

Special education is specifically designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of the child with a disability including instruction in the classroom, in the home, in hospitals and institutions, and other settings.

How do I determine if my grandchild needs special education and related services?

If your grandchild is already attending elementary or high school, speak to their principal or teacher and state that you want them evaluated for special education. A LEA must conduct an initial evaluation within 60 days of receiving consent from a parent, custodian or guardian for an evaluation. A full and individual evaluation shall be conducted for each child considered for special education and related services prior to the provision of the services.

Who does the evaluation to determine if my grandchild needs to be in special education?

The evaluation should be performed by a qualified examiner not employed by the LEA responsible for the child's education. Parents/custodians/guardians are entitled to a copy of the evaluation and disability determination.

When is my grandchild entitled to special education through the school system?

Your grandchild is entitled to special education if an evaluation determines that your grandchild has one or more of the following specific disabilities that negatively affect their school performance: mental retardation, visual (including blindness) and hearing (including deafness) impairments, speech and language impairments, serious emotional disturbances, orthopedic impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury or other health impairments or specific learning disabilities.

For More Information Check Out:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Instructional+Resources/Exceptional+Children/Forms+and+Documents/Special+Education+Forms+-+Eligibility+Determination.htm>

What happens if my grandchild qualifies for special education?

An Admission and Release Committee (ARC) must be assembled by the LEA on your grandchild's behalf. The ARC is to develop, review and revise an Individual Education Program (IEP) which will outline the specially designed instruction, modifications and related services that will be provided to the child based upon their individual needs.

What should the IEP contain?

An IEP shall contain the projected date of the beginning of the services and modifications listed in the IEP, the anticipated frequency of the services and modifications, the location of the services (regular or special) and the duration of the services. An IEP should also provide for how the child's progress toward meeting the ARC's annual goals will be measured and when periodic progress reports on how well the child is achieving those goals will be provided. Any transitional services needed by the child shall also be detailed.

What related services are available if needed by my grandchild?

Related services means transportation and such developmental, corrective, or supportive services as are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education. It includes: speech therapy, audiology services, interpreting services, psychological services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, recreation including therapeutic recreation, early identification and assessment of disabilities in children, counseling services including rehabilitation counseling, orientation and mobility services, school health and school nurse services, social worker services in school, medical services for diagnostic and or evaluation purposes as well as parent counseling and training. It does not include a medical device surgically implanted.

What specially designed instruction or modifications can an IEP contain?

An LEA shall implement such services and modifications, as determined appropriate by the ARC, to provide children with disabilities the nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities that give them an equal opportunity for participation in those services and activities. This may include:

- Counseling services;
- Athletics;
- Transportation;
- Health services;
- Recreational activities;
- Special interest groups or clubs sponsored by the LEA;
- Referrals to agencies that provide assistance to individuals with disabilities; and
- Employment of students including both employment by the LEA and assistance in making outside employment available.

What are interpreting services?

For deaf or hearing impaired children, there are services such as oral transliteration services, cued language transliteration services, sign language transliteration and interpreting services, transcription services such as communication access real-time translation (CART) C-Print and TYPE WELL and special interpreting services for children who are deaf and blind.

Is there help available for my grandchild who needs a wheelchair or other equipment?

Technology-Related Assistance

Kentucky Assistive Technology Service Network (KATS)

8412 Westport Road

Louisville, KY 40242

(502) 429-4483 V/TTY

(800) 327-5287 V/TTY in KY

www.katsnet.org

katsnet@iglou.com

The ARC can determine that the LEA needs to provide a child with an assistive technology device or service. Assistive technology device means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a child with a

disability. Wheelchairs and ramps are examples of assistive technologies. The term does not mean a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such a device.

Assistive technology service means any service that directly assists a child with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.

Can my grandchild use such devices at home?

On a case by case basis, the use of school-purchased assistive technology devices in a child's home or in other settings is required if the ARC determines that the child needs access to those devices in order to receive FAPE.

Who should be a part of the ARC?

The ARC shall be comprised of the following:

- The child's parents, custodian or guardian;
- One (1) regular education teacher of the child's;
- One (1) special education teacher of the child's or a special education teacher who is knowledgeable in the child's area of disability;
- Related services personnel;
- A representative of the LEA who is qualified to provide or supervise the provision of specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of child with disabilities and is knowledgeable about the general curriculum and the availability of resources to the LEA;
- An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of the evaluation results;
- An individual who has knowledge or special expertise regarding the child at the discretion of the parent or the LEA; and
- The child, as appropriate.

What should be considered when developing an IEP?

When developing an IEP, the ARC shall consider:

- The strengths of the child and the concerns of the parents, custodians or guardians for enhancing the education of the child;
- The results of the initial or most recent evaluation of the child;
- As appropriate, the results of the child's performance on any general state or district wide assessment programs; and
- The academic, developmental, and functional needs of the child.

Am I allowed to attend the IEP Meetings?

An LEA shall ensure that one (1) or both of the parents, custodians or guardians of a child with a disability are present at each and every ARC meeting or are afforded the opportunity to attend. The parents, custodians or guardians are permitted to bring anyone else they want present to assist them at the meeting. They can bring the child's psychologist, counselor or other advocate and the parents are entitled to have their lawyer present. Except for meetings concerning a disciplinary change in placement or a safety meeting (which can be set as necessary), an LEA shall provide written notice to the parents of a child with a disability at least seven (7) days before an ARC meeting. The meeting shall be scheduled at a mutually agreed upon time and place. The LEA shall send an ARC meeting invitation to the parents which includes:

- The purpose;
- Time;
- Location of the meeting;
- Who will be in attendance;
- Notice that the parents may invite people with knowledge or special expertise of the child to the meeting; and
- Notice that the LEA will invite representatives from the child's early intervention program to the initial meeting if the parents request it.

What if I am absolutely unable to attend the meeting in person?

An LEA shall utilize conference telephone calls, video conferencing and an interpreter for deaf or non-English speaking parents, custodians or guardians to ensure their participation in the ARC meeting.

When should the IEP be implemented?

The IEP should be implemented as soon as possible following the ARC meeting.

