



# Lifting Up the Voices of 600 Caregivers in the Pandemic

## The National Grandfamilies and COVID 19 Study

**Grandfamilies Outcome Workgroup** with Generations United & Collaboration Solutions

### Introduction to GrOW

**The Grandfamilies Outcome Workgroup (GrOW)** is a national coalition of stakeholders that works across systems of care in support of kinship families. GrOW intentionally integrates the lived experiences of kinship caregivers in the evaluation methods, tools and resources it develops and shares. GrOW's mission is to emphasize the importance of the application of evaluation tools to identify needs and support best practices in partnership with kinship families.

### The Rationale

- Grandfamilies are especially at risk during COVID 19
- GrOW has sincere interest in collecting credible data about what is happening with Grandfamilies during COVID 19. The survey was distributed in partnership with Generations United and Collaborative Solutions, Inc. through our national kinship partnership network.
- **The Survey = Wave 1 open from May 27 to June 15<sup>th</sup>.**



### The Survey

**600 Grandfamily caregivers from all 50 States in US**



**Most caregivers....**

**55-64 years old**

**Caring for children for at least 5 years**

**Most caring for children ages of 6-10**

**66% White  
18% Black  
16% Other**

### Results

#### Special Issues Facing Grandfamilies During COVID 19

- Birth parent with opioid or substance use issues
- Child Behavior
- Mental Health/Counseling for Child
- School issues

#### Support Before and During COVID 19

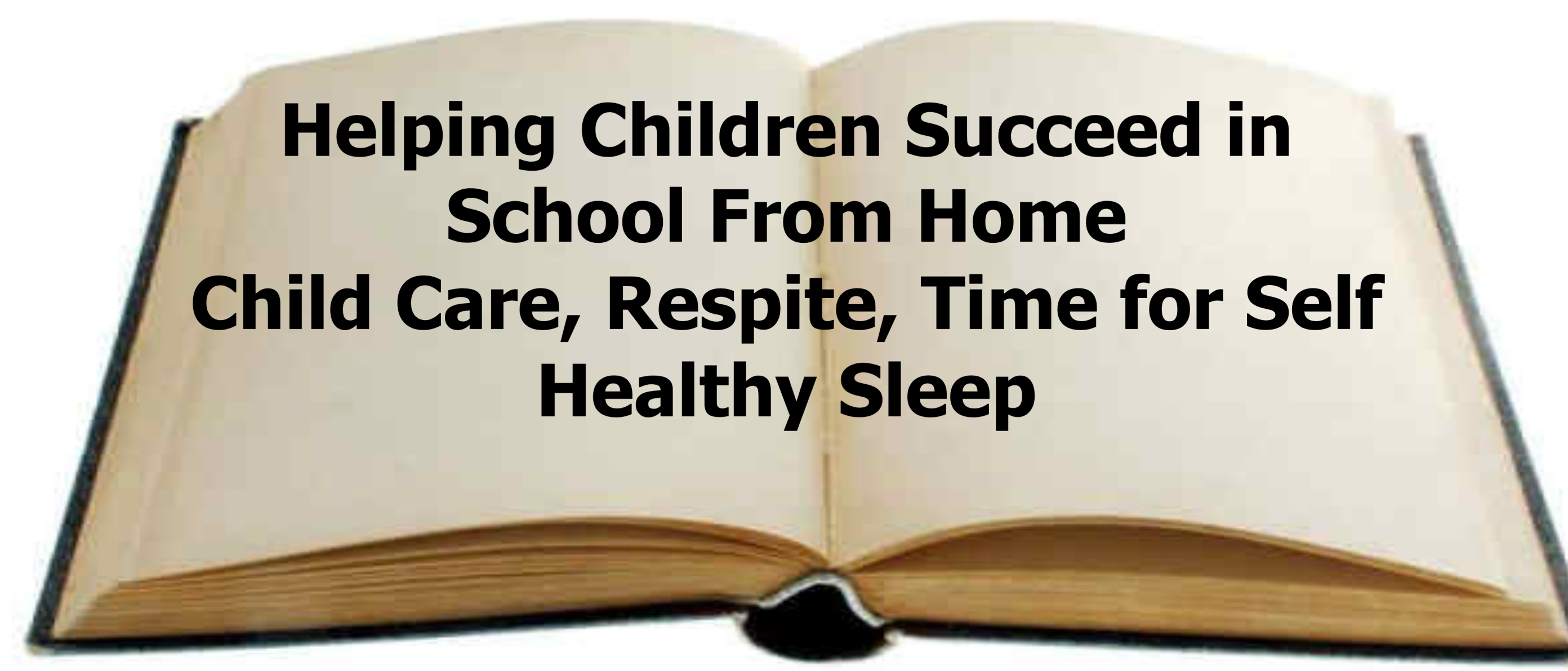
- All sources of support are less adequate during COVID 19 except online support groups
- Family and Friends provide the most adequate support
- Dramatic reduction for in-person support groups during COVID 19
- Physicians for the child and caregiver are the most adequate formal support

