

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Office on Aging

SUBMITTAL DATE:
November 24, 2014

SUBJECT: Riverside County Office on Aging - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Annual Report for FY 2013-2014. [Districts: ALL] [Total Cost: \$0].

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and file the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Annual Report for FY 2013-2014;
2. Instruct the Office on Aging to continue providing staff support to assist the GRG Task Force in addressing the direction outlined in the report; and
3. Support the ongoing participation of multiple County departments to serve grandparents raising their grandchildren.

BACKGROUND: The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Task Force was created by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors (Agenda Item 3.45 on June 30, 1998) and was convened by the Office on Aging in October 1998. The Board of Supervisors directed GRG to establish a central point of access for grandparents as they engage with the County's supportive services system to address and resolve problems and issues experienced by grandparents as they raise their grandchildren.

(Continued on page 2)

Michele Haddock
Director

Departmental Concurrence

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/>
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
SOURCE OF FUNDS: Not applicable				Budget Adjustment: No	
				For Fiscal Year: 2013/14	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY:
Kani Sison

County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- Positions Added
- Change Order
- A-30
- 4/5 Vote

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | **District:** ALL | **Agenda Number:**

2-12

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FORM 11: Riverside County Office on Aging - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Annual Report for FY 2013-2014. [Districts: ALL] [Total Cost: \$0].

DATE: November 24, 2014

PAGE: 2 of 2

BACKGROUND:

Summary (continued)

The Office on Aging has proudly been recognized as a statewide leader in addressing the challenges of grandparents raising their grandchildren. It is a privilege to acknowledge the members of the GRG Task Force, our County and community partners and our GRG Program staff for their dedication and commitment to serving grandparent families across the County of Riverside. Their critical work is underwritten with generous support from First 5 Riverside, Department of Public Social Services, Riverside County, the Older Americans Act and the Family Caregiver Support Program through the California Department of Aging.

Impact on Citizens and Businesses

Over 1,900 County residents have been outreached to and supported by the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program during FY 2013-14. The report highlights the three focus areas of the Task Force and outlines all the accomplishments that were only successful through the collaboration of multiple County agencies, elected officials, and community-based organizations for the residents of Riverside County.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Annual Report for FY 2013-2014



County of Riverside Office on Aging
Aging and Disabilities Resource Connection



GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN
ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

A Message from the Director — Michele Haddock

The Office on Aging has proudly been recognized as a statewide leader in addressing the challenges of grandparents raising their grandchildren. This leadership role is expanding throughout the United States and we take this very seriously. It is a privilege for me to acknowledge the members of the GRG Task Force, our County and community partners and our GRG Program staff for their dedication and commitment to serving grandparent families across the County of Riverside. Their critical work is underwritten with generous support from First 5 Riverside, Department of Public Social Services, Riverside County, the Older Americans Act and the Family Caregiver Support Program through the California Department of Aging. We will continue to leverage the support of our partners to build a pathway to the future for our grandparent families.



Unplanned Parenthood: Grandparent Caregivers

Nicholas E. Pisca

....Although I acknowledge the challenges associated with caring for grandchildren as a grandparent, I also view this role as being associated with resiliency and strength. As a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Southern California's Davis School of Gerontology, I often come across a bias in gerontological work that tends to focus on the importance of loss and poor coping strategies in late-life. The study of grandparent caregivers has largely reflected this trend. Namely, research has emphasized the negative consequences that caregiving has on physical and mental health.

Being largely parented by my grandmother, I experienced first-hand how taking care of a child while in her 70s took a toll on her, physically and emotionally. She would regularly struggle to tend to all of my childhood needs, such as walking me to school and back each day or ensuring I made it to baseball practice (Continued on Pg. 3)

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Task Force was established by the Board of Supervisors in 1998 to assist caregiving grandparents with access to the services and resources necessary to offer their grandchildren a safe and nurturing home. It is a collaboration of multiple County agencies, elected officials, and community-based organizations. Most importantly, grandparent representation has been a critical element of the Task Force's work.

Strategic Planning

During this fiscal year, the leadership of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Task Force and the Planning Division of the Office on Aging re-evaluated the GRG's goals and the needs of grandparent caregivers in Riverside County. The new focus areas are Access & Eligibility, Advocacy & Support, and Policy. Specific goals have been identified within these areas.

on time, all while preparing meals and maintaining a home. However, I also remember my grandmother's resiliency and resourcefulness, which allowed us to overcome many of the hardships we experienced. Although challenges were ever-present in my grandmother's parenting responsibilities, it was the unique strength of her age and wisdom that impacted my childhood the most.

Vitality, A Publication of the USC Davis School of Gerontology, 2014



Access & Eligibility

- ◆ Increased awareness about the GRG program among consumers and professionals
- ◆ Increased awareness of GRG needs and issues within County departments
- ◆ Systematic infrastructure across relevant agencies
- ◆ Better informed GRG families about benefit programs, eligibility standards and applications

Advocacy & Support

- ◆ Better informed workers in County agencies
- ◆ Better cooperation among County agencies
- ◆ Better understanding and relationship with court services
- ◆ Better responsiveness from school systems

Policy

- ◆ Consistency in County policies and benefits for GRG families
- ◆ Rights for GRG families in 55+ communities
- ◆ Child Support policies and their impact on accessing benefits
- ◆ Grandparent rights



Three major steps have been accomplished toward addressing these goals:

The **Legislative/Systems Change Committee** continued to press forward the proposed legislation in the California Senior Legislature to establish a grace period for grandparents living in 55+ communities who have taken custody of children. Ms. Sonja Martin is a Senior Senator and submitted the proposal for consideration at 2013-2014 Assembly in Sacramento. Letters of support and petition signatures were gathered to show community involvement in endorsing this issue.

A new **Outreach Committee** was formed to develop strategies and materials for outreach efforts to both professional and consumer audiences. Speaking materials were developed with more user-friendly language that will be used by grandparents who have volunteered to do peer-to-peer outreach.

The **Program Committee** sponsored a symposium on May 8, 2014, aimed at reminding County agencies and programs about the GRG Program and issues facing those families. The symposium was well attended by a broad spectrum of County and community-based programs, including law enforcement and the courts.

The work of the Task Force, committees, and staff in 2013-2014 has brought revitalization to the visibility and has strengthened collaborations that are key to serving this special population of caregivers throughout Riverside County.

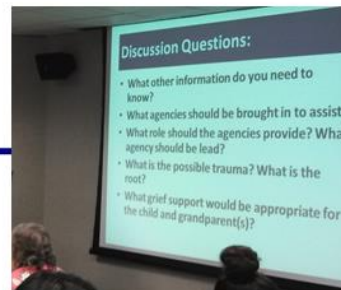
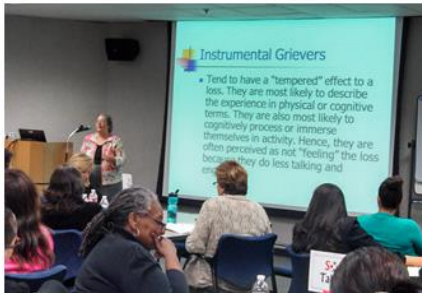
2014 Symposium on Solutions (SOS)

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) symposium was held on May 8th for County and community agency workers to raise awareness of the complexity of GRG issues and needs, and to increase sensitivity about how agencies can better serve this population.

Keynote presentations focused on the *impact of trauma on child development and behaviors*, and *grief and loss* for grandchildren and the grandparent caregiver. These are two major issues impacting these families that are not receiving adequate attention and care.

In addition to the topical presentations, the participants engaged in table-top discussions of sample cases. Assigned seating created a mix of programs representation at each table, which demonstrated the value of the GRG multi-disciplinary approach.

The symposium resulted in over twenty requests for more information and in-service presentations for County programs and community partners.



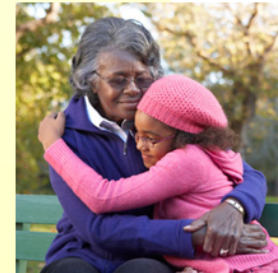
Addressing Trauma in Our Communities

“Schools, courts, and communities can enhance resiliency by providing opportunities for youth to make meaningful decisions about their lives and environments, as well as investing in recreational programs, arts, mentorship, and vocational programs.”

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

“It is important to point out that even though exposure to trauma and other adverse childhood experiences have been shown to have negative effects on children’s development and functioning, there are also factors that can lead a trauma-exposed child to be resilient to these harmful experiences.... Factors that promote resilience can be found on multiple levels: the individual level (e.g., child’s cognitive abilities), the family level (e.g., presence of a loving, supportive adult in the child’s life), and the community level (resources available to the child in the community).... This is an opportunity for systems involved with the child to use information about the child’s strengths and needs to identify the most appropriate interventions for addressing the child’s trauma-based symptoms and to promote future resiliency.”

From Administrative Office of the Courts Briefing, “The Effects of Complex Trauma on Youth,” June 2014.



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Profile 2013	Riverside County 2012	Riverside County 2013	Variance	California 2013
Grandparent Headed Household	22,765	19,692	-15.6%	295,837
Grandparent Household with No Parent Present	4,871	3,682	-32.3%	65,667
Hispanic	50.7%	48.5%	-2.2%	50.1%
White Non-Hispanic	32.1%	33.0%	0.9%	28.1%
African American	7.5%	12.4%	4.9%	8.8%
Other/Mixed Race	9.7%	6.1%	-3.6%	13%
Living Under Poverty Level	19.4%	13.6%	-5.8%	18.6%
Working Grandparent	56.8%	58.9%	2.1%	56.3%
Age of Grandchild				
Under 6	49%	46%	-3%	50%
6-11	31%	33%	2%	30%
12-17	20%	21%	1%	20%

2013 American Community Survey. U.S. Census Bureau

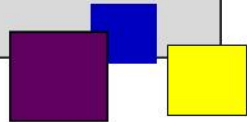
Grandparent Household with No Parent Present in Riverside County	2012	2013
Grandparent age 30-59	41%	40%
Grandparent age 60 and over	59%	60%

GRAND FACTS:

- ◆ The number of grandparent led households without a parent present decreased by 32.3% in 2013, compared to 2012.
- ◆ Grandparents age 60 and over are more likely to have sole custody (without a parent in the home) than younger grandparents age 30 - 59.
- ◆ 5.8% decrease in grandparent led households living below the poverty level in 2013, compared to 2012, which coincides with a higher percentage of grandparents working.
- ◆ 2.1% increase in 2013 of working grandparents
- ◆ 46% of grandchildren in the care of a grandparent are under age 6.



GRG Households Served in Riverside County By Supervisorial District	
District 1	16%
District 2	12%
District 3	31%
District 4	14%
District 5	27%



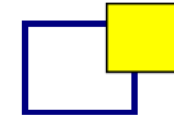
GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN PROGRAM OUTCOMES 2013-2014

Support Services

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) program was established to provide emotional and practical support to grandparents to help them be successful in raising their grandchildren. This support is offered in 6 different formats by a team of caring professionals, and includes:



- Information & Assistance
- WarmLine
- Personal Support
- Multi-Disciplinary
- GrandsClub
- Child Care Support



**Information & Assistance --
1,153 Contacts**

Many questions and concerns can be resolved through telephonic assessments and home visits. Staff provide information about County programs and procedures, community services and resources. Because of the multi-disciplinary team approach, we are often able to connect grandparents directly with service workers and key partners that support the GRG Task Force. During FY 2013-14, GRG provided information and assistance to 1,153 contacts.

The WarmLine is an “800” comprehensive telephonic case management assessment that was established to serve as a central point of access for assistance with kinship and caregiving related matters. The WarmLine social worker informs, supports and empowers caregivers and relatives in the development, maintenance and strengthening of their families through a care plan to improve the quality of life for Grandfamilies. It is funded and managed by the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). During FY 2013-14, the WarmLine social worker made contact with 760 families/individuals.



WarmLine -- Case Management
760 Contacts

**Personal Support - -
(Case Management)**

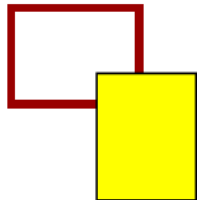
The GRG social worker provides one-on-one support to resolve personal concerns and advocates for access to benefits and services as needed. The predominant issues this year were grandparents' health, financial assistance with household expenses and money management, and mental health services for grandparents dealing with late life depression. During FY 2013-14, the GRG social worker provided 615 contact hours of case management support.

To meet the more complex needs of a family, the social worker has access to the experiences and resources of various agencies and organizations who meet as a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) to develop a strategy for the client to streamline access to the appropriate services to resolve their issues. During FY 2013-14, six Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings were conducted.

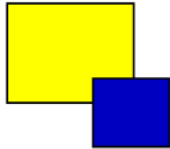
Multi-Disciplinary Team -- 6 Team Meetings

GrandsClub -- 78 Meetings

Peer Support Groups are a chance to join a supportive community and share advice on family issues with peers who are going through similar situations. Grandparents can learn about resources and strategies that have worked in other families from friends who understand and will not be judgmental. Through a partnership with California Family Life Center's Kin Care Program, eight meetings are held each month for grandparents and other relative caregivers, including one meeting in Spanish. During FY 2013-14, 78 GrandsClub meetings were conducted.



Child Care Support -- 76 Children



In October 2013, The First 5 Commission of Riverside County awarded Grandparents Raising Grandchildren a \$750,000 contract for the period covering January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016. This financial support is used to subsidize a portion of the cost for childcare for grandchildren from birth through 5 years old.

Quality childcare is an important tool for providing socialization and stability for these at-risk children and preparing them to be more successful in their ongoing education and personal development. During FY 2013-14, child care support was provided for 76 children.



A division of the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services

**Thank You First 5 Riverside for Your
Continued Support of Childcare for
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

Child Care Support Testimonial

We have been with the program since being introduced almost two years ago and we are very grateful for all of the assistance that you have given us.

Both of the boys have been doing well, demonstrated by their performance in school. The older one was prepared for school through his introduction to the First 5 childcare program. There he developed social and academic skills that have helped him perform above grade level in kindergarten. He likes school and is looking forward to his first grade experience. He excels in math, reading and language. The younger boy is still in a childcare center where he socializes better and has developed a healthy appreciation for school. He has learned his numbers up to 30.

Because of your assistance I was able to return to work part time and I am currently hopeful for a full time position within the next few months.

Thank you for your introduction to other resources in the county that have been helpful to us.

Our thanks and gratitude, Michael and Tracy

Thank you!

Community Education & Outreach

Community Presentations

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) staff offer presentations for the public and professionals to share information about GRG issues and services provided by GRG and other community agencies. Audiences this year included Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) workers and partners, several networks sponsored by school districts, Riverside County Office of Education Special Education, and court officers of the Superior Court of Riverside.



Community Resource Fairs -- 15 Events - 3,648 Contacts

Providing information and resources at community events is a primary tool for outreach. Staff participated in 15 events and made contact and educated 3,648 individuals in regards to GRG's programs and services in Mecca, La Quinta, Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, Beaumont, Hemet, San Jacinto, Perris, Murrieta, Riverside, and Rubidoux.

Quarterly Newsletters -- 6,000 Copies Distributed

Quarterly newsletters are produced and distributed to further the goal of providing information, parenting tips, and identifying resources to meet the needs of grandparents and their grandchildren. Topics included:

- ◆ Summer tips: water safety, sunburn, staying cool, and avoiding insects
- ◆ Emergency preparedness
- ◆ School readiness – what preschoolers should know
- ◆ Parenting tips
- ◆ Personal security
- ◆ Teen driving
- ◆ Exercise
- ◆ The importance of breakfast



Community Collaborations -- 15 Networks

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren staff participated in 15 networks throughout the County, meeting on a monthly or quarterly schedule to share resource updates and program information:

- ◆ Metro Community Partners sponsored by the Riverside Office of Child Protective Services (CPS)
- ◆ Temecula-Murrieta Valley Interagency Council sponsored by the Temecula and Murrieta School Districts
- ◆ Moreno Valley Multi-Agency Collaborative sponsored by Moreno Valley School District
- ◆ Network North and Network West sponsored by Palm Springs School District
- ◆ Family Learning Collaborative sponsored by Riverside School District Early Education
- ◆ Banning Pass Collaborative sponsored by the Banning School District and CPS
- ◆ Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Interagency East and West
- ◆ Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative
- ◆ Riverside County Child Care Consortium
- ◆ iFoster Kinship Navigator County Collaborative
- ◆ ILP Consortium sponsored by DPSS Youth and Community Resources Region
- ◆ C.A.R.E. Team sponsored by DPSS Adult Services
- ◆ Teen Health Education Coalition sponsored by Department of Public Health

Holiday Giving -- Outreach to 94 Families

The community continues to demonstrate its holiday spirit by making donations for Grandparent Raising Grandchildren families. For many of our families, financial demands are so tight that they are not able to enjoy the extra treats that make the season bright. The generosity of the community makes a tangible difference in the lives of grandparents and children.

- ◆ District 4 Youth Advisory Council provided Thanksgiving dinner for 4 Families
- ◆ Olive Branch Church adopted 4 Families in Norco for Thanksgiving
- ◆ Prevent Child Abuse Riverside County donated \$2,500
- ◆ The Foundation on Aging donated \$900 in food cards
- ◆ The Hrinko Family adopted a Family of 5
- ◆ Nita Rush* & Friends donated 70 gift boxes for children
- ◆ Norco Lioness Club adopted 4 Families
- ◆ District 3 Youth Advisory Council adopted 3 Families



* In memory of Nita Rush, who has been filling gift boxes for children for many years, died shortly after New Year's. We honor her memory and her generous spirit.

