

# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Services in Georgia

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Presentation to: Department of Human Services Board

Date: March 19, 2014



Georgia Department of Human Services

# Vision, Mission and Core Values

## *Vision*

**Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia.**

## *Mission*

**Strengthen Georgia by providing Individuals and Families access to services that promote self-sufficiency, independence, and protect Georgia's vulnerable children and adults.**

## *Core Values*

- **Provide access to resources that offer support and empower Georgians and their families.**
- **Deliver services professionally and treat all clients with dignity and respect. Manage business operations effectively and efficiently by aligning resources across the agency.**
- **Promote accountability, transparency and quality in all services we deliver and programs we administer.**
- **Develop our employees at all levels of the agency.**

# What is Kinship Care?

“Kinship care is the full time care, nurturing and protection of children by relatives, members of their tribes or clans, godparents, stepparents, or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child.”

Source: Kinship Care: Fact Sheet. Copyright 1996-2013, Child Welfare League of America. Reprinted with permission of the Child Welfare League of America (<http://www.cwla.org>).

# What is Kinship Care?

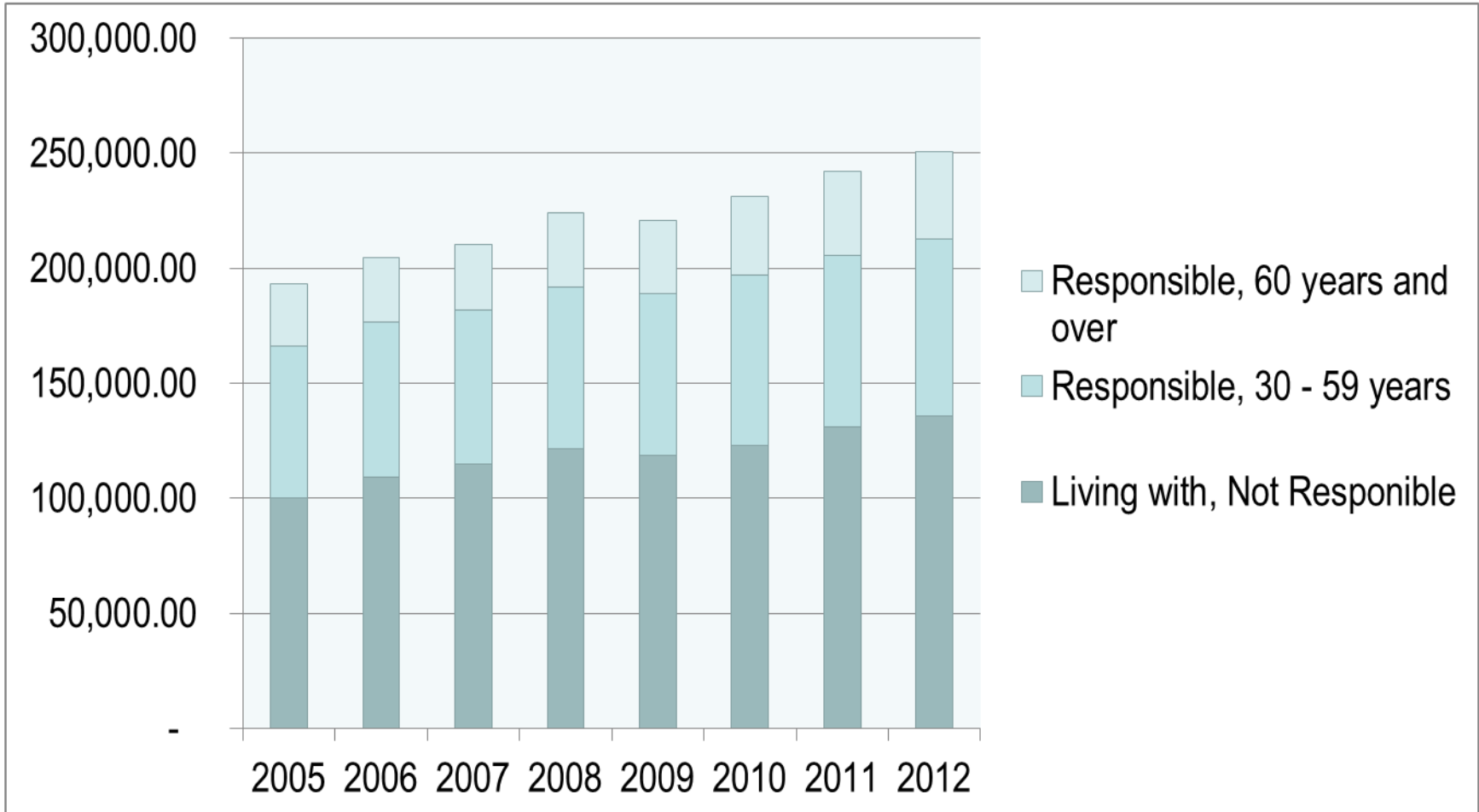
**Grandparents raising grandchildren (custodial grandparents) is one segment of the kinship care paradigm:**

- In the U.S., there are **2.7 million** grandparents caring for their grandchildren.
- In Georgia, there are **250,000** grandparents living with grandchildren, and **115,000** of those are responsible for their grandchildren (67% age 59 and younger).

