FAQ About Submitting Input to the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Request for Public Input Opportunity

In November 2019 the Administration on Community Living released a request for public input to inform the work of the Federal Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. This opportunity is open to any member of the public including members of grandfamilies (families where grandparents or other relatives are raising or have raised children whose parents cannot) professionals who work with grandfamilies, academics, advocates or any other interested member of the public. The input will be included in a report to Congress which will also be made available to the public. Responses can be submitted through the Council’s website which is hosted by the Administration for Community living at www.acl.gov/SGRG. Responses must be submitted by February 7, 2020.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why should I submit comments?

This is a unique and rare opportunity to provide direct input for consideration by a federal council and to inform a report to the Congress. It is important that Congress hears from caregivers and other members of grandfamilies in addition to advocates, researchers and practitioners. Generations United encourages members of a grandfamilies and anyone who works with grandfamilies to submit comments, even if those comments are brief.

How do I submit comments?

You can submit your comments through the online form available here: https://acl.gov/form/sgrg-form

When are comments due?

Comments are due February 7, 2020 no later than 11:59 p.m. EST.

How long should my comments be?

Comments may be very brief or lengthy. The entry form has nine questions. All questions are optional. It allows space for up to 750 words in response to each question.

Is there any information I should be sure to include?

Your submission will be most useful to the council if you include specific recommendations or information about what resources, supports and services helped or would have helped your grandfamily and/or others like yours. You must also include your name and email address with your submission.
Should I share my personal story as part of my submission?

You are welcome to share your personal story as long as you honor the requirements to not include personally identifying information such as names of anyone other than yourself or addresses, phone numbers or Social Security numbers of any individual. Submissions that include such information will be deleted without review.

What information is required if I choose to submit input?

Submissions are **REQUIRED to include**: Your name and email address

Submissions **MUST NOT include**: Personally identifiable information such as names of anyone other than yourself or addresses, phone numbers or Social Security numbers of any individual. Submissions that include such information will be deleted without review.

Submissions have the **OPTION to include**:

- The name of an organization they are representing if applicable
- Responses to all or any of the following:
  - Tell us about existing information, resources, programs and/or best practices that help grandparents, older relatives, and/or kinship caregivers do the following:
    - Meet the mental/physical health, educational or nutritional needs of those for whom they provide care
    - Address other concerns such as legal assistance, financial support and affordable housing associated with this population of caregivers and care recipients
    - Maintain their own physical and mental health, and emotional and financial wellbeing
  - Tell us about existing information, resources, programs and/or best practices that meet the needs of:
    - Grandfamilies/kinship families affected by the opioid epidemic or other substance misuse. This could include issues experienced by children who were exposed prenatally to alcohol or drugs, as well as family issues associated with substance abuse.
    - Native American Tribes
  - What are the support needs that are not being met for:
    - Grandparents and other older relatives who are raising or supporting grandchildren
    - Children in the care of a grandparent and/or older relative
  - Do you think additional federal legislation is needed to better support and serve grandparent and older relatives raising children? Please describe:
  - Share any additional recommendations you have for supporting grandparents and older relatives caring for children.
Input needed: Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

If you are (or once were) a grandparent or other older relative raising children, or if your organization provides support for those who are, the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren needs your help to identify:

- Best practices, resources, and other useful information for grandparents and other older relatives raising children
- Gaps in available resources
- Unique needs of children affected by opioid misuse
- Unique needs of members of Native American tribes.

This information will be used to plan the Council’s future activities and ultimately will be included in a report to Congress, which also will be shared publicly.

To provide your input, please complete the following form no later than 11:59 p.m. EST on Friday, February 7, 2020.

Your name and email address are required, but you may provide input on as many or as few of the remaining topics as you wish. (Please do NOT include personally identifiable information such as names of anyone other than yourself or addresses, phone numbers or Social Security numbers of any individual. Submissions that include such information will be deleted without review.)