



Here To Help

When a grandparent or relative assumes care of a child, it can be a challenging experience emotionally, legally and financially. The needs of each grandparent caring for a child vary from one to the next, and children may also experience emotional or behavioral issues that require support. The Caregiver Support Program takes this into consideration when determining what services can be provided so a family can be successful.

For more information, contact the Franklin County Area Agency on Aging at (717) 263-2153.



Franklin County Area Agency on Aging

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Franklin County
Area Agency on Aging

Caregiver Support Program

Grandparents Raising
Grandchildren





Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

In Pennsylvania, there are more than 80,000 grandparents who are responsible for meeting the basic needs of children in their care due to instances of abuse, neglect, incarceration, divorce, domestic violence, substance abuse, illness, death, economic hardship, and other family or community crises involving parents.

The Caregiver Support Program offers aid through the Pennsylvania Department of Aging to families who find themselves in a kinship care situation. The Franklin County Area Agency on Aging can offer support and services to families who meet the criteria for the program.

Benefits & Services For Grandparents

The Caregiver Support Program provides a variety of services, including:

- Information about available services and resources
- Assistance in gaining access to services
- Individual counseling, organization of support groups and training of caregivers to assist them in decision making and problem solving that are related to their caregiving roles
- Reimbursement for services and/or supplies related to caring for a child(ren), such as:
 - School clothes and supplies
 - Daycare services
 - Diapers, formula, baby food
 - Education/trainings
 - YMCA memberships
 - Extracurricular activity fees and supplies for those activities
 - Up to two over-the-counter medications per month



Program Eligibility & Criteria For Caregivers

To be eligible for the Caregiver Support Program, participants must meet the following criteria:

- Grandparent(s) must be 55 years of age or older
- Grandchild(ren) must be 17 years of age or younger
- Grandparent(s) must be the primary caregiver of the child(ren)
- The caregiver cannot be a biological parent
- The caregiver must be related by blood, marriage or adoption
- Grandparent(s) must have a legal relationship or be raising the child(ren) informally
- The grandparent(s) and child(ren) must live in the same residence
- The total gross income of the entire household must be less than 380% of the federal poverty level