What if the school says it cannot find funding for the services my grandchild's IEP states they need?

Delay in implementation is not permitted because a payment source for providing or paying for the special education or related services has not been determined.

How often should the IEP be reviewed?

Every child's IEP shall be reviewed by the ARC, at least, annually to ensure that the goals for the child are being achieved and to make any necessary revisions.

Are the child's wishes taken into consideration when developing an IEP?

The child's preferences and interests are to be taken into consideration whether they can attend or not.

Am I allowed to have a copy of IEP?

A parent, guardian or custodian is entitled to a copy of the child's IEP at no cost.

Can the school ignore my requests for services to be added to my grandchild's IEP?

All members of the ARC have equal standing and are entitled to equal input in the development of the IEP. An IEP cannot be put into place excluding family input or over the objections of the child's family.

What if my grandchild has an IEP when they lived with their parents and they now live with me?

If a child with disabilities transfers between LEAs within the same academic year within Kentucky, the new LEA shall honor the child's existing IEP and provide the services outlined therein.

What if my grandchild's LEA is unable to provide, within the school, a service he or she needs?

If an ARC determines that a child requires placement in a special education program operated by another county or independent school district or private organization, the resident LEA is financially responsible for the costs incurred in educating that child in the other program or organization.

Who pays for my grandchild's transportation to and from the other program or organization?

The LEA shall pay for the child's transportation to and from the other program or organization unless the other program or organization offers transportation, at which point the transportation costs are included in the overall costs.

An example would be the Kentucky School for the Deaf and the Kentucky School for the Blind. A child's LEA must pay for their transportation to and from either school. However, students who live more than 200 miles from either school shall not be required to go home more than two times per month.

What happens if my grandchild cannot attend school? Can they still receive services?

Children with disabilities are entitled to have educational instruction at their home, hospital or sanatoria. They must receive a minimum of two visits a week with a minimum of one hour of instruction per visit.

Can my grandchild receive extended school year services?

An LEA shall ensure that extended school year services are available to each child with a disability, as necessary, to provide a FAPE. The determination of the need for extended year services shall be made on an individual basis by the ARC.

What do I do if the school is reluctant to provide the services I feel my grandchild needs?

Be persistent when asking for services from your grandchild's school. This is truly a case of the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Do not be intimidated by the ARC or the process of developing the IEP. Unfortunately, for many different reasons, including limited resources, an LEA is not always eager to provide children with disabilities the services and modifications they truly need. You are your grandchild's best and only true advocate.

What are my rights if I do not agree with the IEP?

An LEA and parent of a child with a disability shall have the right to request mediation from the Kentucky Department of Education to resolve any disputes that may arise. Kentucky state law provides that a parent, guardian or caretaker has the right to request mediation, file a formal written complaint and request a due process hearing to resolve any disputes surrounding the IEP.

For More Information Check Out:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Instructional+Resources/Exceptional+Children/Forms+and+Documents/>

What is mediation?

Mediation is a voluntary and non-adversarial dispute resolution process. The meeting is conducted by an impartial third party and is focused on the needs of the student. The parent and the LEA meet and work together to settle the dispute and to develop a final agreement.

When can I request mediation?

Mediation can be requested at any time and does not rule out the option of filing a formal written complaint or pursuing a due process hearing.

What is a formal written complaint?

A formal written complaint is a written statement alleging that a school district has violated a requirement of state or federal special education law.

Where do I file a formal written complaint?

The complaint is filed with the Division of Exceptional Children Services (DECS) and can be sent to Larry Taylor, Division Director, 500 Metro Street, 8th Floor CPT, Frankfort, KY 40601. The director's telephone number is (502) 564-4970 and his email address is Larry.Taylor@education.ky.gov.

When can I file a formal written complaint?

The complaint must be filed within one year of the alleged violation by a parent, guardian, caretaker, organization or any person who believes the state or federal special education law has been violated.

What is a due process hearing?

A due process hearing is an adversarial process in which an impartial hearing officer listens to testimony from both sides in the disagreement and resolves the dispute regarding the child's rights under the state and federal special education laws.

How do I obtain a due process hearing?

A parent or an LEA may initiate a due process hearing on any of the matters described in the written notice relating to identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a child with a disability or the provision of a FAPE to the child or the refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child. When a

hearing is initiated, the LEA shall inform the parent of the availability of mediation to resolve the dispute. A school system can also seek a due process hearing if a parent refuses to cooperate with a school's assertion that the child needs special education services.

Can I have legal representation for the due process hearing?

The LEA shall inform the parent of any free or low cost legal or other relevant services available in the area if the parent requests the information or if a parent or LEA initiates a hearing. A parent or grandparent can also contact the Kentucky Department of Education for help in understanding their rights.

When can I file for a due process hearing?

A due process hearing must be requested in writing and filed within three (3) years of the date the parent or school district knew or should have known about the issue in dispute.

What happens after I file for a due process hearing?

Before a hearing is held, the parties are required to attend a Resolution Meeting so that the LEA has an opportunity to resolve the dispute that led to the hearing request. The resolution meeting is not held if the parties agree to mediation or if the parties agree to waive the meeting.

What can I do if I am not satisfied with the ruling from the due process hearing?

The family of a child with a disability can appeal the Department's decision to the state or federal courts.

How long can my grandchild receive special education?

A child who has been identified as needing special education services is entitled to assistance until she or he turns 21 years old. Those services can continue past graduation from high school in many circumstances and if a child needs help beyond the age of 18 to graduate from high school, the school system must continue to educate that child at least until the child turns 21.

What happens when a child graduates from special education?

For students who graduate or age out of the program, the LEA shall provide the child with a summary of the child's academic achievement

and functional performance including recommendations on how to assist the child in meeting the child's postsecondary goals.

Is there anyone available to answer my questions about my rights as a grandparent of a grandchild with disabilities?

Kentucky Protection and Advocacy Agency

www.kypa.net

100 Fair Oaks Lane, Third Floor

Frankfort, KY 40601

(502) 564-2967

(800) 372-2988

Fax (502) 564-0848

The Kentucky Protection and Advocacy Agency (P&A) protects and promotes the rights of Kentuckians with disabilities through advocacy and education. P&A's staff includes professional advocates and attorneys working together to promote and protect the legal rights of individuals with disabilities. P&A will attempt to answer all of your questions about your rights under disability laws.

Parent Training and Information Centers

FIND of Louisville

www.findoflouisville.org

1151 South 4th Street, Suite 101

Louisville, KY 40203

(502) 587-6500

(502) 783-5055 Fax

FIND is an organization run by parents for parents to help them learn more about the needs of their children with disabilities. FIND helps families know their rights and the rights of their children so they can have more effective decision making regarding the child's educational, mental, and physical well-being.

If your grandchild is expelled or suspended from school, contact FIND immediately. Call if you cannot get the local school system to evaluate your grandchild or they want to evaluate your grandchild and you do not agree that an evaluation is needed.

Kentucky Education Rights Center (KERC)

1323 Moores Mill Road

Midway, KY 40347

(859) 983-9222

Email: kerc@edrights.com

KERC is a private organization that works with families of children ages 3-21 who have physical and mental disabilities. KERC strives to ensure that each child receives the necessary resources from their public school system to obtain a free and appropriate public education. KERC helps families to navigate the IEP process.

State Coordinator for NCLB (No Child Left Behind)

Federal Program Resources
Division of Exceptional Children's Services
Kentucky Department of Education
Capital Plaza Tower, 8th Floor
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-3791
www.education.ky.gov

An LEA shall transfer the health and education records of migratory children with disabilities who move to other states in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act.

Is there help available if my grandchild has an emotional disability?

Interagency Coordinating Council for services to Children with an Emotional Disability

Capital Plaza Tower, 1st Floor
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-4474

The Kentucky Interagency Council develops services to meet the needs of children with an emotional disability, promotes services to prevent the emotional disability of a child and adopts interagency agreements as necessary for coordinating services for children with an emotional disability by the agencies represented in the state council.

Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children, Inc.

Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children, Inc. (KPFC) is a private, not for profit, family organization that serves the entire state of Kentucky. KPFC is the state chapter for the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health and is the Center for Mental Health Services Statewide Family Network grantee for Kentucky.

This is a parent and caregiver-run organization aimed at addressing the needs of children and youth with emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders, and their families.

KPFC
207 Holmes Street, 1st Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 875-1320
(800) 369-0855 Toll-free
(502) 875-1399
www.kypartnership.org

Parent Training and Information (PTI) for Kentucky: Kentucky Special Parent Involvement Network, Inc.

(KY-SPIN) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting programs which will enable persons with disabilities and their families to enhance their quality of life. SPIN (Special Parent Involvement Network) is a statewide project of KY-SPIN, Inc. SPIN-PTI (Parent Training & Information Project) is funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education. SPIN provides training, information and support to people with disabilities, their parents and families, and information on all types of disabilities and topics for all age groups. All services of the SPIN-PTI are free to all participants.

KY-SPIN
10301-B Deering Road
Louisville, KY 40272
502-937-6894
800-525-7746 Toll-free
E-mail: spininc@kyspin.com
www.kyspin.com.

Community and Parent Resource Center (CPRC) in Louisville: Family Information Network on Disabilities (FIND of Louisville)

<http://www.findoflouisville.org/home.asp>

How do I know if my grandchild qualifies for help for an emotional disability?

A child with an emotional disability is a child with a clinically significant disorder of thought, mood, perception, orientation, memory or behavior that is listed in the current edition of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and seriously limits a child's capacity to function in the home, school or community.

Examples are a child that exhibits one or more of the following:

- An inability to develop and maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with adults or peers;

- Severe deficits in academic performance related to the child's social-emotional status;
- A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression; and
- A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.

What rights do I have to identify and shape the services provided to my emotionally disabled grandchild?

A child with an emotional disability and the parent, custodian or guardian shall have the right to:

- Be adequately informed as to the priorities, philosophy and policies of the regional interagency council;
- Be informed in advance of scheduled regional or local interagency council and interagency service planning meetings relevant to services to the child;
- Participate in the development of the interagency service plan and revisions thereto;
- Be adequately informed as to the interagency service plan and any revisions thereto and receive a written copy of the plan;
- Refuse the interagency service plan;
- Access and utilize established grievance procedures without discontinuation or delay of needed services while the grievance is pending;
- Access all child-specific pertinent records and information accumulated by the regional interagency council, provided that the release of the information is not prohibited by existing state and federal laws and regulations governing confidentiality;
- Consult with existing advocacy groups for consultation and representation; and
- Receive an orderly transition to other available services if eligibility for regional interagency council services is ending.

What services are offered for my blind or visually impaired grandchild?

Programs for Children and Youth who are Blind or Visually Impaired

Education and Workforce Development Cabinet
 Office for the Blind
 P.O. Box 757
 Frankfort, KY 40602-0757
 (502) 564-4754
 (502) 564-2929 TTY

<http://blind.ky.gov>

The Kentucky Office for the Blind helps individuals who are visually impaired obtain employment, learn daily living skills and access medical care. The Office provides a variety of services, including medical assistance, personal counseling, independent living skills development, vocational evaluation, training and job placement, job retention services, and technical equipment and visual devices. No matter where you live in Kentucky, there is an office near you. Please go to the website or call the Office to locate the branch nearest you.

Kentucky School for the Blind

Kentucky Instructional and Diagnostic Services
1867 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 897-1583
www.ksb.k12.ky.us

Programs for Children and Youth who are Deaf-Blind

University of Kentucky
College of Education
Department of Special Education Rehabilitation Counseling
229 Taylor Education Building
Lexington, KY 40506
(859) 257-9489

This program provides educational and counseling services to deaf-blind children.

What services are offered for my deaf or hearing impaired grandchild?

