

State EITC Could Benefit Nearly 30,000 Missouri Grandparents Raising Grandkids

The opioid epidemic has wreaked havoc on families around our country, and grandparents across our state are stepping in to raise grandchildren, well after they thought their days of child-rearing were over. Missouri could help ease the financial burden of nearly 30,000 grandparents raising their grandkids through a state earned income tax credit (EITC).

In the past decade, the number of Missouri children being raised by grandparents increased by approximately one-third, due in large part to the effects of the opioid epidemic on families.

In 2017, nearly 61,000 Missouri children were being raised by grandparents. That's 4.4% of all children in our state.

Grandfamilies face many unique challenges, in part due to the circumstances surrounding taking on the care of their grandchildren (often parental drug addiction or incarceration), but also because they face high rates of poverty and disability. Unfortunately, grandparents are often unfamiliar with (or ineligible for) supports and services geared toward traditional parent/child families.

Working grandparents raising grandchildren could benefit from a state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a tax cut for low and moderate income working families.

Due to a provision aimed at supporting grandparents raising grandchildren, many Missouri grandfamilies are already eligible for the federal EITC if they meet income requirements and are caring for a qualifying child, even if they are above the standard age cutoff of 64.

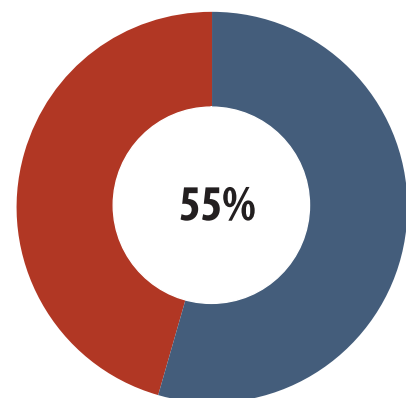
A Missouri EITC could put more money back in the pockets of these families, giving a much-needed break to Missouri grandparents raising children.

Facts About Missouri's Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

- One in five grandparents who are raising grandchildren struggle with incomes below the poverty line (or less than \$21,000 annually for a family of three).
- One in three grandparents raising grandchildren report having some type of disability.
- Two in three have been caring for their grandchildren for at least three years.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Nearly 30,000 Missouri Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Currently Work, Accounting For Over Half of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Missouri



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates