

Kinship Policy Alert

Keeping up-to-date with kinship policies

For the Florida Taskforce on Kinship Care

Thanksgiving is a traditional time for gathering, sharing, and reflecting. Looking back at this year, there is so much to be proud of in our work to help others, and there is also a need to re-group and re-energize. In this Kinship Policy Alert, we share some interesting policy highlights from our friends at Generations United and the National Association of Social Workers on policies that will affect us all in the years to come.

Once you've had your fill of turkey and time with loved ones, I hope you will join us in encouraging our friends, families, and colleagues around us,

older and younger, to stay informed and involved. There are folks out there who would like to divide us, (see Controversy on page 2) but to make this intergenerational movement a success, we will stay strong.

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The Florida Kinship Center

The Florida Kinship Center (FKC), located at the University of South Florida in Tampa, serves kinship caregivers throughout our state. Our mission is to empower kinship caregivers and their families through innovative services, education, advocacy, policy, practice and research.

Web: <http://flkin.org>
Facebook: [floridakinshipcenter](https://www.facebook.com/floridakinshipcenter)

About the *Florida Taskforce on Kinship Care*

As a part of these Alerts, I am asking you to join with the Florida Kinship Center's *Florida Taskforce on Kinship Care*. You are the leaders of Community Based Care Agencies, Area Agencies on Aging, Children's Service Councils, the Department of Children and Families, and the Administration of Children and Families. My hope is that we can work together to improve programs and policies for relative caregivers in our state.

RECAP: Notes from a Life Spent Helping Children Learn

Empowering parents, caregivers and families that they are the "experts" on their children is key to Dr. T. Berry Brazelton's vision of a "galvanized" community. The 93-year-old Harvard professor spoke to an audience at the Kellogg Foundation about how professionals can strengthen their relationships with clients by being allies who focus on their strengths and skills not on what they are doing "wrong".

Read more: <http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20111102/NEWS01/111020321/T-Berry-Brazelton-stresses-family-co>

Top News: Super Committee Deadline Approaching

November 23rd is the deadline for the Super Committee's final vote on recommended ways to lower the deficit. Both Republicans and Democrats are recommending cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and changes or cuts to Social Security, leaving advocacy groups disappointed.

We stand with Generations United who "opposes any deficit reduction plan that puts the bur-

den of cuts on the backs of the most vulnerable children and older adults." Concerns remain as to the impact of cuts to these important programs and their potential to cause unbearable strain on millions in the vulnerable populations we serve, mainly older adults and children.

We also support Generations United in their opposition to cuts to Social Security. Social Security

must be strengthened to ensure it remains viable for generations.

This is a very important moment in our history and in the lives of our clients. Will the Super Committee protect us and our fellow citizens in need, or will this be a very cold winter for them? An emergency update, scheduled for today, may give us some clues.

For Your Consideration: Controversy

In a recent blogpost on economist.com the website of *The Economist*, the blogger suggests that the Occupy Wall Street Movement ought to set its sights on entitlements, suggesting that programs like Medicare and Medicaid are what is causing the financial problems in the United States. What the blogger fails to note is that many of the people involved in the OWS movement are living with parents and grandparents when they aren't protesting, who rely on those funds to help their whole family. These folks are not the 1%. And, by the way, there are retirees protesting with the Occupy Movement, too. We are all in this together. **Question: How would you respond to this blogger?**



New Report on Multigenerational Families and the Economy

2.7 million grandparents have grandchildren living with them. Why do only 3,200 of those grandchildren currently receive Social Security benefits as their grandparents' dependents? Join Generations United--and a panel of experts--on December 6th at the National Press Club, when they release their latest report and discuss its implications. The report, *Family Matters: Multigenerational Families in a Volatile Economy*, elevates a different framework that considers and supports in policy discussions the growing interdependence of generations in America and includes the results of a new public opinion survey on the current state of intergenerational interdependence and makes recommendations for public policy strategies that value and engage all generations. Register now: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=eqlpogdab&oeidk=a07e4vv1v8bc7ca2de3>

Feedback: Multigenerational Housing

One reader brought up the question of multigenerational housing, which has become increasingly sought in this tough economy. In an article in the Sun Sentinel about the trend toward families sharing spaces, Coldwell Banker consumer specialist Diann Patton had an interesting perspective "While saving money is an incentive for buying a home that accommodates multiple generations, the benefits go beyond just financial reasons with two or three generations living under one roof, families often experience more flexible schedules, quality time with one another and can better juggle childcare and eldercare." Today News also reported on this trend in March: http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/35921787/ns/today-today_news/t/us-sees-more-multigenerational-households/#.TsOHOVawW3c

Here is another story on a new approach to this topic: <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/nov/05/business/la-fi-multigen-homes-20111105>

Please email replies and feedback to kinfo@flkin.org

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