Programs for Children and Youth who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

www.kcdhh.ky.gov
Kentucky Commission on the Deaf or Hard of Hearing
632 Versailles Road
Frankfort, KY 40601
(800) 372-2907 V/TTY (KY only)
(502) 572-2604 V/TTY

The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf or Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) acts as an advocate for the deaf and hard of hearing on legislative issue. KCDHH also acts as a consultant to the Governor, General Assembly, and other state and local agencies concerning policies and programs relating to

the deaf and hard of hearing. KCDHH provides individuals with information, referral services, advocacy and an interpreter referral service. This organization provides several brochures and books on issues related to the hearing impaired, as well as maintaining a library of resources and references. A telecommunications access program is also available for eligible individuals to obtain devices such as TDDs, amplified phones and CapTel.

Telecommunications Relay Services for Individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or with Speech Impairments

(800) 648-6057 (V)

(800) 648-6056 (TTY/ASCII); 711 (TTY)

(888) 244-6111 (Speech to Speech)

Chapter Two: Public Benefits

What benefits can my grandchild with disabilities receive?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Who is eligible for SSI?

An application for SSI can be made at the local Social Security Administration office. To be eligible for SSI, a child must be blind or disabled. There is no minimum age requirement for receiving SSI benefits and the benefits can continue until age 18 or until age 22 if regularly attending school. When a child turns 18, his or her impairments are evaluated based on the definition of disability for adults.

If I have income and/or own a home, can my grandchild still be eligible for SSI?

You can have income and your grandchild still qualify for SSI. The process of determining how much of your income and resources are available to your grandchild is called “deeming.”

What resources are exempt from “deeming?”

A home, one vehicle, Veterans’ benefits, K-TAP benefits, foster care payments and pension funds are examples of income and resources that are exempt from being counted in the deeming process.

Can my grandchild’s SSI benefits be sent to me?

A representative payee can be designated to receive SSI benefits on behalf of a child under the age of 18 or for adults who cannot care for themselves. The representative payee must spend the SSI benefits for the maintenance, health and welfare of the child receiving the benefits.

What is the maximum SSI benefit my grandchild can receive?

The maximum individual benefit under SSI is \$674.00 per month as of 2009.

Kentucky Kinship Care

Kinship care is an alternative to foster care for children when the Cabinet has substantiated abuse or neglect against their parents (dependency if both parents are deceased) and who would otherwise be removed from the home of their parents.

What must I do to qualify for Kinship Care?

Relatives who are considered for kinship care must be related to the child by blood, marriage or adoption. Relatives must pass a home evaluation, pass a child abuse and neglect check, pass a criminal background check and file for temporary custody. Relatives must be willing to obtain permanent custody of the child within 12 months if reunification with the parents is not possible.

What services are provided through Kinship Care?

Services include child care, respite care, clothing, school supplies, additional furniture, housing deposit, counseling, parenting training, a support group and attorneys fees.

To apply for kinship care, contact The Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Division of Protection and Permanency.

Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP)

KTAP Program
275 East Main Street, 3E-I
Frankfort, Kentucky 40621
(502) 564-7050
(502) 564-3440

K-TAP is Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program which provides a monthly monetary assistance amount to low income families with

children. An application for K-TAP may be made through the local Community Based Services office in the county in which the family lives.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Nutrition Services Branch Division of Maternal and Child Health
Kentucky Department of Public Health
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
275 East Main Street HS2W-D
Frankfort, KY 40621
(502) 564-3827, ext. 3831
(502) 564-8389
www.chfs.ky.gov/dph/ach/ns/wic.htm

WIC provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and referrals to health and other social services to participants at no charge. WIC serves low income pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants and children up to age 5 who are deemed to be at “nutrition risk” by a health professional such as a physician, nurse or nutritionist.

Can a grandchild qualify for WIC?

A grandchild is eligible for WIC as long as it is documented in their medical record that the child resides with the grandparent and not the parents.

How do I determine if my grandchild is at “nutrition risk?”

A free health screening, to determine if an infant or child is at “nutrition risk,” is provided to all program applicants. If a family already receives K-TAP or Medicaid, they automatically qualify for WIC.

What does WIC provide?

Each month, WIC participants receive checks or vouchers to purchase foods such as infant formula, milk, eggs, cheese, peanut butter, iron-fortified cereals and fruits and vegetables.

What are the income limits for WIC?

Income guidelines do apply. To be eligible, an applicant’s family income must fall at or below 185 percent of the U. S. Poverty Income Guidelines (currently, \$39,200 for a family of four).

Food Benefits/Electronic Benefit Transfer (Formerly Food Stamps)

(502) 564-7050

The Food Benefit Program helps low income individuals and families purchase food for healthy meals. The applicant has to be a U.S. citizen. Anyone in the household between the ages of 16 and 60 has to be registered for, looking for and willing to accept work.

How do I qualify for Food Benefits?

To qualify, a household may not have more than \$2,000 in cash or in a bank account; \$3,000 if 60 or older. The home, vehicle and personal belongings are exempt from resource calculations.

How does the government determine the amount of Food Benefits you receive?

The amount of benefits a household will receive is based upon the number of individuals in the household and the household income after allowable deductions such as rent, utilities and babysitting expenses.

How do I apply for Food Benefits?

To apply for Food Benefits, go to the local Family Support office in the county in which you reside. Within 30 days, you will receive a notice as to whether or not your application has been approved. Benefits begin the date your application is received.

Chapter Three: Health Care/Mental Health

Can I get help paying for healthcare for my grandchild?

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Office of the Secretary

275 East Main Street

Frankfort, KY 40621

<http://chfs.ky.gov/>

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) is a wonderful resource for individuals and families dealing with disabilities. CHFS oversees most of the state's human and health care programs. CHFS will answer your specific questions regarding programs and services available to families with children facing disabilities.

Kentucky Medicaid Services

Department for Medicaid Services

275 East Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40621

Low income children and their parents, guardians, and caretakers; SSI recipients, children in foster care, pregnant women and certain aged, blind and disabled individuals are all generally eligible for health care coverage through Medicaid. Medicaid can also cover Medicare premiums for eligible seniors and people with disabilities. Income eligibility is based upon federal poverty guidelines. To apply for Medicaid go to the local Community Based Services Office.

