



# Lackawanna County

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
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*Lackawanna County Government Center  
at The Globe*

## Department of Human Services Area Agency on Aging

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May 13, 2019

Dr. Alexis Kirijan, Superintendent  
Scranton School District  
425 N. Washington Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18517

Dear Dr. Kirijan,

The Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging, in partnership with the Lackawanna County Office of Youth and Family Services and the Lackawanna County Library, is pleased to announce the formation of a new Caregiver Support Group. The group is designed to specifically target older adults raising loved ones, particularly grandparents raising grandchildren due to the opioid epidemic. The formation of this System of Care Support Group is in response to a growing need in our community.

The goal of the "Parents A Second Time" (PAST) support group is to allow adult participants to problem solve, share information, build a support network and maintain passion in providing care to children of relatives. A meeting is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at the Valley Community Library, 739 River Street, Peckville, PA, from 5:30-7:30p.m. Refreshments are served and child care and activities are provided while the older adults attend the meeting with community speakers and co-facilitators from each agency. The group has been active since September 2018 and is valuable in educating the members on benefits, activities and resources available for the children and themselves.

Any caregivers, fifty-five or older who are raising grandchildren or young relatives of loved ones, are invited to attend one of our support groups. They can be referred directly to the Area Agency on Aging for more information on the group and the Caregiver Support Program (CSP) benefits. The participants do not need to be involved with the Area Agency on Aging or the Office of Youth and Family Services to participate.

I would appreciate if you could please share this information with your faculty and post the attached flyers in your school and on your home page. The support group will be active throughout the summer. If you have any questions please contact our Program Administrator, Rebecca Munley. Our staff is also available to present to your faculty and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for supporting our effort,

Jason Kavulich  
Director

*The Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging's mission is to serve and protect older adults,  
act as a resource for families, and enhance opportunities for individuals  
to be empowered in areas of health and wellness, dignity and independence.*



## **“PARENTS A 2ND TIME” SUPPORT GROUP**

Are you an older adult raising children of a family member? You're not alone...join us at a monthly support group to hear similar situations that others are experiencing. Learn about potential resources, community programs, services, and agencies that can provide connections, guidance, and peer support to older persons living with, caring for and parenting the children of loved ones.

To get more information, please call the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging, at 570-963-6740, or email

[PAST@lackawannacounty.org](mailto:PAST@lackawannacounty.org)

**Visit a meeting to  
network with  
others!**

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**4<sup>th</sup> Monday of  
every month,  
5:30-7:30pm**

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**Valley Community  
Library, 739 River  
St, Peckville, PA**

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**Child care &  
refreshments  
provided &  
transportation  
available**

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**RSVP to  
570-963-6740 or  
[PAST@lackawannacounty.org](mailto:PAST@lackawannacounty.org)**

# Caregiver Support Program for Older Relatives Raising Children

## MISSION STATEMENT:

The Caregiver Support program for older relatives raising children is designed to provide assistance to older persons who are living with and caring for the children of family members. Priority is given to caregivers with the greatest financial and social needs.

## CAREGIVER CRITERIA:

1. Must be age 55+ and NOT the biological parent of the child(ren).
2. Biological parent can reside in the same household, but older adult must be the primary caregiver of the child(ren).
3. Related to the child(ren) as grandparent, step-grandparent, or other non-parental older relative by blood, marriage or adoption.
4. Has a legal relationship to the child(ren) such as legal custody, adoption or guardianship, or is raising the child(ren) informally.

## CARE RECEIVER CRITERIA:

Must be under age 18.

## LIVING ARRANGEMENT CRITERIA:

1. Caregiver & care receiver must live in the same residence. (A residence is defined as a living arrangement in which members share common living areas, including the kitchen, living room and/or bathroom).
2. A child's parent can live in the same residence as the older relative who is caring for the child(ren) as long as the older adult is the primary caregiver.

## INCOME CRITERIA:

1. Benefits awarded and cost-shared responsibilities will be dependent on household income.
2. Household income is the total gross income of all persons living in the Care Receiver's residence, with the exception of a minor or dependent student.
3. Household income must be less than or equal to 380% of the Federal Poverty Level.
4. Proof of income for all members of the household is required prior to the start of the program.

## BENEFITS:

1. Care Management to assist the family in accessing available benefits.
2. Caregivers and/or their relative(s) are prohibited from receiving a reimbursement for the costs associated with providing direct personal-care services to a care-

receiver. Relatives are defined as "A spouse or a parent; child; stepparent; stepchild; grandparent; grandchild; brother; sister; half-brother; half-sister; aunt; great aunt; uncle; great uncle; niece; or nephew, by blood, marriage or adoption."

3. Consumer reimbursement for services & supplies related to caregiving.
  - A. **Services** that may be considered include educational/tutorial programs; extra-curricular activity/sports fees, uniforms & supplies associated with the sport, gym memberships; day care & child-care/babysitters; camps; class trips; lawn maintenance & house cleaning as appropriate; and other justifiable services as authorized by the care manager.
  - B. **Supplies** that may be considered include diapers; formula & baby food; school supplies; seasonable clothing; children's furniture; school pictures/yearbooks; and other justifiable services as authorized by the care manager.
  - C. **Excluded items** include but are not limited to prescription medication, including co-pays & deductibles; medical services not covered by insurance; mileage & gas, etc.
4. Access to caregiver support groups to meet and problem solve, share information, provide support and maintain passion for providing care to loved ones.
5. Caregiver training & education to include SNAP, Headstart, etc.
6. Family-centered benefits counseling such as drug & alcohol, mental health, ID and/or developmental disabilities, etc.

## **HOW DO I MAKE A REFERRAL?**

Call the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging at 570-963-6740. Once a referral is made a care manager will visit the home and complete an assessment of the caregiver's needs.

Based on the assessed needs, and the financial situation of the family, the caregiver may be eligible to receive reimbursement for both in-home and center-based respite care services, and limited supplemental services. A care manager will also assist the family in accessing other available community services.