A Grandparent's Story...

Mr. and Mrs. G were raising two teenage grandchildren and a 2 year old granddaughter when they first enrolled in the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Program. The household was totally dependent on Mr. G's social security and retirement benefits. Unfortunately, Mr. G died unexpectedly leaving the household with no income for an interim period. GRG believed it was important to keep the granddaughter in preschool during this traumatic period, and with First 5 approval, provided 100% coverage until their finances were resolved.

Mrs. G was also enrolled in GRG's care management at the time. Right after her husband died, she also lost her father. She was struggling with how to cope with the grief and the demands of parenting. As part of her care plan, additional childcare hours were arranged to allow her to attend bereavement support groups and counseling with the Department of Mental Health Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Program. Through this support Mrs. G was able to recover a positive outlook, allowing her to continue to provide a safe and healthy home environment for her grandchildren.

Mrs. G shared her appreciation to the GRG Program for the support for her in the good and bad times when she did not know what she was going to do. The GRG staff helped her make the transition from a two grandparent household to a single grandparent household. She is grateful for the kindness, support, for the blessings of the many resources, and especially the gifts during the holidays she and her family received.

2013-2014 Task Force Membership

Co-Chair, Advisory Council on Aging:	Sonja Martin
Co-Chair, Legislative Assistant to Supervisor Stone:	Opal Hellweg
District I: Grandparent Representative:	James Sinkiewicz
District III: Grandparent Representative:	Marci Volz
District IV: Grandparent Representative:	Sonja Martin
Grandparents Representatives at Large:	Mary Ann Stewart
Grandparents Representatives at Large:	Robert Stewart
Grandparents Representatives at Large:	Debb Walker
Grandparents Representatives at Large:	Ruth Pitts-Litman
Department of Public Social Service:	Veronica Hilton
Department of Public Social Service:	Zayda Patton
Department of Public Social Service:	Maribell Partida
Department of Mental Health:	Laura England
Department of Mental Health:	Kathy Webb
Department of Mental Health:	Lorie Lacey-Payne

2013-2014 Task Force Membership (Continued)

Department of Public Health:	Craig Demers
Department of Public Health, WIC:	Lorena Novak Bull
Probation Department:	Sequoia Patton
Office of Education:	Stephan McPeace
Office on Aging:	Jamiko Bell
Office on Aging:	Mary Hrinko
Office of the District Attorney:	Evelyn Essenwanger
Child Support Services:	Patricia Cruz
Kin Care:	Rachel Badcock
Kin Care:	Kathy Williams
The Stephan Center:	Victoria Stephan
TruEvolution:	Gabriel Maldonado
Senior Moment Services:	Millie Santa Cruz
UC Cooperative Extension:	Chutima Ganthavorn
Riverside City College:	Whitney Ortega
Advisory Council on Aging:	Barbara Mitchell
Advisory Council on Aging:	Diana Camba/Luella Thornton

**GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN
IS MADE POSSIBLE BY FUNDING FROM:**

**FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE
OLDER AMERICANS ACT TITLE III
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING
RIVERSIDE COUNTY GENERAL FUND
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

AND GENEROUS IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

**First 5 Riverside
Foundation on Aging
Molina Healthcare
Nita Rush
The Hrinko Family
The Cathedral Center
Youth Advisory Councils -
District 3 and District 4**

**Olive Branch Church
Prevent Child Abuse Riverside County
Inland Empire Health Plan
Norco Lioness Club
Mary Phillips Senior Center
Janet Goeske Senior Center**



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Staff

Michele Haddock
Rachelle Román

Office on Aging, Director
Office on Aging, Deputy
Director of Administration
Program Manager
Social Worker
Child Care Coordinator
Office Assistant
WarmLine DPSS Social Worker

Stephen Geist
Veronica Castro
Donna Pierce
Carmen Cornejo
Francisco Ramirez





**Riverside County Office on Aging,
Aging & Disability Resource Connection**

6296 River Crest Drive, Suite K
Riverside, CA 92507
(951) 867-3800
1(800) 510-2020
TTD (951) 697-4699

**Hemet Service Center & Program Site for
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

749 N. State Street
Hemet, CA 92543
(951) 791-3573