Medicaid Michelle P. Waiver Program

Department of Medicaid Services
Division of Community Alternatives
Home and Community Based Services Branch
275 East Main Street
6 W-B
Frankfort, KY 40621
(502) 564-5560

Is there any help available if I want to keep my disabled grandchild at home and not in a nursing home?

Kentucky Medicaid offers the Michelle P. Waiver (MPW) which is a home and community based waiver program (HCB). MPW provides the in home support and services that children with mental and/or developmental disabilities need to remain within or return to a home setting. Having the availability of such services provided within the home means the families of disabled children have more options and can avoid having the child admitted to a nursing home.

What services are covered under MPW?

MPW covers such services as: assessment, re-assessment, case management, minor home adaptation, personal care, attendant care, respite care, homemaker care, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavior supports and community living supports. An application for MPW can be completed at your local Community Based Services Office.

The Consumer Directed Option (CDO) is an alternative approach for delivery of non-medical MPW services. Under CDO, a family member can receive payment for providing non-medical related support services.

Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP)

Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Office of the Secretary
275 E. Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40621
(877) 524-4718
(877) 524-4719 for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
(800) 662-5397 Spanish
(800) 648-6056 TTY
chs.kchip@ky.gov
www.kidshealth.ky.gov
www.chfs.ky.gov/dms/KCHIP.htm

KCHIP is The Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program. KCHIP provides free or low cost health insurance for Kentucky children. KCHIP covers children whose family income is too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to afford private health insurance.

Which Kentucky children receive coverage under KCHIP?

KCHIP covers children under the age of 19 who do not have health insurance and whose family income is between 150-200% of the federal poverty level. For example, a family of four can earn up to \$42,400 per year.

What services are covered under KCHIP?

KCHIP covers doctor visits, dental care, hospitalization, outpatient hospital services, psychiatrists, laboratory tests, vision exams, hearing services, mental health services, prescription medicines, immunizations, physical therapy, speech therapy and glasses.

How do I apply for KCHIP coverage for my grandchild?

To apply for KCHIP call toll free (877) 524-4718; pick up an application at a local health department, doctors' office, hospital, pharmacy or school; or download an application from the KCHIP website. Completed applications should be mailed to KCHIP, PO Box 34090, Lexington, KY 40588-4090. A KCHIP renewal form is mailed to all recipients every year.

What documentation do I need to provide when applying for KCHIP?

When applying, you will have to provide proof of income, proof of child care expenses, proof of identity and citizenship and any health insurance information for the family.

Programs for Children with Special Health Care Needs

Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs
982 Eastern Parkway
Louisville, KY 40217
(502) 595-4459 ext. 271
(800) 232-1160 Toll-free
www.chs.ky.gov/commissionkids

Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs

State Cabinet for Health and Family Services
982 Eastern Parkway
Louisville, KY 40217
(502) 595-4459
Toll free (800) 232-1160
Fax (502) 595-4673
www.chfs.ky.gov/ccshcn/

**Department for Mental Health and Mental Retardation
Services, Division of Mental Retardation**

100 Fair Oaks Lane, 4E-E
Frankfort, KY 40621
(502) 564-7702
www.mhmr.ky.gov

This division is aimed at helping individuals with mental retardation and their families, through leadership, partnership and advocacy.

**Department for Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Cabinet for Health and Family Services**

100 Fair Oaks Lane, 4E-D
Frankfort, KY 40621
(502) 564-2880
www.mhmr.ky.gov

Mental Health America of KY

Louisville

120 Sears Ave. Suite 213
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 893-0460
(888) 705-0463 Toll-free
(502) 896-1306
E-mail: mhaky@mhaky.org
www.mhaky.org

Covington

513 Madison Avenue, 3rd Floor
Covington, KY 41011
(859) 431-1077
(859) 292-2485 Fax
E-Mail: mhaky@mhaky.org
www.mhanky.org

Mental Health America of Kentucky (MHAKY) and Mental Health America of Northern Kentucky (MHANKY) are private non-profit agencies providing information and services for individuals seeking help for themselves and family members. Their goal is to combat mental illness and promote mental wellness.

Early Childhood Mental Health: Ages 0-5

100 Fair Oaks Lane, 4W-C
Frankfort, KY 40621
(502) 564-7610
www.mhmr.ky.gov

Chapter Four: Training and Advocacy

What training and advocacy organizations are in operation in Kentucky?

Comprehensive Care

All 120 Kentucky counties are served by a comprehensive care center. Comprehensive care centers are located in Paducah, Hopkinsville, Owensboro, Bowling Green, Elizabethtown, Louisville, Lexington, Fort Thomas, Maysville, Ashland, Prestonsburg, Hazard, Corbin and Somerset. Each office services the county in which it sits and several surrounding counties. Contact the office nearest you that covers your county to receive services.

Bluegrass Impact

100 Fair Oaks Lane 4W-C
Frankfort, KY 40621-0001
(502) 564-5777

Children’s Law Center, Inc.

childrenslawcenter@fuse.net

Covington Office
1002 Russell Street
Covington, KY 41011
Telephone: (859) 431-3313
Fax: (859) 655-7553

Lexington Office
Suite 1115
772 Winchester Road
Lexington, KY 40505
Telephone: (859) 253-0152
Fax: (859) 263-0162

Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities

100 Fair Oaks Lane, 4E-F
Frankfort, KY 40601
(877) 367-5332 Toll-free
(502) 564-9826 Fax
www.kcdd.ky.gov

This organization is a division of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Their mission is to provide leadership and advocacy for individuals with disabilities so they can obtain fair and adequate education, employment, health care, transportation and other necessities for everyday well-being. The organization does not provide direct care services, but individuals can contact the Council for information on advocacy and updates on legislature information relating to individuals with disabilities.

University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Human Development Institute, Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
126 Mineral Industries Building
Lexington, KY 40506
(859) 257-1714
www.ihdi.uky.edu

The University Center is statewide organization for advocacy, outreach, education, research and development for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Office of Career and Technical Education (Vocational and Technical Education)

Capital Plaza Tower
20th Floor
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-4286
Toll free (800) 223-5632
Fax (502) 564-2241
www.kytech.ky.gov

This office administers vocational-technical education programs and services for youth and adults at the state level through federal grants awarded under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act.

Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

The Mission of Vocational Rehabilitation is to assist Kentuckians with disabilities in achieving suitable employment and independence.

Cabinet for Human Resources
Mail Stop 2-EK
275 east Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40621
(502) 564-4440
Toll Free 800-372-7172
Fax (502) 564-6745
www.ovr.ky.gov

Vocational and Rehabilitation Agency of Kentucky
State Office for the Blind
Mail Stop E2-J
275 East Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40621
(502) 564-4754
Toll Free (800) 321-6668
Fax (502) 564-2951
www.blind.ky.gov

Chapter Five: Support Groups and Agencies

Are there any support groups or agencies that help me in raising grandchildren with disabilities at my age?

Arc of Kentucky

www.arcofky.org

706 East Main Street, Suite A

Frankfort, KY 40601

(502) 875-5225

800-281-1272

arcofky@aol.com

The Arc of Kentucky works toward providing individuals with disabilities and their families a community of services and resources. Through the Kentucky Family to Family Health Information and Education Initiative, families stay connected to each other and share experience, information and ideas on health care and education issues. The goal is to enhance quality of life through friendship, choice and respect.

Where are ARC chapters located in Kentucky?

The ARC has chapters in Elizabethtown, Glasgow, Hardinsburg, Louisville, Milton, Somerset, Owensboro, Garfield, Covington, Brandenburg, Hopkinsville, Corydon, Lexington, Richmond/Berea, Beaver Dam and Russellville Kentucky.

Big Sandy Family Caregiver Support Group

Services Johnson, Martin, Floyd, Magoffin and Pike Counties

(606) 886-2374

This support group offers meetings for grandparents raising grandchildren and includes transportation to and from meetings. The group will also provide information and referrals to families, as well as before and after-school care under special circumstances.

Bluegrass Region Grandparents As Parents Conference

<http://www.gapofky.org/>

Organized by a Planning Committee with a Rotating Chairperson.

Utilizes Broad-Based Community Sponsorship. Call LFUCG Office of Aging Services at (859) 258-3806 or Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living at (859) 269-8021 for information .

A free annual kinship care conference held every March for grandparents statewide who are raising grandchildren, including those raising grandchildren with disabilities. Many workshops are held to aid grandparents in navigating parenting a grandchild at this point in their lives and to make grandparents aware of the services and resources available to them. During the conference, grandparents are given the opportunity to have free consultations with local attorneys.

Easter Seals

Easter Seals provides exceptional services, education, outreach, and advocacy so that people living with autism and other disabilities can live, learn, work and have recreational opportunities in their communities.

Easter Seals of Kentucky has nine branches throughout the state. Services may include early intervention, physical and occupational therapy as well as speech and hearing therapy. Please contact your individual branch to learn more about these services. Use www.easterseals.com to locate the office nearest you by entering in your zip code. Below are the nine Kentucky offices.

Easter Seals West Kentucky, Adult Day Care Benton

www.eswky.easterseals.com

88 Commerce
Benton, KY 42025
(270) 527-1322
(270) 527-1566 Fax

Easter Seals Camp KYSOC, Kentucky, Cardinal Hill Healthcare System

www.cardinalhill.org

1902 Easterday Road
Carrollton, KY 41008
(502) 732-5333
502 732-0783 Fax

Easter Seals of Northern Kentucky

www.cardinalhill.org

31 Spiral Drive
Florence, KY 41042
clw@cardinalhill-northernky.org
(859) 525-1128
(859) 525-0351 Fax
clw@cardinalhill-northernky.org

Easter Seals Cardinal Hill Specialty Hospital at St. Luke Hospital East

www.cardinalhill.org

85 N. Grand Avenue
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075
(859) 572-3880
(859) 572-3895 Fax

Easter Seals Kentucky Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital

www.cardinalhill.org

2050 Versailles Road
Lexington, KY 40504-1499
(859) 254-5701
(800) 888-5377 Toll-free
(859) 281-1365 Fax

Easter Seals Kentucky

www.cardinalhill.org
9810 Bluegrass Parkway
Louisville, KY 40299-1906
(502) 584-9781
(502) 589-2409 Fax
clw@loueaster.org

Easter Seals West Kentucky Administration Offices

www.eswky.easterseals.com
801 North 29th Street
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 444-9687
(866) 673-3565 Toll-free
(270) 444-5590 Fax
info@eswky.com

Easter Seals West Kentucky Adult Services

www.eswky.easterseals.com
2229 Mildred Street
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 444-9680
(270) 444-0655 Fax
info@eswky.com

Easter Seals West Kentucky Child Development Center

www.eswky.easterseals.com
801 North 29th Street
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 444-9687
(866) 673-3585 Toll-free
(270) 444-8105 Fax
info@eswky.com

**Family Youth Resource Services Center (FYRSC)
Grandparents' Group**

Murray and Calloway Counties
(270) 759-9592

FYRSC Grandparents' Group is a support group for grandparents raising grandchildren. This group also offers referrals for a variety of kinship care services including health care, legal services, home health and mental health services.

Nearly every school district in Kentucky has some kind of FYRSC services that can assist a family in need. They can help a family during difficult economic times, assist a family in securing access to laptop computers, and access other community services to meet continuing difficulties or respond to a crisis.

Family Voices of Kentucky

Go to <http://www.familyvoices.org/states> and click on "Kentucky" to see information about Kentucky.

(502) 595-4459 ext. 279

Family Voices of Kentucky offers perspective into Title V policy discussions, as well as providing information and support to families through individual interaction and internet discussion. This organization works with families to improve health care services and to build relationships between agencies and families throughout the state. Trainings are planned throughout the year for support, transition and educational needs. Family Voices is also working with Medicaid to redesign state waiver programs and will assist families in learning how to advocate for their children.

Grandparent Support Groups

An in-person support group for grandparents' raising grandchildren in Kentucky is offered at the following locations.

