



THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF  
GRANDPARENTS  
**R A I S I N G**  
GRANDCHILDREN

# 2025 Annual Report

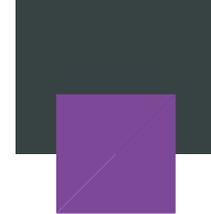
The Commission on the Status of  
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren  
2025 Annual Report

[WWW.MASSGRG.COM](http://WWW.MASSGRG.COM)

# CONTENT:

• Workshops/Events/Trainings	3+4
• Support Groups	5
• Conference	6
• Outreach	7
• Advocacy	8
• Looking ahead to 2026	9

# Workshops, Events, and Trainings



The Commission hosted over 20 events or workshops throughout Massachusetts in 2025 in which over 1,250 grandparents, relative caregivers, or service providers engaged in. Workshops covered topics such as “How Trauma Impacts Children and Families”, “Navigating Special Education,” and “How to Start a Support Group for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.”

Our most successful workshops were our “Lived Experience Panel Series.” We partnered with Riverside Trauma Center to develop a series in which a panel of caregivers with lived experience shared their stories and addressed a particular topic, such as managing complicated relationships with the biological parents of the children they are raising. With the guidance of a clinician, caregivers shared their struggles, the joys, and lessons learned. This workshop series was made possible, in part, due to the Commission’s appropriation provided by the Legislature and Governor, as well as the Mosaic Grant awarded to the MassGRG Inc., the Commission’s non-profit partner. Our November 2025 “Lived Experience Panel” had 115 people participate virtually, all grandparents and relative caregivers who attended were eligible for a consult with Riverside Trauma Center after the workshop.



# Workshops, Events, and Trainings, and More



## **Wellness Cafes: Plymouth, Boston, Fall River, and Oxford**

The Commission hosted 4 Wellness Cafes for Caregivers in 2025. These in-person events provided almost 100 grandparents raising grandchildren the opportunity to meet with a health and wellness coach and proactive self-care. The feedback was extremely positive and the Commission has 4 more events planned for Spring 2026.



**Oxford**



**Boston**



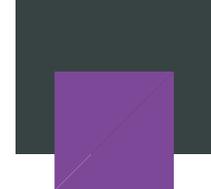
**Plymouth**

## **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource Fair: Greenfield**

The Commission hosted it's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual resource fair, this year at Greenfield Community College. Over 65 grandparents, relative caregivers, and service providers attended this event. Community providers such as Learn to Cope, WIC, Family Resource Centers, Kinship Navigator, and more agencies provided opportunities for caregivers to learn about services and resources for kinship families. The Commission plans to host it's 4<sup>th</sup> Resource Fair in Northeast part of the state in Fall 2026.



# Workshops, Events, and Trainings, and More



## **Support Group Training**

The Commission led a two-part training “How to Create a Support Group for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.” Over 65 participants attended this training. Each year, the Commission offers this training to service providers and grandparents/relative caregivers. Topics covered in the training included struggles/worries/concerns for caregivers as well as resources to support them and their families, supervision for the facilitator, and more.

**The Commission received a Service Incentive Grant (SIG) from the Massachusetts Councils in Aging in 2025. This allowed us to provide 25 support groups a scholarship to plan an inter-generational event for the grandparents and the children in their care.**

## **Support Groups for Grandparents/Relative Caregivers**

The Commission is proud to report that in 2025 there were several new support groups that launched, in-person and virtually, for grandparents and relative caregivers in Massachusetts. There are currently over 65 support groups, all can be located on the Commission’s website for any caregiver or service provider to locate and connect with easily.

The Commission facilitated two monthly virtual support groups and launched a virtual support group for Spanish-speaking grandparents/relative caregivers in 2025.

The Commission continued to host monthly meetings with support group facilitators in order to support them in this important work. The Commission provides opportunities for trainings for facilitators and will continue to do so in 2026.

