

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

713
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FROM : Office on Aging

SUBMITTAL DATE:
October 26, 2010

SUBJECT: Office on Aging- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force Annual Report
FY 2009-2010

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That your Honorable Board:

- 1) Approve the Grandparent Raising Grandchildren Task force Annual Report for FY 2009-2010.
- 2) Instruct the Office on Aging to continue to staff and to assist the Task Force in addressing the direction outlined in the report.
- 3) Support the ongoing participation from county departments in serving grandparents raising grandchildren.

BACKGROUND: The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force ("Task Force") was created by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors (Agenda item 3.45 on June 30, 1998) and first convened by the Office on Aging in October 1998. The Task force was directed by the Board of Supervisors to identify a central point of access for grandparents into the county service system, and to address and resolve problems and issues being experienced by grandparents raising grandchildren. The Task Force has been an active force since its inception and continues to report to the Board of Supervisors on an annual basis. The last annual report was filed on September 15, 2009 agenda item 2.10

Edward F. Walsh

Edward F. Walsh, Director

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	No
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	09/10

SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY: *Lani Sioson*
Lani Sioson

County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Stone, seconded by Supervisor Tavaglione and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Buster, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit and Ashley
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: November 30, 2010
xc: Office on Aging

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By: *Kecia Harper-Ihem*
Deputy

ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD
Departmental Concurrence

Consent
 Policy
 Consent
 Policy

Dept's Recomm.:
 Per Exec. Ofc.:

2.15



Resource Connection
Aging & Disability
ADRC of RIVERSIDE

Riverside County Office on Aging

6296 River Crest Drive, Suite K

Riverside, CA 92507

(951) 867-3800

1(800) 510-2020

TTD (951) 697-4699,

Hemet Senior Service Center

1075 North State Street

Hemet, CA 92543

(951) 791-3573

GRG/Kinship WarmLine

1(800) 303-0001

www.rcaging.org

www.riverside.networkofcare.org

Funding for this report was provided by the Office on Aging through the Older Americans Act/Family Caregiver Program



Riverside County Office on Aging

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

**Task Force Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2009-2010**



Resource Connection
Aging & Disability
ADRC of RIVERSIDE COUNTY



**A Message from the
Director, Riverside County
Office on Aging**

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force Annual Report highlights the accomplishments of the past year. I want to acknowledge the members of the Task Force, our county and community partners and our Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program staff for their dedication and commitment to serving grandparent families across the County of Riverside. It is with great pride that the Task Force presents this Annual Report to provide an opportunity for the community to read about these heroic caregivers who often receive their grandchildren very unexpectedly, but do so with a full and open heart ready to assume the challenges of parenting. The grandparents raising their grandchildren deserve our utmost respect and admiration for their ongoing commitment to keeping their families intact.

Based on the current data available, there are nearly 18,000 grandchildren under the age of eighteen being raised in grandparent households throughout the County of Riverside. The Office on Aging expects to see an increase in the number of grandparent families due to the impact of the struggling economy. Therefore, the demand for community services and supports will continue to escalate. It is through the collaborative partnerships forged by the Task Force that the Office on Aging can begin to address the needs of the grandparents raising grandchildren. The Office on Aging

Community Agencies/Organizations:

Kin Care

Mary Snow

Individuals:

Advisory Council on Aging
Advisory Council on Aging
Legislative/Systems Change, Chair
Grandparent

Dianne Lewis
Luella Thornton
Mary Price
Frances Wellman

Education:

Hemet Unified School District
Riverside City College;
Foster and Kinship Education
UC Cooperative Extension

Sylvia Ortiz
Penny Davis
Chutima Ganthavorn, Ph.D.

Office on Aging Staff:

Director
Deputy Director, Senior Programs
Coordinated Care Programs Manager
GRG* Program Manager
GRG* Social Worker

GRG* Child Care Coordinator
GRG* Office Assistant

Ed Walsh
Michele Wilham
Vikki Neugebauer
Stephen Geist
Karry Rork/
Veronica Castro
Donna Pierce
Carmen M. Cornejo

Support Groups:

Cathedral City
Riverside
Temecula
Hemet/San Jacinto
Beaumont
Perris

Cathedral City Senior Center
Janet Goeske Senior Center
Mary Phillips Senior Center
Valley-Wide Regional Center
Chatigny Community Center
Perris Valley Family Resource Center

* Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Task Force Members

Chair: Phyllis M. McGraw, Ph.D., Advisory Council on Aging

Board of Supervisor Grandparent Representatives:

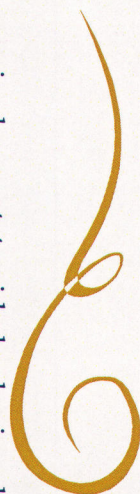
District I	Pending
District II	Donna Johnston
District III	Fran Vigil
District IV	Phyllis M. McGraw, Ph.D.
District V	Carolyn Bradford

Elected Officials:

Senator Hollingsworth Staff	Tom Rogers
Assembly Member Nestande Staff	Jennings Imel
Supervisor Buster, District I	Debbie Walsh
Supervisor Tavaglione, District II	Karen Christensen
Supervisor Stone, District III	Opal Hellweg
Supervisor Wilson, District IV	Elizabeth Toledo/
	Noel Loughrin
Supervisor Ashley, District V	Barry Busch

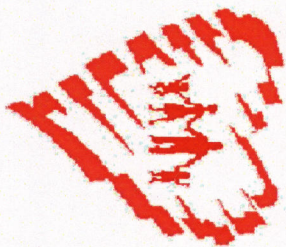
Riverside County Departments:

Court, Juvenile Probation	Rosa Strang
DPSS/ Adult Protective Services	Gerry Ellenson
DPSS/ Adult Protective Services	Lue Thao
DPSS/Child Protective Services	Allison Donahoe-Beggs
DPSS/Child Protective Services	Ken Lapioli
DPSS/Child Protective Services	Renita Lewis/
	Ryan Uhlenkott
DPSS/Foster Care	Teresa Hendricks
DPSS/GRG/Kinship Warmline	Earl Jones/
	Tamara Williams
First 5 Riverside	Carol Abella
Mental Health	Debbie Lefevre
Office on Aging/FCSP	Mary Hrinko
Office of Education	Stephan McPeace
Public Health Nurse	Carol Hernandez



has been recognized as a statewide leader in addressing the challenges of grandparents raising their grandchildren and we take this leadership role very seriously, as we continue to leverage the support of our partners to build a pathway to the future for grandparent families in Riverside County.

Edward F. Walsh, MSW
Director



**Grandparents
Raising
Grandchildren**



A Message from the Chair, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force

As a grandmother and great-grandmother, it has been my privilege to be part of the Riverside County Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Task Force since its inception in 1998.

Riverside County has been proactive in recognizing the growing trend of grandparents raising their grandchildren, as well as the obstacles and barriers these grandparents must overcome to meet the needs of these children.

With the Boomer generation entering retirement, we are faced with increased numbers of grandparents in Southern California. In recognizing that the Boomer grandparents will be dramatically different from the present generation, the Boomers will not be a homogeneous group of retirees. As older adults are living longer, grandparents can possibly be parenting a span of 30-plus years.

While they will have unique differences, they will face common problems, such as disability, chronic health conditions, affordable housing, suitable transportation, financial health, respite, childcare, and receiving appropriate and timely counseling.

Warmline Calls by Topic

2009 Topic:	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GRG	15	9	19	13	6	8
Foster Care	1	3	3	0	1	0
Child Care	5	6	2	2	3	2
Housing	1	1	0	2	0	1
Kinship	5	2	2	3	3	1
Other	3	5	8	5	5	13

2010 Topic:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
GRG	6	6	8	0	13	31
Foster Care	0	0	0	0	4	2
Child Care	10	1	3	0	1	8
Housing	0	0	0	0	2	1
Kinship	4	2	4	0	0	3
Other	20	16	26	22	8	3

Note: The above individual calls may address more than one topic discussed.



GRG/Kinship Warmline Statistics Fiscal Year 2009—2010*

Total Calls	
July	26
August	24
September	26
October	20
November	13
December	25
Total: 362	
Average Monthly Calls: 30	
January	40
February	25
March	41
April	46
May	28
June	48

Percentage of Calls by City/Area:

Month	San Jacinto/ Riverside Hemet	Moreno Valley	Desert **	Southwest ***	+ Other
Jul	12%	12%	8%	12%	12%
Aug	25%	8%	4%	17%	8%
Sept	15%	8%	11%	12%	8%
Oct	10%	20%	35%	5%	0%
Nov	15%	8%	31%	23%	0%
Dec	8%	8%	25%	0%	17%
Jan	15%	5%	30%	10%	15%
Feb	22%	11%	11%	0%	11%
Mar	7%	33%	7%	13%	20%
Apr	25%	17%	13%	0%	8%
May	15%	19%	19%	10%	10%
June	10%	12%	8%	12%	10%
Averages	15%	13%	15%	10%	10%
					37%

* Statistics were furnished by Department of Public Social Services, GRG/Kinship Warmline.

