Grandparents and Relatives

Do you know about the services and supports for you and the children in your care?

Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Transforming lives

There are more than

43,000 grandparents and

other relatives raising children

in Washington State.

Here are various resources,

benefits and support services

available to you.

Drawings are from the annual Voices of Children Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives Contest co-sponsored by Department of Social and Health Services and coordinated by Family Education and Support Services

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Financial Help

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Child-Only Grant

Monthly cash grants may be available for relatives who are the primary caregivers raising children. Only the child's income is considered when determining eligibility. Caregivers may also be eligible for a TANF grant for themselves if they meet the eligibility criteria.

- Recipients of Child-Only TANF may be eligible for additional, time-limited cash payments for help with emergency housing or utility needs through the Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs (AREN) program. Ask your local Community Services Office (CSO) about these funds.
- To see if you qualify for assistance, visit www.washingtonconnection.org

Find your local Community Services Office
Phone: 1-877-501-2233
Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/esa-find-office

Kinship Caregivers Support Program (KCSP)

Short-term funds may be available for relatives caring for children who are not involved with the formal foster care system to help pay for basic needs (food, housing, clothing, etc).

How to Apply
Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-725-3543

Locate a local KCSP Office (Aging and Long-Term Support Administration)
Phone: 360-725-3544
Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/kinship-care (Click on "Financial Help")

Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Resources

Supports for Kinship Caregivers Involved with the Formal Child Welfare System

- Relative Support Service Funds: provide short-term support to unlicensed relatives and suitable others parenting a child that has been placed in their care by DCYF.
- Concrete Goods: Funds to help support or maintain a child's placement with their family member. May be available for unlicensed kinship caregivers or those in the process of becoming licensed.
- Additional Resources: Kinship caregivers may be eligible for additional supports such as a one-time clothing voucher or mileage reimbursement for transportation to activities such as counseling and medical appointments. Please talk with your child's caseworker for more information.

William, age-5. One of the winners in the 5-7 year-old category.

Health Resources

Health Insurance for Children in Kinship Care

Children living with a relative caregiver may be eligible for free Washington Apple Health coverage. An application must be filled out online or by calling the customer service center.

- Caregivers: May be eligible for free or low-cost health insurance coverage for themselves and may apply at the same time they apply for the child in their care.

Apply for Washington Apple Health
Phone: 1-855-923-4633
Web: www.wahealthplanfinder.org

Health Insurance for Children in Foster Care – Apple Health Core Connections

Statewide program operated by the managed care contractor, Coordinated Care of Washington.

- This program is for children and youth who are in foster care, Adoption Support, Extended Foster Care and alumni of foster care until age 26.
- Tribal children remain in the Apple Health fee for service program unless their tribe or the Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) caseworker chooses to enroll the child into Apple Health Core Connections.
- Children who are dependents of the State are automatically eligible for Washington Apple Health (managed care or fee for service) and no application is needed. DCYF electronically informs Health Care Authority when a child is taken into foster care and eligibility is rapidly established.
- For more information, contact your child's case worker or call Coordinated Care of Washington.

Contact Coordinated Care of Washington
Phone: 1-844-354-9876
Web: www.coordinatedcarehealth.com/members/foster-care.html

Washington Poison Control Centers

Provides immediate, 24/7 free expert treatment advice and assistance by phone in case of exposure. All calls are confidential.

Contact the Washington Poison Control Center
Phone: 1-800-222-1222
Web: www.wapc.org

Take-Back Your Meds

Safely dispose of unused medication at a take-back location.

Find a Take-Back Your Meds location
Web: www.takebackyourmeds.org

Child Health Promotion

Materials for children ages birth to six years. Materials are age specific and include information about immunizations, growth, development, safety, nutrition and other parenting topics.

Information about Child Health Promotion
Phone: 1-866-397-0337
Web: www.childprofile.org

Washington State Department of Health

Publications available about hundreds of health related topics.

Web: www.doh.wa.gov/publications

Health Care Providers

Accessing health care while enrolled in Washington Apple Health

Children and adults eligible for Washington Apple Health coverage are enrolled in a managed care plan that can help identify providers for their physical and behavioral healthcare needs.

- Tribe members are not automatically assigned to a managed care plan, but instead are enrolled in fee for service coverage. Tribe members can choose to enroll in one of the managed care plans listed below. Contact your managed care plan for help.