Anderson County

(502) 680-6634

Hardin County

(270) 300-4966

Kenton

(859) 356-3155

Meade County

(270) 422-7512

Muhlenberg County

(270) 338-3124

Murray City Schools Family Resource and Youth Services
(270) 759-9592

Neighborhood Place of the Greater Cane Run Area
Louisville, KY
(502) 485-6826
Owensboro
(270) 686-1159

Southern Hardin County
(270) 369-6238

Greenup County Caregiver Support Group
Greenup, Boyd, Carter, Elliot, Lawrence Counties
www.fivco.org
(606) 929-1366

This support group meets quarterly in Greenup County and often includes speakers on the subject of grandparents raising grandchildren. The group also offers referrals for kinship care services and holds conference and workshops for grandparents raising grandchildren.

The Kentucky Adult Education Program

This program works to provide parent/custodians/guardians with instruction in literacy and basic academic skills so that they can aid in the education of their children and grandchildren as much as possible. When a caregiver becomes more educated, it alleviates much frustration for the both the caregiver and the child.

Kentucky Family Caregiver Program (KFCP)

www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/dail
(502) 564-6930

This program includes monthly support groups, training, information and referrals and a regular newsletter. Some programs provide funds for supplemental supplies such as clothing, as well as workshops and training for caregivers.

Who qualifies for help through the KFCP?

The Kentucky Caregiver Support Program (KFCP) offers services to any grandparent, regardless of age, who is a Kentucky resident, meets income requirements and serves as a primary caregiver to a child 18 years old or younger who does not live in the same home as a parent.

What services are offered through KFCP?

KFCP services include information and assistance in accessing services, counseling and support groups. Financial assistance of up to \$750 per year per child may be available for clothing, respite care, educational supplies, legal services, mental care, dental care, or other necessary expenses.

What are the income requirements?

KFCP is available to grandparents with a household income of up to 150% of the federal poverty level. Grandparents receiving Kinship Care cannot apply for KFCP.

Where do I apply for KFCP?

Applications are available through the local Area Development District, Area on Aging. Please contact the program nearest you for detailed information about the services provided in your area.

Barren River

Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson, Warren Counties
(800) 598-2381

Big Sandy

Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, Pike Counties
(800) 737-2723

Bluegrass

Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, Woodford Counties
(800) 648-6056

Buffalo Trace

Bracken, Fleming, Lewis, Mason, Robertson Counties
(800) 998-4347

Cumberland Valley

Bell, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Rockcastle, Whitley Counties
(800) 795-7654

FIVCO

Boyd, Carter, Elliot, Greenup, Lawrence Counties
(800) 499-5191

Gateway

Bath, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Rowan Counties
(606) 674-6355

Green River

Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, Webster Counties

Kentucky River

Leslie, Letcher, Knott, Perry, Lee, Owsley, Breathitt, Wolfe Counties
(800) 928-5723

KIPDA

Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble Counties
(800) 928-6084

Lake Cumberland

Adair, Casey, Cumberland, Green, McCreary, Pulaski, Russell, Taylor
Counties
(800) 264-7093

Lincoln Trail

Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson,
Washington Counties
(800) 264-0393

Northern Kentucky

Boone, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Owen, Pendleton
Counties
(866) 826-4118

Pennyrile

Caldwell, Crittenden, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Muhlenberg, Todd,
Trigg, Christian Counties
(800) 928-7233

Purchase

Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Marshall,
McCracken Counties
(877) 352-5183

**Autism Spectrum Disorders Related Support Groups in
Kentucky**

**Big East Cooperative Region (Boyd, Elliott, Greenup, Carter and
Lawrence Counties)**

Parents United for Support and Help (PUSH)

Barb Worden
Telephone: (606) 324-3005
bworden@pahtways-ky.org

Jefferson County Exceptional Child Education Service Region

Autism Society of Kentuckiana (ASK)
www.ask-lou.org

Deanna Gadjen
Telephone: (812) 949-2922
Laurie Spezzano
Telephone: (502) 222-4706
Vonya Gresham
vgresham@hospices.org

FEAT of Louisville, Inc.
www.featoflouisville.org

Donna Beasley
Telephone: (502) 596-1258
DBeasley@homeoftheinnocents.org

Caveland Education Cooperative Region

Allen County Autism Support Group
Amanda Reagan
Telephone: (270) 618-3181
amanda.reagan@allen.kyschools.us

Autism Awareness and Research Foundation of Edmonson County
Meredith York
Telephone: (270) 246-0332
Angela Johnson
Telephone: (270) 246-1328

Autism Group of Cumberland County
Spri Wheatley
autismgroup.sw@GMAIL.COM

Bowling Green Autism Asperger's Support Group
Karen Thomas
Telephone: (270) 781-2118
karenmthomas@bellsouth.net

Barren River Area Autism Support Group
(Barren, Hart, Monroe, Logan, Butler, Allen, Edmonson, Simpson, Warren
Counties)

Hart of Autism
(Hart County)
Stephanie Turner
Telephone: (270)774-1180
etaa8416@yahoo.com
groups.yahoo.com/HartofAutism
Central Kentucky Cooperative Region

Autism Society of the Bluegrass (Central Kentucky)
Sara Spragens
Telephone: (859) 299-9000
sspragens@insightbb.com

Danville/Boyle County Autism Parent Support Group
(Boyle, Mercer, Casey, Lincoln, Garrard Counties)
Julie DeCoteau
markdecoteau@bellsouth.net
Melissa Caudill
Telephone: (859) 236-8812
gmcbrc@bellsouth.net

Franklin County Autism and Related Disorder Support Group
Stacy Moore
Telephone: (502) 352-2425
Stacy.Moore@Franklin.kyschools.us

Parent and Professional Autism Support Group in Powell County
(Wolfe, Montgomery, Clark, Powell Counties)
Marilyn Barnett
happy-top@msn.com

Washington County Autism Support Group
Katie Essex
Telephone: (859) 336-0059
kentuckylady@bellsouth.net

Northern Kentucky Cooperative Region Autism Society of Greater Cincinnati

Judy Newport
www.autismcincy.org

Comforting Ties Autism Support Group
(Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky)
Sandy Knollman
Telephone: (513) 703-6215

sandraknollman@yahoo.com

Autism Project of Southern Ohio
(Ohio and Northeastern Kentucky)
Wendy Potts
Telephone: (740) 357-2273

