



POLICY ALERT

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Report: More Than 1 in 4 Latino Foster Children Lives With a Grandparent or Relative

A new national report finds that 26% of Latino children in foster care are living with relatives. Nationwide, 23% of all foster children live with relatives. In Texas, in open CPS cases, the percentage of children living with relatives is about 26%, though most are not in paid foster care.

The large number of children living with relatives underscores the need to make it easier for more relative families to care for their kin. Living with relatives helps provide children with stability and maintains connections to family, community, and culture even while in foster care.

If a relative seeks permanent guardianship of a child, the relative may risk losing financial and social services supports for the child's medical visits, food, school clothes, and educational tutoring. For families who live on very limited incomes, the decision to permanently take in children pits the family's financial safety against the needs of their young relatives.

In Congress, legislation is on the table that would allow states to use federal foster care funds to subsidize guardianships and link relative caregivers to a range of services to help the children in their care. The bipartisan Kinship Caregiver Support Act (KCSA) would extend to relatives the same benefits received by those who foster children or adopt children from the system.

The report, *Every Child Deserves a Permanent Family: Subsidized Guardianship as a Common Sense Solution for Children in Long-Term Relative Foster Care*, released by Generations United in conjunction with The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, as well as additional information on relative care giving, can be found at www.gu.org.

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