Amerigroup Washington (AMG) . . . 1-800-600-4441

Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW) 1-800-440-1561

Coordinated Care of Washington (CCW). 1-877-644-4613

Molina Healthcare of Washington (MHW). 1-800-869-7165

United Healthcare Community Plan (UHC). 1-877-542-8997

Contact the Health Care Authority to find out which plan you're enrolled in or to request a change
Phone: 1-800-562-3022

Consent to Health Care for the Child in Your Care (Consent for Medical Care form)

State law allows relative caregivers to give informed consent for medical care for the child in their care (including dental and mental health care), even if they do not have a court order.

- Caring for a child in State custody? Talk with the social worker to understand the court's role in approving medical care.

Information about Health Care Consent
Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare (*click on Publications and search for the brochure titled Consent to Health Care for the Child in Your Care: A Kinship Caregivers Guide).
Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-725-3543
Request a legal packet from the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration: 360-725-3544
For more in-depth information about healthcare consent, visit www.washingtonlawhelp.org/issues/family-law/non-parents-caring-for-children

Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Phone: 1-800-273-8255
Web: www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Emergency Assistance

Call 911 if someone needs help right away or if there is an immediate danger.

Dental Services for Children and Adults

Washington Apple Health

Dental coverage moved to managed care as of July 1, 2019.

For more information
Web: https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/apple-health-medicaid/apple-health-dental-moving-managed-care

Locate-Low Cost Dental Clinics by County

Web: www.theMightyMouth.org

WA State Dental Association

Find a dentist, reduced cost dentistry and special needs dentistry.

Web: www.wsda.org

2-1-1 Washington Information Network (WIN)

Speak with an information and referral specialist for assistance finding local dentists. Translators available.

Phone: 2-1-1

Washington State Department of Health Dental Resources

Web: www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/OralHealth/FindingDentalCare

The Center for Pediatric Dentistry (CPD)

A collaboration between the University of Washington and Seattle Children's Hospital that provides specialty dental care to children of all ages, including children with special needs. Apple Health is accepted.

Contact the Center for Pediatric Dentistry
Phone: 206-543-5800
Web: www.thecenterforpediatricdentistry.com

Help with Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorders

Local Agencies Providing Substance Abuse Disorder Services

Phone: 1-866-789-1511 Washington Recovery Help Line
Web: www.warecoveryhelpline.org

For local agencies providing substance use disorder services to individuals enrolled in Apple Health coverage, contact your managed care plan.

StartTalkingNow.org

Sponsored by the Washington Healthy Youth Coalition (WHYC). The mission is to prevent and reduce under age alcohol and marijuana use.

Web: www.StartTalkingNow.org

Kaden, Age-5. Second winner in the 5-7 year-old category

Washington State's Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISe)

Comprehensive behavioral health services for Medicaid eligible youth from birth to age 21 with complex behavioral health needs and their families.

Web: https://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers-partners/behavioral-health-recovery/wraparound-intensive-services-wise

Resources for locating Behavioral Health services: Washington State Health care Authority

Phone: 1-360-725-1500
Web: www.hca.wa.gov/contact-hca

Teen Link

A confidential and non-judgmental help line for teens. Trained peer volunteers answer phone calls every evening from 6 – 10 pm. The volunteers listen to concerns and provide information about agencies serving youth in Washington State. Teen Link is a program of Crisis Connections.

Web: www.warecoveryhelpline.org/resources

Sevon, Age-11. Participant could not be judged in the contest because he is in the care of an agency employee.

Children with Special Needs

Washington State Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT)

Provides intervention services for children aged birth to three.

If you care for a child with a disability or have a concern about a child's development, contact the Family Health Hotline and ask for your local Family Resource Coordinator.

Phone: 1-800-322-2558 (TTY 711)
Web: www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/esit

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Information about Special Education in Washington State.

Web: www.k12.wa.us./SpecialEd/Fam

DSHS Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)

Services for people diagnosed with an intellectual or developmental disability or delay. Services depend on need and funding. Services include individual and family support, personal care, employment support, day programs and residential care.

Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/dda *(Information listed under "Eligibility")*

Informing Families

News and information for families and individuals to promote active participation in planning and building a network of support and opportunities. This resource is provided by the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council in collaboration with the DDA and other statewide partners.

Web: www.informingfamilies.org

Children with Special Health Care Needs

Program that promotes an integrated system of services for infants, children and youth up to 18 years of age who have are at high risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions and require special services.

Web: www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/InfantsandChildren/HealthandSafety/ChildrenwithSpecialHealthCareNeeds

PAVE

Support, training, information and resources to empower individuals, youth and families impacted by disabilities.

Phone: 1-800-5-PARENT
Web: www.wapave.org

Child Care, Early Learning and Respite

Relative caregivers may qualify for one of Washington State's funded child care programs, including:

Working Connections Child Care (WCC) for employed caregivers

Seasonal Child Care for seasonal agriculture workers

Caregivers may qualify even if only one person in a couple is working. If both are legal guardians of the child and listed in court documents, both must be working to qualify.

Homeless Child Care for families who are temporarily homeless (limited to certain counties):

Caregivers must not be eligible for any other state funded child care program and must be engaged in an approved activity, such as looking for work or housing.

Contact the Washington State Customer Service Center
Phone: 1-844-626-8687
Web: www.dcyf.wa.gov

Child Care Aware

Offers child care and early learning programs information and referral.

Phone: 1-866-416-4321
Web: www.childcarenet.org

Child Find

An IDEA mandate that seeks to identify all children with disabilities who would benefit from public services.

If you suspect your child under the age of three may have a disability, contact Within Reach of Washington State
Phone: 1-800-322-2588
Or: Contact your local school district to locate the Child Find program for children over the age of three.

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and Head Start

Free services for three and four year olds who have risk factors that could interfere with school activities, including children in Kinship Care.

Contact Early Child Education and Assistance Program and Head Start
Phone: 425-453-1227
Web: www.wsaheadstarteceap.com

Lifespan Respite

Provides temporary caregiving relief through planned or emergency respite for family caregivers that care for a child or adult with special needs. Respite care is provided in home and other settings, such as camps.

Contact Lifespan Respite, WA sponsored by PAVE
Phone: 1-800-572-7368
Web: www.lifespanrespitewa.org

Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Respite

Available services for licensed and unlicensed caregivers with the placement of children in DCYF or tribal custody. Caregivers are encouraged to access respite care services in emergency situations and to support the child's placement stability with caregiving family. Contact the child's caseworker with more information.

Educational Advocacy

Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO)

Resolves complaints, disputes and problems between families and public schools in all areas that effect student learning.

The OEO operates independently from the public school system. Free services are available for students from kindergarten to 12th grade and are confidential.

Contact OEO with questions about the public education system
Phone: 1-866-297-2597
Web: www.oeo.wa.gov

McKinney Vento

Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. McKinney Vento provides federal funding to states for the purpose of supporting district programs that serve homeless students.

Learn more about McKinney Vento
Phone: 360-725-6000 (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction)
Web: www.k12.wa.us/HomelessEd

Angelia, Age-15. Artwork for the Cover of the 2019 booklet.

Food Assistance

Washington's Basic Food Program

Monthly food benefits.

See if you qualify and apply for assistance
Web: www.washingtonconnection.org

Find your local Community Services Office (CSO)
Phone: 1-877-501-2233
Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/esa-find-officeorg

Free and Reduced School Breakfast and Lunch

If a child is eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), foster care, McKinney Vento or Basic food, he/she may also be eligible for free or reduced school meals.

Contact your child's school for more information.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program

A supplemental food program for children ages 0-5 and new or pregnant mothers. Relatives and foster parents that are primary caregivers of children may also receive WIC services for the children in their care. WIC provides monthly checks to help purchase healthy food, nutrition education and health screenings and referrals.

Find your local WIC office
Phone: 1-800-322-2588
Web: www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC

Summer Meal Program

All children 18 years or younger, regardless of household income, are eligible for free meals from organizations that serve meals during summer.

Phone: 1-866-3-HUNGRY
Web: www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks

Find your local Food Bank
Phone: 211
Web: www.211.org

Child Support

Division of Child Support (DCS)

You can apply for DCS services even if you don't receive any public assistance. Receiving benefits from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) will automatically result in DCS establishing a case.

- DCS establishing paternity can help the family access benefits the child may be eligible for such as Social Security and also help provide a family medical history.
- If you are afraid that establishing paternity or enforcing child support may be dangerous for you or the child, contact your local Community Services Office to discuss "good cause" which is a waiver of child support enforcement.
- DCS will enforce an existing child support order, such as a divorce decree, or will establish a support order is needed. DCS sets support obligations based on a parent's ability to pay. DCS will also attempt to have the parents cover the child on their own medical insurance, if available.

Contact the Division of Child Support
Phone: 1-800-422-KIDS
Web: www.childsupportonline.wa.gov

Kinship Services

Kinship Navigators

Experts that serve as a one-stop-shop providing information and assistance for people caring for their relative's child(ren). They can help connect you with lots of services in the community. Kinship Navigators serve most areas of the state. Tribal Navigators serve a limited number of tribes.

Contact a Kinship Navigator
Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-725-3543 or 360-725-3544
Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/kinship-care *(click on "Kinship Navigator")*

Local Relatives Raising Children Support Groups

Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-725-3543 or 360-725-3544
Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare *(Click on "Support Groups" and select your county or city)*

Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence

Offer free training for both kinship caregivers (licensed and unlicensed) and foster parents. Classes are offered during the evenings, weekends and online.

Web: www.allianceforchildwelfare.org/caregivers

Department of Children, Youth and Families

Information about kinship care, foster care and the child welfare system.

Web: www.dcyf.wa.gov
www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting

Printed Kinship Care Materials

Grandparents and Relatives – Do You Know about Services and Supports for You and the Children in Your Care? (DSHS 22-1120)

A list of resources, benefits and support services available to relatives raising children.

Download online or request a print copy at
Web: https://www.dshs.wa.gov/SESA/publications-library
Available in English, Cambodian, Chinese, Korean, Laotian, Russian, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Magdalena, Age-11. One of the winners in the 8-12 year-old category.

A Guide to Child Support Services for Relative Caregivers (DSHS 22-1143)

An explanation of services provided by the Division of Child Support (DCS) for people caring for a relative's child.

Download online or request a print copy at
Web: https://www.dshs.wa.gov/SESA/publications-library
Available in English

Kinship Care: Relative and Suitable Other Placement (DSHS 22-1765)

Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) publication providing basic information about what kinship caregivers can expect if DCYF places a child in kinship care.

Understanding the Dependency Court Process for Caregivers

A DCYF publication explaining the complex dependency court process and how it impacts family.

Additional Materials

Contact the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration for a packet of information, Legal Voice's Guide for Washington State, a legal options DVD and related brochures.

Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-725-3543 or 360-725-3544

Legal Resources

Northwest Justice Project (NJP)

Free self-help information, including a website and toll-free hotline. NJP's Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral (CLEAR) program provides free legal assistance with civil legal problems for eligible low-income people.

Contact information for people under age 60 and low income
Phone: 1-888-201-1014
Phone: (King County): 206-464-1519

Contact information for people over the age 60 at any income level
Phone: 1-888-387-7111

Washington Law Help

Free legal services for low income people in Washington, including legal education materials and basic information about legal problems. Legal forms with detailed instructions are available to help you represent yourself in court. Locate information about free legal aid programs, basic eligibility and contact information.

Web: www.washingtonlawhelp.org

Options for Grandparents and Other Non-Parental Caregivers

A legal guide for Washington State developed by Legal Voice for relatives raising children.

Web: https://www.legalvoice.org/tools-family
Print copies are available through ALTSA or Kinship Navigators.

Consent to Health Care for the Child in Your Care: A Kinship Caregiver's Guide (DSHS 22-1119)

A publication describing a relative's rights and responsibilities

Download online or request a print copy at
Web: https://www.dshs.wa.gov/SESA/publications-library
Available in English, Cambodian, Russian, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Contacts for Receiving Legal Assistance

Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-725-3543 for a legal packet from the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
Web: www.washingtonlawhelp.org/issues/family-law/non-parents-caring-for-children

General Resources

Kinship Care in Washington State

Offers information about resources and services such as benefits, health care, legal issues and more.

Phone: 1-800-422-3263
Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare

WithinReach Hotline

Provides information and referrals about health and social services related to raising children of all ages, including health insurance, nutrition, immunization, child care, child development and children with special needs.

Phone: 1-800-322-2588 (TTY 771)
Web: www.parenthelp123.org

Community Living Connections

Learn about services and support options in your community for older adults, persons with disabilities and caregivers.

Phone: 1-855-567-0252
Web: www.washingtoncommunityliving connections.org

Questions and Additional Information

Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF)

Holly Luna: 360-902-8035 or 360-870-1423

Economic Service Administration (ESA)

Sarah Garcia: 360-522-2214 or
Patrick Budde: 360-725-4769

Health Care Authority (HCA)

Kevin Cornell: 360-725-1423

Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (ALTSA)

Rosalyn Alber: 360-725-3543

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