Mothers of Children with Special Needs of Northern Kentucky
www.mscnky.com
Pam Blackburn
Pam.Blackburn@ky.gov

Campbell County Autism Parent Support Group
Lindsey Mattingly
Telephone: (859) 635-2118 ext 110
Lindsey.Mattingly@campbell.kyschools.us

Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative Autism Support Group of Shelbyville

Renea Sageser
Telephone: (502) 633-1007
rena@kidtherapy.org

Wilderness Trail Cooperative Region
Eastern Kentucky University Autism and Related Disorders
www.psychology.edu.edu/Autism
Rita Brockmeyer
Telephone: (859) 623-6074
Myra Beth Bundy
MyraBeth.Bundy@eku.edu

River Region Cooperative Region

Autism Support Network of Owensboro (ASNO)
Donna Lanham
djl423@yahoo.com
Trudi Laumas
laumas@att.net

Fort Knox Autism Support Group
The Group is open to all military card holders
Marla Harris
marla.harris@us.army.mil

Elizabethtown Autism Parent Support Group
Lori Hill

Telephone: (270) 769-0058
Lori.Hill@peoplefirstrehab.com

**Upper Cumberland Cooperative Region Autism Support 4 Lake
Cumberland**

Donna Littrell
Telephone: (606) 561-8282
awareness4autism@gmail.com

Parents of Autistic Children
(Southeast Kentucky)

Angie Parman
Telephone: (606) 682-3416
angie@p4ac.com

Joyce Steele
Telephone: (606) 682-2454
jsteele912@alltel.net

East Kentucky Autism Support Group

Katrina Justice
Telephone: (606) 432-9367
Becky Harrell
Telephone: (606) 437-0066

Western Kentucky Cooperative Region

Autism Support Group
(Union County)
Chi Rho Health and Wellness Center in Morganfield 270-389-9696
Laura Ervin
Telephone: 270-333-2305 home 270-997-0223 cell
lervin9@gmail.com

Christian County Special Needs Autism Parent Support (SNAPS)

Janet Godsey
Telephone: (270) 887-7004
janet.godsey@christian.kyschools.us

Fort Campbell Autism Support Group
Group is open to all--primary focus is military families

Kerry Graef
Telephone: (270) 798-2727
kerry.moline@us.army.mil

FEAT of Western Kentucky

www.featofwesternky.org

Tammi Halvorson
tammih7@comcast.net

Kentucky Valley Cooperative Region

Autism Support of Letcher County
Linda Collins
Telephone: (606) 855-9026
hootandl@bellsouth.net

Autism Support Group of Perry County
Russ or Kim Baker
Telephone: (606) 436-0761

Kentucky Department for Community Based Services Division of Child Care Cabinet for Health and Family Services

275 East Main Street, 3C-F
Frankfort, Kentucky 40621
(502) 564-2524
877-316-3552
www.chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dcc/

Kentucky Aging And Disabilities Resource Center (877) 293-7447

The Kentucky Aging and Disabilities Resource Center is a statewide source for referrals, information, resources and assistance at the state or local level. Call the Kentucky Aging and Disabilities Resource Center for guidance as to where to find assistance for your needs.

KIN-CARES Statewide Collaborative

(502) 564-6930

KIN-CARES Collaborative (Kentucky Information Network: Collaborating Advocating Resourcing Educating Supporting Grandparents/Relatives Raising Children). The KIN-CARES collaborative is a statewide body whose sole mission is to focus on supporting grandparents/relative caregivers who are raising children. The group was formerly known as the Kentucky Statewide KinCare Steering Committee and has reorganized around new goals: to promote self-sustaining grandparents and relatives raising children support groups throughout Kentucky; to support quality training efforts that enhance, enrich, and empower grandparents and relatives raising children; to identify and provide

resources and information related to grandparents and relatives raising children; to create a greater awareness and appreciation of the experiences of grandparents and relatives raising children; and to foster a collaborative approach to resolving systematic issues confronting grandparents and relatives raising children.

Additional Contacts for Grandparents and Their Grandchildren with Disabilities

Special Format Library

Kentucky Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
300 Coffee Tree Road
PO Box 537
Frankfort, KY 40602
(502) 564-8300
(800) 372-2968
www.kdla.ky.gov/collectionsktbl.htm

State Education Agency Rural Representative

Department of Education
500 Mero Street
Capitol Plaza Tower, 1st Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-4474
www.education.ky.gov

State Mediation System

Office of Legal and Legislative Services
Department of Education
www.education.ky.gov

Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children

207 Holmes Street, 1st Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 875-1320
(800) 369-0533
www.kypartnership.org

Maxwell Street Legal Clinic

Immigrant Eligibility for Public Benefits
(859) 233-3840

Brain Injury Association of Kentucky

4229 Bardstown Road, Suite 330

Louisville, KY 40218
(502) 493-0609
(800) 592-1117 (in KY)
www.braincenter.org
www.biak.us

Down Syndrome InfoSource, Inc.

P.O. Box 221316
Louisville, KY 40252
(502) 412-3759
(888) 999-3759

Epilepsy Foundation of Kentuckiana

501 East Broadway, Suite 110
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 584-8817
(866) 275-1078
www.efky.org

Learning Disabilities Association of Kentucky, Inc.

2210 Goldsmith Lane, Suite 118
Louisville, KY 40218
(502) 473-1256
www.ldaofky.org

Spina Bifida Association of Kentucky

982 Eastern Parkway, Box 18
Louisville, KY 40217
(502) 637-7363
(502) 637-1010
www.sbak.org

Mental Health Association of Kentucky

120 Sears Avenue, Suite 213
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 893-0460
(888) 705-0463
www.mhaky.org

Exceptional Family KY Magazine (published by Lexington Family Magazine)

138 East Reynolds Road
#201
Lexington, KY 40517
(859) 223-1756

www.lexingtonfamily.com

The magazine functions as a Kentucky guidebook for individuals with disabilities and their families and the professional organizations and agencies who support them. The magazine is made possible in part by the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities.