

## Cultural, racial, and ethnic considerations

- Gloria F. Carr, et al., *Needs for Information about Supportive Resources: A Predictor of Needs for Service and Service use in African American Grandmother Caregivers*, 10(1) J. OF INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS 48-63 (March 7, 2012), <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15350770.2012.647566>.

In a study of 93 African American grandmothers, researchers find a link between needed services and the grandmother's age and number of grandchildren in her care. The findings suggest that older grandmothers and grandmothers with more children in their care are more likely to need information and access to social, medical, and legal services. Though needs vary for each person, this study helps predict what resources and information may be most helpful for African American custodial grandmothers depending on their particular situation.

- Wanda Lott Collins, *A Strengths-Based Support Group to Empower African American Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren*, 38(4) SOC. WORK & CHRISTIANITY 453-466 (2011), <https://www.proquest.com/docview/906851420?pq-origsite=gscholar&fromopenview=true>.

Support groups that provide tailored caregiver support can be helpful for African American grandmothers raising children. This report follows a support group comprised of African American grandmothers raising grandchildren in either formal or informal arrangements. The group uses five interventions centered on certain main concerns: health; social services; financial and legal matters; religious and spiritual connections; socio-economic support; and the need for respite care. The support group met with nurses, legal aid speakers, and a private lawyer to discuss the first two themes. The church tied to the support group also provides reduced charges for recordings of Sunday sermons for grandparents who cannot attend either due to work, caregiving, or sheer exhaustion, so they can stay connected to their spirituality. They also meet with a counselor to “discuss strategies to reduce day-to-day anxiety and emotional frustrations.” Finally, the church offers youth lock-in programs with safe and fun activities so grandmothers can rest and socialize with their friends. These forms of support result in positive improvements for the grandmothers.

- Esme Fuller-Thomson, *Canadian First Nations Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: A Portrait in Resilience*, 60(4) INT'L J. OF AGING & HUMAN DEV. 331-342 (2005), <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15954683/>.

This study focuses on Canadians of First Nations origin living in skipped generation households and the serious hardships they face as a result of inadequate financial assistance. The author argues that an understanding of the historical context surrounding people of First Nations origin (including forced acculturation, residential schools, and family separation) is essential when considering the hardships and resilience of these grandparent caregivers. The article discusses the cultural components of these living arrangements; while grandparents generally become involved with raising their grandchildren “in order to enhance children's understanding of traditional ways and values,” many First Nations grandparents are unprepared when they become full-time caregivers due to a family crisis (i.e., the imprisonment or death of the grandchildren's parents) because they are significantly

financially disadvantaged. Thus, financial assistance is especially important because of the historical disenfranchisement that has contributed to their financial disadvantages.

- Karen Kopera-Frye, *Needs and Issues of Latina and Native American Nonparental Relative Caregivers: Strengths and Challenges Within a Cultural Context*, 37(3) FAM. & CONSUMER SCIENCES RES. J. 394-410 (July 2, 2009), <https://legalaidresearch.org/2020/01/31/needs-and-issues-of-latino-and-native-american-nonparental-relative-caregivers-strengths-and-challenges-within-a-cultural-context/>.

The need for resources varies depending on the family's racial and cultural identity. This study consists of a series of interviews with Native American and Latino caregivers to determine the specific needs and issues they face as grandparents. The author finds that both groups have financial and health related concerns, but they also struggle accessing other kinds of support. Latino caregivers in particular express concerns about "inadequate resources for the child's medical care," while Native American caregivers struggle with legal custodial issues. Moving forward, child welfare agencies should consider how needs and issues vary across different groups of caregivers so as to best serve the families.

- Additional Resources on Cultural Issues
  - Generations United Toolkit: American Indian and Alaska Native Grandfamilies: Helping Children Thrive Through Connection to Family and Cultural Identity [American Indian & Alaska Native Grandfamilies: Helping Children Thrive Through Connection to Family and Cultural Identity - Generations United \(gu.org\)](#)
  - Generations United Toolkit: African American Grandfamilies: Helping Children Thrive Through Connection to Family and Culture [African American Grandfamilies: Helping Children Thrive Through Connection to Family and Culture - Generations United \(gu.org\)](#)