



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Child and Family Services Agency



**Grandparent Caregivers Program:
Annual Status Report, CY2014**
January 30, 2015

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1. Introduction & Program Profile

Introduction

This is the ninth annual report for the Grandparent Caregivers Program (GCP), which the District established under the Grandparent Caregivers Pilot Program Establishment Act of 2005. The Budget Support Act of 2009 moved the program out of pilot status, creating a permanent Grandparent Caregivers Program. The DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) serves as program administrator, since its inception in March 2006. The Establishment Act requires this annual report, which must include a specific set of statistics (Section 3) and recommendations for program improvement (Section 4).

Program Profile

The Grandparent Caregivers Program provides a monthly subsidy to eligible DC residents with low incomes who are raising their grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great nieces, or great nephews. Caregivers use the financial assistance to help care for the child relatives residing with them in the District. The program currently serves 466 households with 711 children.

Table 1: GCP Statistics

	CY2012	CY2013	CY2014
Program funding (subsidy portion)	\$3.888M	\$4.448M	\$4.64 ¹
New applications received (from families)	78	86	85
New subsidies awarded (to children)	111	128	129
Children receiving both GCP and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) at End of Year	468	543	551
Total number of children who received subsidy in calendar year	754	756	711
Denials due to ineligibility	5	3	5
Denials due to funding (applications on the waiting list as of End of Year)	0	0	0
Subsidies terminated by program or caregiver	121	25	70 ²
Substantiated instances of fraud	0	1	0
Children removed from household while receiving subsidy	2	2	3 ³

¹There was an increase in the number of children/youth receiving the subsidy in the District who are 12 years of age and older. With this age group, there is a daily rate increase depending on other financial benefits. In response, the District Council approved an increase to the GCP subsidy budget for FY2014. The increase in subsidy is aimed at increasing family stability and child well-being.

²This number of terminations reflects youth who age-out, providers requested to be removed and providers who no longer qualify for the program.

³This number reflects two families and three children who were removed in CY '14 while receiving the subsidy. One child was removed for physical abuse and the other two children were removed for neglect. One child was returned back to the guardian who will re-apply to the program once protective supervision has expired.

2. Program Achievements

Initiated Informational Groups

In an effort to address concerns and services needed from the 2013 survey, the GCP staff hosted three informational groups held at CFSA. The topics from these groups ranged from Affordable Housing Options, Mentoring Programs in the District of Columbia, Guardian Legal Advice presented by the Children’s Law Center, and Life Re-imagined Checkup presented by AARP. The participants were able to gain vital information that would aide them in being better caregivers, as well as ways to care for themselves.

Partnered with Community Resources

In 2014, GCP partnered with several community providers to equip our caregivers with additional resources. As previously mentioned, the program staff conducted an informational group focusing on mentoring programs in the District. Information regarding enrollment criteria was shared by representatives from the following organizations: 100 Black Men of Greater Washington, DC, My Girlfriend’s House, and Mentors Inc. These organization’s missions aligned with the program and CFSA’s goals and mission. When information regarding mentoring programs is requested by caregivers, they are referred to these programs. In addition, GCP was instrumental in providing information to the Howard University Gerontology Department. The information collected was utilized to raise the awareness of the University’s Department to better understand the living conditions of senior citizens.

Achieved Performance Indicator

In 2012, CFSA and the local child-serving community developed and rallied around a strategic agenda known as the Four Pillars. The goal of this bold strategic agenda is to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families at every step of their involvement with the District’s child welfare agency. Each pillar highlights a values-based foundation, a set of evidence-based strategies, and a series of specific outcome targets. The Four Pillars are as follows: Narrowing the Front Door, Temporary Safe Haven, Well Being, and Exit to Permanence.

The program is especially valuable in providing the support families need to prevent child relatives from entering foster care. The following chart shows the outcome and performance indicator achieved for the program.

Outcome:		
Families will be assisted to remain together and prevent out-of-home placement		
Performance Indicator	Actual 2014	2015 Target
Children receiving GCP services will be diverted from entering out of home placement	99% ¹	95%

¹Out of the 711 children served in CY2014, there were three children removed in May and August 2014 as a result of a report made to Child Protective Services for substantiation of abuse or neglect.