#### Priority Need for More Information

- Keeping my children safe and healthy
- Helping children succeed in school from home
- Financial support before, during & after COVID 19

#### Major Areas of Concern During COVID 19

**Helping Children Succeed in School From Home  
Child Care, Respite, Time for Self  
Healthy Sleep**



### Discrimination

- Age
- Status of Caregiver
- Lower Socioeconomic Status
- Race and Ethnicity
- Black



#### Sources of Credible Information During COVID 19

##### Always

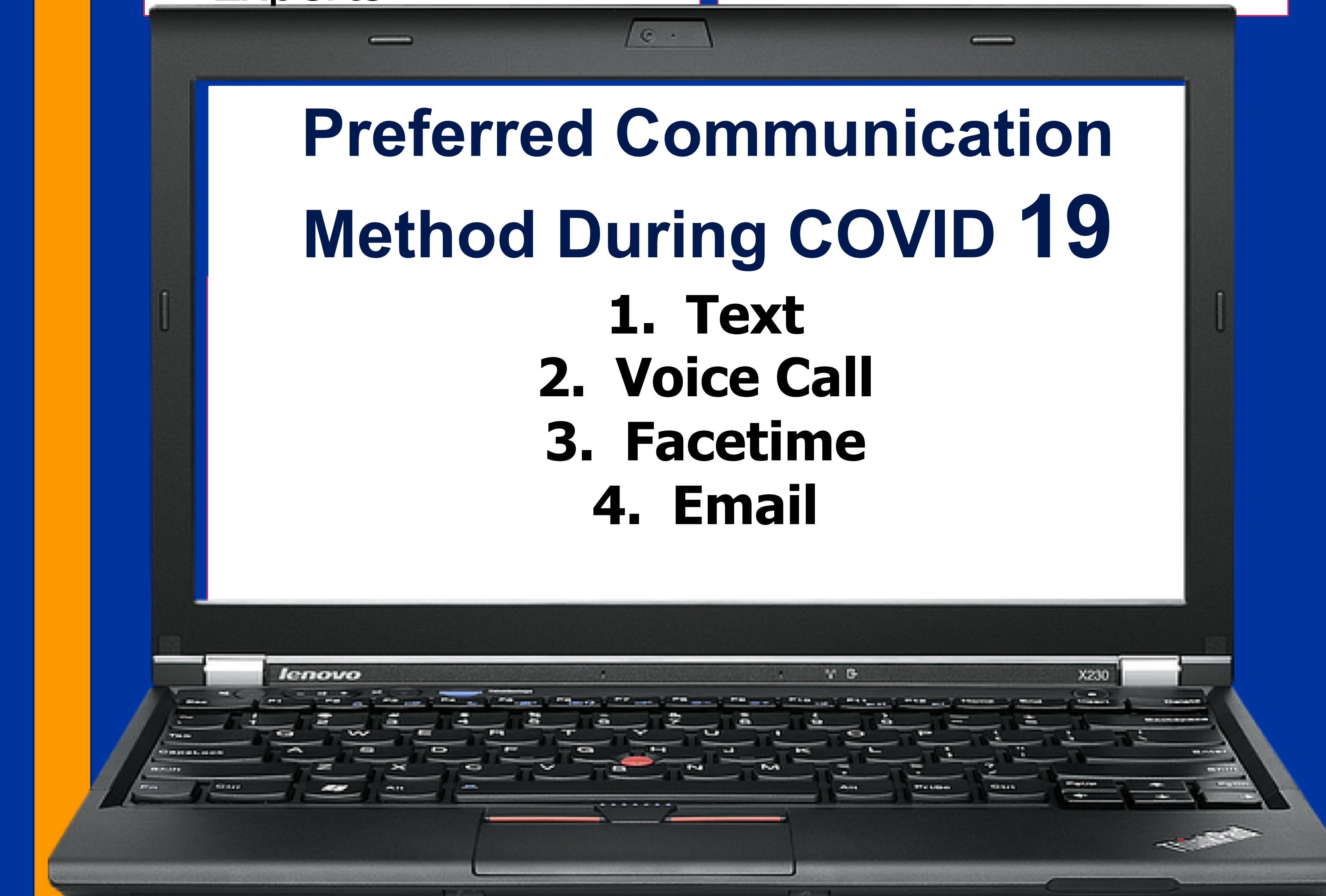
- State government
- US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- Local Papers
- State Public Health Experts

##### Never

- US President & Administration
- Other World Leaders
- National News Radio
- National Print

#### Preferred Communication Method During COVID 19

1. Text
2. Voice Call
3. Facetime
4. Email



Approaching life one day at a time, as well as not giving stress mastery over my life and well-being.

To be able to have at-home connections via internet and phone to strengthen me through calls, videos, and educational opportunities for stress relief, as well as video counseling sessions.

Getting closer to my kids

Staying home together

My multi-generational home

Knowing that children are with me and safe

Being able to listen to kids more

### Caregiver Strengths

### Caregiver Resilience