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN + SERVICE PROVIDERS MAY 2025



The Commission hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Services Providers in May 2025. Over 240 people registered for this event. Workshops, resource tables, and a networking lunch made the day a success. The highlight of the conference this past year was the key note address by children’s book author Jarrett J. Krosoczka, author of *Hey, Kiddo*. Jarrett shared his experience of being raised by his grandparents in Worcester and how art and story-telling impacted his life. Thanks to the Mosaic grant, every grandparent/relative caregiver was provided a copy of the book.

# Outreach in 2025

Website, Social Media, Regional Round Tables

## Website Updates

In 2025, The Commission focused on several different outreach opportunities and strategies. We have found that the Commission's website is one of the most efficient and effective methods of providing information to grandparents/relative caregivers. Thanks to the Mosaic Grant the Commission received, we worked with a marketing consultant and website development team to do a major update of our website. These updates have now allowed us to track what information caregivers are looking for, people can register for our events directly from the website, and the support group list is more interactive. Additionally, the website is now able to provide multi-language capacity.

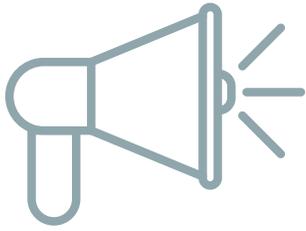
## Social Media

Over the last year, the Commission focused on developing an effective and creative social media marketing campaign in order to reach more grandparents/relative caregivers. Facebook, You Tube, and Instagram have been the focus. We have created unique content to share stories and resources, announce events and workshops, and ask for feedback. As a result, the Commission gained 300+ followers on Facebook and our following on You Tube and Instagram is growing as well.

## Regional Round Tables

Beginning in 2020, the Commission created Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Regional Roundtables for service providers. The 6 regions meet virtually quarterly. These meetings provide an opportunity for providers to best support kinship caregivers by learning about and sharing information about services and resources in the region. Community and state partners join in their regions and we are proud to collaborate with over 500 providers such as DCF, DTA, WIC, ASAPs, FRCs, and more.





# Advocacy in 2025

<p><b>H.225</b> <b>An Act to Amend the Structure of the Commission</b></p>	<p><b>H.1428/S.924</b> <b>An Act Relative to Tuition Waivers for Children Raised by a Grandparent or Other Relative Caregiver</b></p>
<p><b>What it would do:</b></p> <p>Increase the number of appointments to the Commission from 15 to 21 people. DCF +2 DTA +1 The Commission +3</p>	<p><b>What it would do:</b></p> <p>For Children raised in the guardianship of a grandparent or other relative caregiver for two+ years be eligible for in-state college tuition and fee waivers.</p>
<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>9/18/25 Discharged to Committee on House Rules</p>	<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>10/27/25 reported favorably by the Committee on Higher Education and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means</p>
<p><b>Sponsoring Legislators:</b></p> <p>Rep. Paul Donato Sen. Julian Cyr</p>	<p><b>Sponsoring Legislators:</b></p> <p>Rep. Paul Donato Sen. Julian Cyr</p>

# 2026

The Commission will continue with the initiatives as laid out in this 2025 Annual Report as well as explore new ones in 2026.

- The Commission has planned additional Wellness Cafes in communities such as Braintree, Hyannis, and a bi-lingual Wellness Cafe in Holyoke for Spring 2026.
- Support group expansion will continue in 2026 with collaborations in Gloucester/Rockport area and additional communities such as the Newton/Waltham area.
- The Commission has partnered with DCF in 2026 to offer training hours/certification for foster and kinship foster families who attend/participate in Commission workshops.
- A Video for Spanish-speaking caregivers is in development about the benefits of support groups, accessing resources, etc.
- Collaborations with the Office of Aging and Independence and Massachusetts Councils on Aging will continue in 2026 and will include offering trainings and workshops for providers in the aging network.
- The Annual Conference for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Service Providers is scheduled 5/12/26 in Marlborough.

The Commission is grateful for the continued support of the Governor, the Legislature, The Department of Children and Families, the members of the Commission and Advisory Board, as well as the many grandparents and relative caregivers who contribute and volunteer their time to support all kinship caregivers throughout the Commonwealth.