3. Statistical Overview

Applications Filed

In 2014, the GCP received 85 new applications on behalf of 129 children.¹ In addition, 5 existing GCP participants applied to add 5 children to their subsidies.

Subsidies Awarded

Out of the 85 new applications received (application equal the numbers of families), 75 applicants were approved.

Subsidy Details

A full subsidy payment (without offsets) is \$24.79 per day for children under age 12 and \$27.92 per day for children older than 12. During 2014, a participant in the GCP could expect to receive an average daily rate of \$19.83 or \$594.90 for a 30-day month per child. This is consistent with the 2012 daily rate and up from the 2011 daily rate of \$14.96 or \$448.80 for a 30-day month per child.²

The current average number of children per family participating in the program is two, and average age of children currently in the program is 10.

Families Receiving the Subsidy, TANF, and SSI

Of the 711 children receiving a GCP subsidy in 2014, 551 (78%) also received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). This percentage has been relatively steady throughout the life of the program. In addition, 67 children (9%) received Supplemental Security Income (SSI), an increase in 4% since the previous year. Per the Grandparent Caregivers Pilot Program Establishment Act of 2005, the program offset GCP subsidy amounts for these two groups of children by the amount they receive in TANF or SSI. However, children who receive Social Security survivor benefits from a deceased parent receive a full GCP subsidy.

Denials Due to Ineligibility

CFSA deemed ten applications ineligible in 2014. Reasons included exceeding program income requirements, inability to verify the relationship between the prospective provider and child, and the child's parent residing in the home. None of these applicants requested a Fair Hearing.

Denials Due to Lack of Appropriate Funding

CFSA did not have to deny any applications for lack of funding.

¹Potential applicants can receive an application by calling the program directly or downloading the application from the CFSA website (www.cfsa.dc.gov). CFSA has also provided application information to community partners so they can inform prospective caregivers about the program.

²The rate has remained the same since 2012.

Estimated Eligible Caretakers & Estimated Grandparents Acting as Caregivers

This section of the GCP Annual Report provides both national and local statistical data on the number of grandparent headed households, the number of children being raised by grandparents with no parent present and demographic data regarding race and ethnicity.

National Statistics

Research shows the following with respect to grandparent-headed households nationally:

- 7.8 million children live in households headed by grandparents or other relatives. These households include both those where the children's parents may or may not be present.¹
- 2.7 million children (3%) of all U.S. children are being raised in “grand families” or kinship care situations.²
- By conservative estimates, these relatives who keep families together and children out of foster care, save taxpayers more than \$4 billion each year.³
- Grandparents often care for the children for extended periods of time; 40 percent report that they have been responsible for the children for more than five years.⁴

District of Columbia

Grandchildren

- 17,444 children under age 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives (17.5% of all children in the District of Columbia).²
- Compared to children in non-relative care, they have more stability, are more likely to maintain connections with brothers and sisters and preserve their cultural heritage and community bonds.⁵

Grandparents

- 5,693 grandparents are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them.³

¹ Lofquist, Daphne, Terry Lugailla, Martion O’Connell, & Sarah Feliz. “Households and Families 2010: U.S.” 2010 Census Briefs C2010BR-14, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC. 2012. Access January 5, 2015 at <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-14.pdf>

² Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center. 2011-2013 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). Estimates represent a three-year average. Accessed January 5, 2015 <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/Tables/7172-children-in-kinship-care?loc=1&loct=1#detailed/1/any/false/1218,1049,995/any/14207,14208>

³ Generations United calculated this figure based on the federal share of the 2011 national average minimum monthly foster care maintenance payment (\$301) for 1.1 million children. The number of children is approximately one-half of the children being raised in grandfamilies outside of the formal foster care system. We use this number in our calculation due to a conservative estimate that the other half already receives some type of governmental financial assistance, such as a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) child-only grant. We also know that a number of children in grandfamilies have special needs that would warrant higher monthly foster care maintenance payments. The cost of 1.1 million children entering the system would represent all new financial outlays for taxpayers.