** Blythe, Cathedral City, Coachella, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Thousand Palms, and Desert Hot Springs.

*** Wildomar, Murrieta and Temecula.

The Office on Aging GRG Task Force is committed to being creative and proactive in meeting future challenges to ensure a better quality of life for our grandparents. It takes great courage to accept the responsibility of raising children again. Grandparents are our heroes – they hold the future generation in their hands.

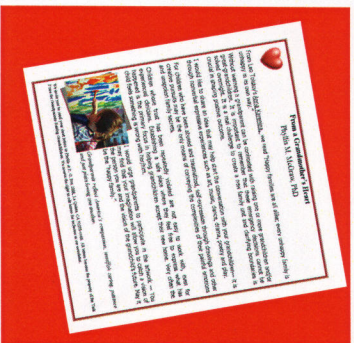
Grandparents reflect America's compassion, unselfish caring, patience and just plain loving one another.

Phyllis M. McGraw

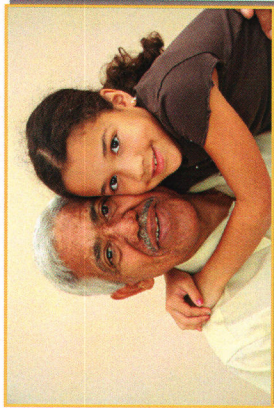
*Phyllis M. McGraw, Ph.D.
GRG Task Force Chair*

Phyllis McGraw has been an active member of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force since it was formed in 1998. She has chaired the Task Force for the past 3 years. Ms. McGraw has also served as an appointed member of the Riverside County Advisory Council on Aging for the past 6 years. At the age of 58, Phyllis earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, specializing in Aging.

Having been grandparenting almost 31 years and great-grandparenting almost 10 years, Phyllis well understands the challenges and rewards of this special role. She shares her perspective in a regular feature, "From a Grandmother's Heart," for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren quarterly newsletter.



Quick Facts on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



There are about 640,000 skipped generation grandfamilies in the United States...

Important findings about skipped generation grandfamilies:

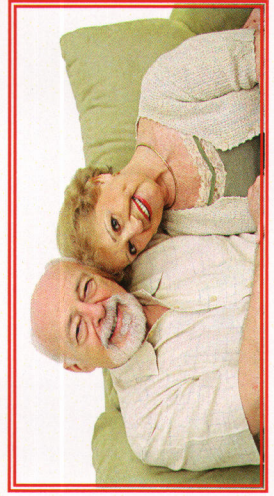
- ❖ Approximately 1 out of every 7 children ages 5 to 17 has a disability in a grandparent-headed household, compared to 1 out of 16 children in parent-headed households. Many others have physical and mental health needs.
- ❖ One-third of the children in grandfamilies had incomes below the poverty level. This is double the child poverty rate in parent-child families.
- ❖ Nearly half face housing cost burdens, including home owners, as well as renters. This is significantly higher than in cases with parent-child families.

(Source: Generations United, "GrandFacts: Data, Interpretation, and Implication for Caregivers", December 2009)

Conclusion

We are proud that we have been able to maintain a viable program throughout the year, despite some challenges. While 4 out of 5 GRG team members are new to the program, including the Program Manager, the childcare program has been maintained at capacity and funding has increased. Over 1,000 callers received information, assistance and referrals to other services of the GRG Program from the DPSS GRG/Kinship WarmLine. The GRG social worker continued to provide assessments, problem solved and supported grandparents and grandchildren in higher risk situations with invaluable assistance from the MDT. Support group attendance has increased, and our community education and outreach opportunities reached approximately 500,000 families in the greater Southern California area through our partnership with Charter Communications.

Together with stakeholder involvement we will continue our collaborative efforts to provide the critical components to increase awareness, provide needed information and assistance, as well as, streamline processes and improve service delivery throughout Riverside County.



Future Activities

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force will continue its commitment to address issues facing grandparents. The Task Force will also continue its mission to identify additional resources and funding to assist grandparents raising grandchildren in Riverside County.

Key activities planned for fiscal year 2010-2011 include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Advocate with federal, state, and local officials and key community stakeholders to expand information and assistance and care management services for elders, grandparents raising grandchildren and other relative caregivers and individuals with disabilities;
- ◆ Continue coordination efforts with Board of Supervisor representatives, local officials, county departments, Riverside County Youth Commission, Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, and other key community networks, such as California Family Life Center Kin Care, to address changing and emerging needs to make appropriate influences on delivery service;
- ◆ Expand support groups for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program countywide;
- ◆ Expand outreach to underserved grandparents raising grandchildren in Riverside County, such as: the limited English speaking; residents of rural areas; and persons with disabilities;
- ◆ Organize and coordinate a countywide series of regionalized training seminars and/or collaborative expert resource fairs related to issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force

Background and Purpose

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force (“Task Force”), created by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, was first convened by the Office on Aging and the Advisory Council on Aging in October 1998. The Task Force was directed by the Board of Supervisors to identify a central point of access for grandparents into the county service system, and to address and resolve problems and issues being experienced by grandparents raising children.

The Task Force consists of representatives from a variety of state and county elected officials, as well as, an array of County agencies, grandparents and community volunteers who continue to report to the Board of Supervisors on an annual basis.

Task Force Subcommittees

The **Legislative/Systems Change Committee** identifies legislative, regulatory, and policy barriers, along with program gaps that impact direct services for grandparents raising their grandchildren, and to propose changes to reduce the various barriers and help close the gaps.



The **Program and Public Relations Committee** develops a work plan to assess the needs of grandparents, which provides information, education and leveraging of resources to meet their ongoing family needs.

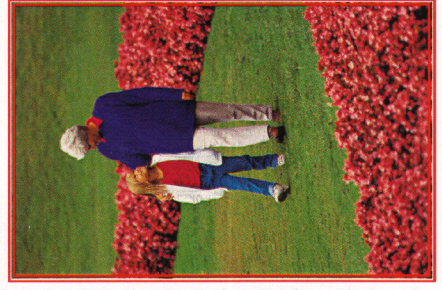
The **Legislative/Systems Change Committee** continues to advocate for consistent recognition of grandparents' rights among county agencies and the court system. The committee focused attention on understanding the court process grandparents experience in obtaining legal guardianship. Susan Mahoney from the Department of Social Services (DPSS), Children's Division, provided a presentation on the "Emergency Response Process" in a child welfare case. Darrell Clark also with DPSS Children's Division, provided the group with an overview of the juvenile court process.

In order to determine the greatest needs of the grandparents and set priorities for the committee, a needs assessment survey was developed and distributed. The survey asked participants to rank housing, education, childcare, financial assistance, resources for special needs, legal guardianship, transportation, food and clothing, healthcare, and emotional support in order of importance. The survey also asked grandparents to share experiences and challenges they may have had, particularly in obtaining eligibility for specific programs, court actions and the educational system. Nine hundred and fifty surveys were sent to the GRG Program mailing list and additional copies were provided to the Riverside County Office on Aging's Info Van for assistance with distribution and data collection. Responses are in the process of being tabulated and shared with the Task Force in the coming year.

The MDT is able to serve multigenerational families with complex psychological, emotional, and social issues. This collaboration and assistance from community partners in the MDT and GRG Task Force continues to be a critical component to the success of the GRG Care Management Program.

Support Groups

Adjusting to the role of parenting causes a major shift in the grandparent's lifestyle and social structure. Often this results in a loss of familiar support systems. The support groups are offered for the purpose of sharing experiences and ideas, which can ease in the stress of caregiving and enhances decision-making. These groups are facilitated by a variety of volunteers and professionals who each bring their own expertise and wealth of knowledge to aid the grandparents. Through partnership with California Family Life Center's Kin Care Program, 7 support groups meet monthly throughout the county. Groups have been offered in Palm Springs, Moreno

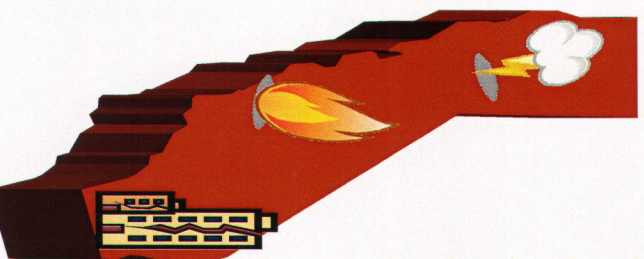


Valley, Temecula, Riverside, Beaumont, Perris and Hemet. The Palm Springs support group was relocated in May 2010, to the Community Center at Tierra Del Sol in Cathedral City, which is more central to Coachella Valley and as a result attendance has increased!

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force has a **Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)**, which was established to assist the Task Force members with the more complex GRG cases. The members of this team represent a number of county agencies: Riverside County Child Protective Services (CPS), Riverside County Adult Protective Services (APS), Riverside County Mental Health, Riverside County Public Health, Riverside County Probation Department and California Family Life Center's Kin Care Program. The MDT meets regularly to review, intervene and resolve cases quickly on behalf of the grandparents as they work together to streamline and leverage services for a positive outcome in support of the families impacted.

During this fiscal year, there was one grandmother who spoke limited English. She struggled to receive assistance for her grandson, who had learning disabilities and behavioral problems in school. The grandmother was feeling frustrated obtaining the needed help. With each referral, she was repeating her situation; a request for assistance. This resulted in multiple agencies having duplicate applications and case assessments. With the help of the GRG social worker, the case was forwarded to the MDT, together the MDT was able to share information and determine the best action steps towards obtaining services for the grandmother's grandson. Working as a cohesive unit was instrumental to expedite this process and efficiently coordinate services.

The **Program and Public Relations Committee** participated in organizing two Disaster Preparedness Workshops during this fiscal year and are planning to offer similar workshops in each of the Supervisor's districts through 2010-2011. Supervisor John Benoit sponsored the Emergency and Disaster Preparedness workshop held at the Braille Institute in Rancho Mirage on April 30, 2010. Speakers from the American Red Cross, the Office of Emergency Services, and Community Access Center addressed several important aspects to consider and plan for in case of an emergency or disaster, such as an earthquake or fire.



The second Disaster Preparedness Workshop was held at the Kay Ceniceros Community Center in Menifee on May 6, 2010. Cindy Quigley, of the Office of Emergency Services, covered the overview of disaster preparedness and David Ball, of the Community Access Center, provided information on disaster preparedness for persons with disabilities. Penny Davis, Director of the Foster and Kinship Education program at Riverside Community College, gave detailed information on how to deal with children suffering from situational trauma.

The GRG Program distributed unique "starter" disaster kits that included basic items, as well as items useful when caring for younger grandchildren.

To further the goal of providing information, services and resources addressing the needs of grandparents in this role, 1500 copies of the GRG newsletter are distributed quarterly. The newsletter offers useful tips on health, finances, nutrition and safety, as well as, information about GRG activities and support groups. Highlighted topics this year included:

- "Staycations" – ideas for summer activities on a budget;
- Guide to Mortgage Resources for assistance with home buying and avoiding foreclosure;
- Tips for Internet safety for kids;
- Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP), helping seniors make choices in their Medicare Plan and assistance with appeals for covering procedures;
- Home Weatherization Programs;
- Lifelong Learning to maintain a healthy mind and spirit;
- An observation of National Family Caregiver Month;
- A regular feature from Phyllis McGraw, Ph.D., Chair of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force and member of the Advisory Council on Aging.



Support Services

One of the primary missions of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program is to provide emotional and practical support to the grandparents as they face the challenges of being parents to their grandchildren. This support comes in a variety of forms from a team of caring professionals.



The **GRG/Kinship WarmLine**, a toll free 800 telephone line, managed by the Department of Social Services, is answered by an experienced social worker from Children's Services, who provides information and assistance to hundreds of callers who contact the program for a wide variety of reasons. Together with the GRG social worker, 1,069 calls were handled this fiscal year. These calls included the following concerns: threat of foreclosure and eviction, information on obtaining custody of their grandchildren, childcare dealing with special needs behavioral issues, mental health or physical impairments, concern for a grandparent by other family members, obtaining legal guardianship, visitation rights, assistance with education, and needing financial assistance for utilities, clothing, school supplies and food.

For those families with more complex issues, the GRG social worker provides care management with an in-depth assessment of the grandparent, grandchildren and their living situation, and develops a care plan to resolve their concerns, provide support, advocacy and linkage to needed resource services. In 2009-2010, 42 grandparents and 105 children received care management services.

The GRG Child Care Coordinator met with the family to assess their situation and complete the program application. Richard also applied for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and was able to receive some compensation for being his wife's provider, which helped him to assist in her recovery. Their grandson was enrolled in a licensed childcare facility, allowing Richard time to focus on caregiving for his spouse.

On a follow-up visit by the GRG Child Care Coordinator, the family expressed their gratitude for childcare assistance and support they received from the program. Because of the extra time and attention Richard was able to provide as a caregiver, his wife is now doing very well. As a result of childcare resources, their grandchild received the needed support and developed additional social skills, which further prepared him for school.

(*Name changed to protect privacy.)



Many of the participants in the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program have low income and face many challenges, especially during the holiday season. The GRG Program would like to express their gratitude to the participating Youth Advisory Council, Riverside County Board of Supervisors: 3rd District Supervisor Jeff Stone, 2nd District Supervisor John Tavaglione, 1st District Supervisor Bob Buster, and Riverside County Information Technology Department for their generous financial donations, as well as, the Office on Aging employees who hosted a canned food drive. As a result of these generous donations, 30 families received a gift card or a food basket for a Thanksgiving dinner.

Additionally, during the month of December, a donation from Riverside County Information Technology Department, provided toys, gifts, and food cards to grandparents in Moreno Valley, Perris, Palm Springs and the surrounding desert communities.

The response from grandparents and their families expressing their gratitude for the much needed assistance from these donations, as well as, from the services provided by the GRG Program have been overwhelming.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program Highlights

Child Care

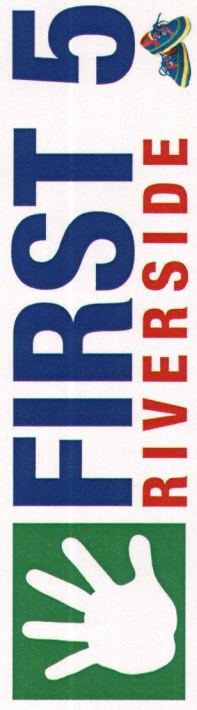
A grant from First 5 Riverside funded through Proposition 10, allowed the GRG Program to provide childcare and respite assistance for grandparents raising grandchildren ages 0-5. At the beginning of the fiscal year, the GRG Program was awarded \$426,248 to support childcare for 60 low-to-moderate income children ages 5 and under. Fifty participants received full-time care and 10 participants received respite care. Full-time care is provided to working grandparents and can make the difference between being able to maintain a job to support the family or staying home to care for their grandchildren. Respite care provides opportunities for the grandparents to take care of family errands, medical appointments and household care.

In March 2010, First 5 Riverside awarded an increase of \$78,200 in expansion dollars and increased the targeted client base to 70 children. In the final monitoring review by the First 5 staff, the GRG Program was reported to have exceeded all target goals. During this funding period, the GRG Program provided services to 103 children. Nineteen of those served were children with special needs having been diagnosed with disorders such as autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), learning deficits or other physical challenges. Thirty-five children were referred to other health and education services through the assessment and care planning services of the GRG Program. The contract for FY 2010-2011 has been increased to \$574,760, which will continue to provide these valuable childcare services.

In addition, The GRG Program has recently introduced a bilingual Social Worker to reach any underserved grandparents and will continue to collaborate with partners to provide mutual solutions for families.

However, the real measure of success is the impact to the many grandparents served by the Task Force in Riverside County. The following case summary illustrates the actual need for the Child Care Program.

Richard* contacted the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program in September 2009, after being referred by a social worker at Inland Valley Regional Medical Center. He shared a very difficult situation he and his wife had been facing. Richard owned a business that fell upon hard times and he was forced to close his business and live on a reduced income. Shortly after his business closed, his spouse was injured and hospitalized for a number of months. Richard was juggling all responsibilities, including the parenting of their young grandchild. When Richard contacted the GRG Program, he stated that his wife had been released from the hospital and was in need of extra attention, home health therapy visits and medical appointments. Richard needed and requested assistance with childcare.



Riverside County Children & Families Commission

A Division of the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services