-American Community Survey, 2012, 5-year Estimates

**Kinship Care really involves Grandparents and other relative caregivers.**

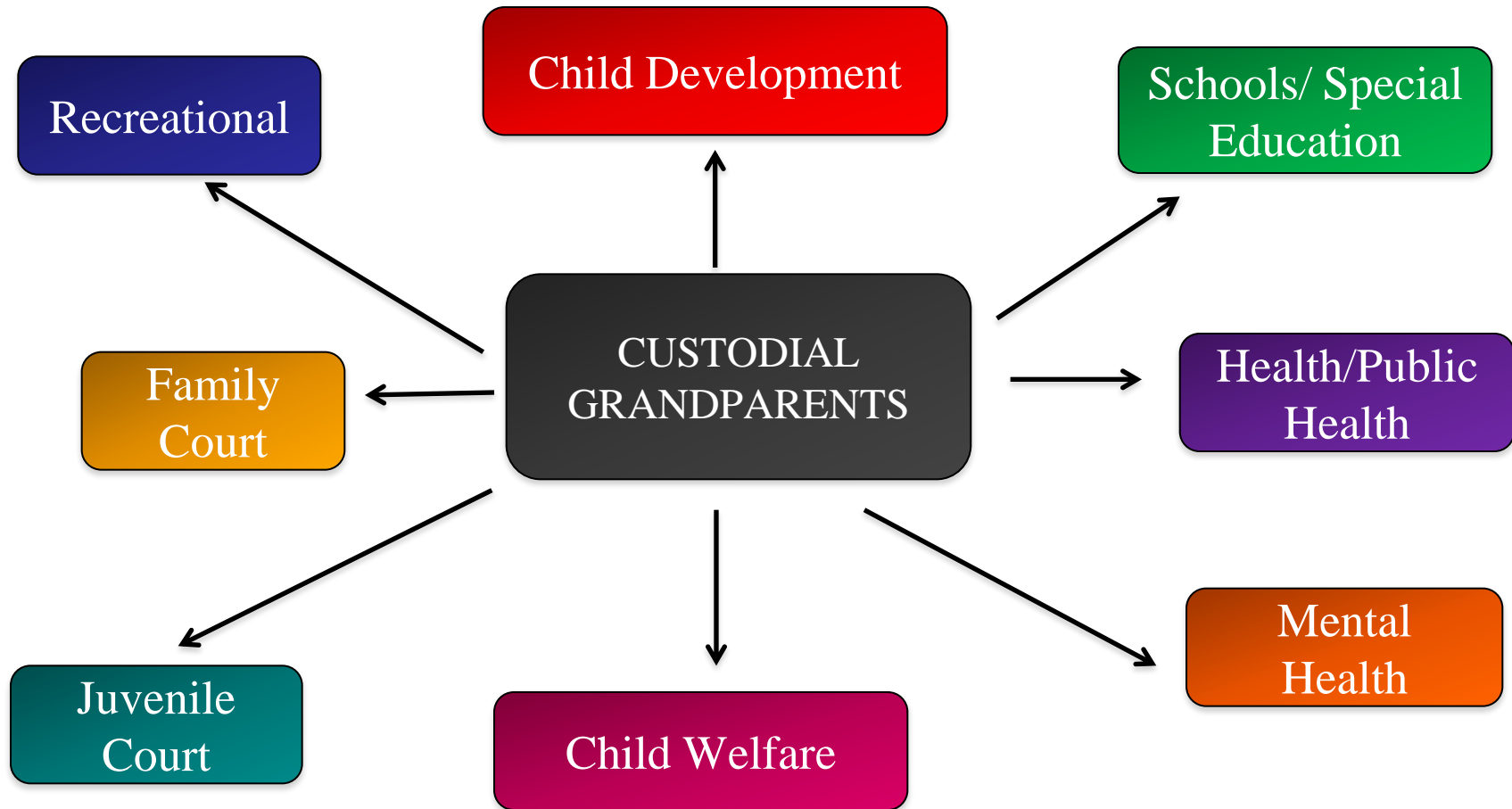
# Trends



# Primary Reasons

- Military deployment
- Death
- Physical illness (cancer, HIV/AIDS)
- Economic challenges
- Mental illness
- Drug or alcohol addiction
- Incarceration
- Teen-age pregnancies
- Neglect and abuse

# Grandparenting Systems



# Georgia's "No Wrong Door" Approach

In 2006, Georgia established a "*One System of Care*" for grandparent-headed families. Collaboration among multiple state units (aging, child welfare, mental health, public health and child support) to facilitate access to public services.



# GRG Work Team

- **Division of Aging Services (DAS)**
- **Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS)**
- **Division of Child Support Services (DCSS)**
- **Georgia State University /National Center for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**
- **Department of Public Health**
- **Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities**
- **Department of Education**
- **Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)**
- **Department of Labor**
- **Senior Legal Hotline (Relative Caregiver Program)**

# Division of Family & Children Services

- **Crisis Intervention Services (CRISP)** – funds to help cover emergency needs such as utilities, moving expenses, furniture, etc.
- **Monthly Subsidized Payments (MSP)** - \$50/child/month may be added to the cash assistance check through the TANF program.
- **Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS)** – provides child care for grandchildren under 5 years of age.
- **One-on-One Foster Care Training** – home-based foster care training for grandparents unable to attend community trainings.



# Division of Child Support Services

Free services to assist grandparents obtain child support:

- Paternity testing
- Interface with DFCS
- Diversion of Child Support
- Establishing/enforcing child support orders (collecting, distributing, and redirecting child support payments)



# Division of Aging Services

- Information & Assistance: Gateway/ ADRC
- Support groups
- Community/public education
- Summer camp programs (respite care)
- Training
- Material Aid

# Challenges

- Age restrictions on services
  - 67% of caregivers are under age 60 (ACS, 2012)
- Perception of Kinship Care
- Status of relative caregivers: health, economics
- Multiple caregiving roles
- Role of “Options Counseling” or assessment for potential kinship caregivers

# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Renewed collaborations among DFCS,  
DCSS, and DAS

# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

## QUESTIONS