⁴ Ellis, Renee R. and Tavia Simmons, “Coresident Grandparents and Their Grandchildren: 2012,” Current Population Reports P20-576, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC. 2014 and “Time for Reform: Support Relatives in Providing Foster Care and Permanent Families for Children.” Kids Are Waiting: Fix Foster Care Now and Generations United, Washington, DC. 2007.

⁵ “Time for Reform: Support Relatives in Providing Foster Care and Permanent Families for Children.” Kids Are Waiting: Fix Foster Care Now and Generations United, Washington, DC. 2007 and Conway, Tiffany and Rutledge Q. Hudson. “Is Kinship Care Good for Kids?” Center for Law and Social Policy, Washington, DC. 2007.

- Of these, 2% of the grandparents are White and not Hispanic, 93% are Black/African American, 1% are Asian, 3% are Hispanic/Latino, and may be of any race.³
- 40% have no parents of the children present in the home³
- 56% are under age 60³
- 31% live in poverty³

Terminations and Age-outs

Termination statistics are based on individual children, as the circumstances of one child may change and result in termination without affecting other children in the household. Of the 83 children who exited the program during 2014, a total of 56 youth exited the program due to reaching the age of 18. This number is slightly more than CY2013 (increase of eight children who aged-out) and was the primary reason for terminating participants. The remaining 27 children were terminated for one of the following reasons:

- Death of caregiver (2 families, 2 children)
- Another person assumed care (4 families, 6 children)
- Caregiver failed to recertify (1 family, 3 children)
- CFSA removed children as part of an abuse/neglect investigation (2 families, 3 children)
- Caregiver's household income increased, exceeding eligibility requirements (4 families, 8 children)
- Birth parent moved back into the home and the family did not qualify for an exception as outlined in the DC Code (4 families, 5 children)

In 2014, there were no Fair Hearing appeals.

Substantiated Instances of Fraud

In 2014, there were no cases of fraud.

Children Removed from Households while Receiving Subsidy

Out of the 711 children served in CY2014, there were three children removed in May and August 2014 as a result of a report made to Child Protective Services for substantiation of abuse or neglect.

4. Recommendations for Program Improvement

Revised Kinship Resource Directory

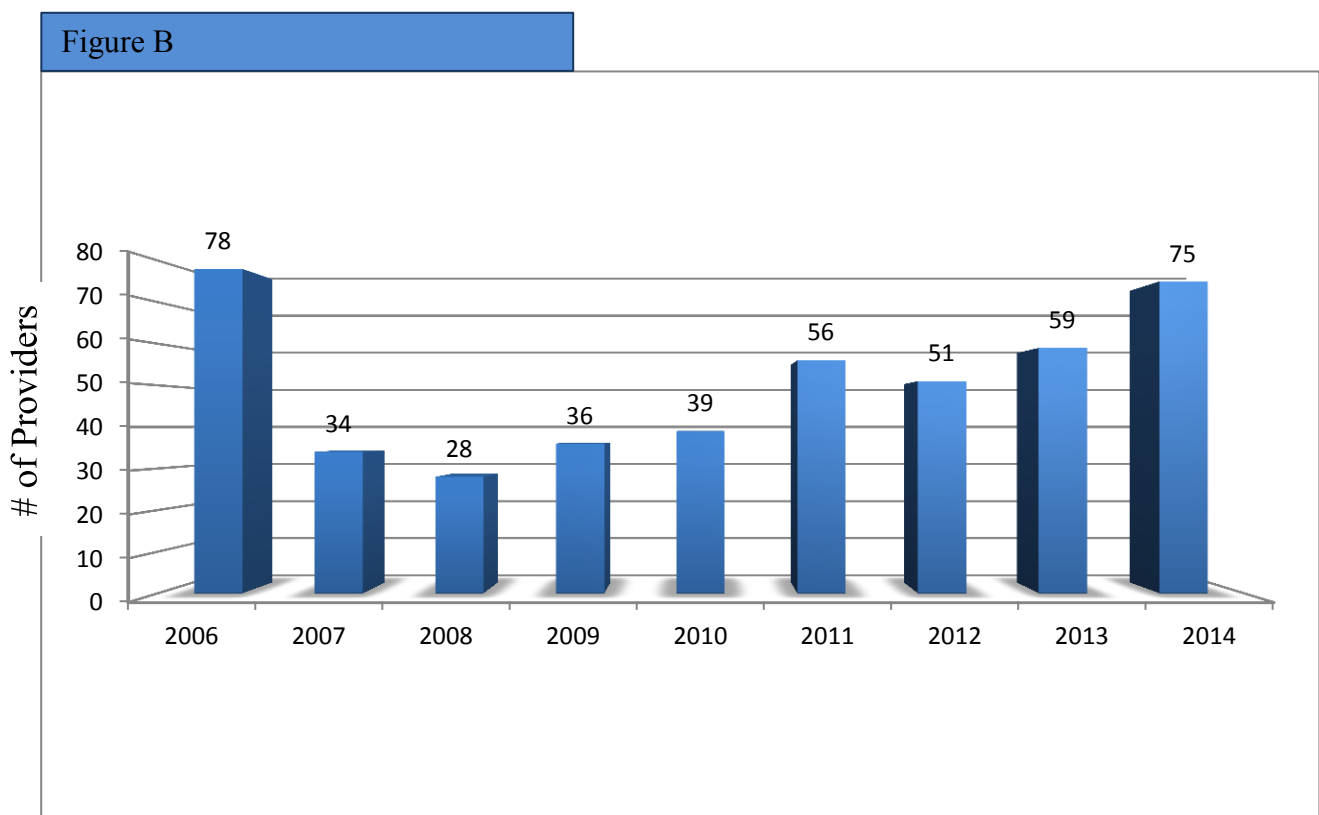
In 2014, GCP distributed an updated resource directory to caregivers to equip them with additional assistance to ensure the safety and well-being of the children/youth.

Build a Partnership with Generations United

Generations United's National Center on Grand families is a nationally recognized organization that works to enact policies and promote programs to help grand families address challenges. Despite facing many barriers, research shows that the children residing with their grand families thrive. Caregivers also experience benefits like an increased sense of purpose in life. Because it is recognized that the subsidy is not the only support these families need, GCP will collaborate with Generations United to make sure the program is holistically serving these families. The program will gain insight on the needs of grand families from the seminars and workshops the organization has to offer. GCP outreach efforts will begin in the spring of 2015.

5. CY 2014 Snapshot

The chart below (Figure B) illustrates the number of new providers/caregivers that began receiving the GCP subsidy.



Statistics	Month												Totals
	Jan '14	Feb '14	Mar '14	Apr '14	May '14	Jun '14	Jul '14	Aug '14	Sep'14	Oct '14	Nov '14	Dec '14	
New Applications	5	5	11	5	10	9	5	6	7	7	8	7	85
# of Approved Applications	1	0	9	9	10	2	9	10	2	7	15	1	75
# of Denied Applications	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	1	0	10
# of Terminations	2	5	5	0	3	4	0	3	4	1	0	0	27
# of Age-outs	6	2	6	4	2	5	4	2	5	6	4	10	56
# of Appeals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# Waitlisted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Avg. time for approval decision	14 days	14 days	14 days	14 days	14 days	14 days	14 days	14 days	14 days	14 days	14 days	30 Days ⁺	15 Days ^{**}
# Service Referrals	0	0	13	2	4	6	2	4	6	31	30	8	106
# of Providers Receiving Subsidy	447	435	438	444	450	447	444	450	447	434	447	466	446 ^{**}
# of Children Receiving Subsidy	682	665	670	685	701	693	685	701	693	657	680	711	685 ^{**}
Total Subsidy Amount Paid	\$419,665.58	367,847.69	\$407,385.83	\$403,314.73	\$425,558.62	\$427,235.74	\$427,235.74	\$429,248.00	\$412,490.68	\$401,990.41	\$400,312.25	\$434,605.72	\$4,956,899.99

*The average time for approval decisions increased due to a systems update for background check information that occurred in December.

** The total is an average based on 12 months.